



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330

Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852

E-mail: nhc@nebraskahumanities.org

Website: www.nebraskahumanities.org

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Contact: Carolyn Nolte, (402) 474-2131, ext. 108

Kearney announces Chautauqua schedule

The community of Kearney has planned a four-day weekend schedule of events surrounding the visit June 21-24 of the Nebraska Humanities Council's Centennial Chautauqua program, "Visions for America: Notable Nebraska Reformers."

Main events will be held each evening at the Great Platte River Road Archway grounds. Evening stage performances offer entertainment and first-person interpretations of historical figures from Nebraska's past. Chautauqua opens at 6 p.m. June 21 and 6:30 p.m. June 22-24. Daytime workshops will be held Friday and Saturday.

Kearney has planned several events to complement Chautauqua events, including a pancake feed, art viewing at the Museum of Nebraska Art, vintage fashion workshops, Car-Tauqua with antique fire trucks, Black Bart's BBQ Festival, and handcart and quilt exhibits throughout town.

"Visions for America" looks at Nebraska's rich history of people who were born in or had important ties to Nebraska. Although some of these figures left the state before they revealed their powerful and sometimes controversial agendas and personalities, each was selected because of his or her ties to the state. Each had a large political and social impact as a reformer and, in many cases, his or her influence went beyond the state's borders.

The scholars and historical figures who will appear on stage are David Landis portraying Sen. George Norris; Donald Fiedler portraying William Jennings Bryan; Helen Lewis portraying Miss Grace Abbott; and Charles Everett Pace portraying Malcolm X.

Opening night events begin with the color guard and the national anthem, followed by a presentation from the Theater of the American West and a visit from Grace Abbott and Sen. George Norris. Closing night begins with singer Preston Love Jr., followed by Malcolm X.

Kearney is celebrating its 100th anniversary of Chautauqua, continuing Nebraska's rich Chautauqua tradition that dates back to the turn of the 20th century. For a complete list of the schedule visit the Kearney Visitors Bureau's website at www.visitkearney.org or the Nebraska Humanities Council's at www.nebraskahumanities.org.

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