



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Aurora plans special events for 2011 Chautauqua

Gov. Dave Heineman has declared June 22-26 “Chautauqua Days,” in recognition of the Nebraska Chautauqua “Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties,” which will be hosted by the community of Aurora.

Aurora organizers have planned a five-day schedule of events surrounding the visit of the 2011 Nebraska Chautauqua. Among the opening-day events is a 6 p.m. social at the Plainsman Museum to meet the Chautauquans. Among other highlights are an exhibit of Dust Bowl photographs at the Plainsman Museum and an exhibit of Depression-era quilts.

Main events will be held each evening June 23-26 under the Chautauqua tent at 12th and L streets, just southwest of the square. Evening stage presentations begin at 7 p.m. and offer local entertainment and first-person interpretations of historical figures from the era of the Great Depression. Daytime workshops will be held for adults at the Alice M. Farr Memorial Library and workshops for youth of all ages will be held at The Scrapbook Page. All Chautauqua events are free and open to the public and are being held in conjunction with the annual A’ROR’N Days celebration.

Scholars will portray five historical characters who helped shape America’s response to the Great Depression. The scholars are Doug Watson as humorist Will Rogers, Patrick McGinnis as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Fred Krebs as Louisiana governor and U.S. Sen. Huey Long, Tonia M. Compton as evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson and Carmaletta Williams as WPA folklorist Zora Neale Hurston.

A program of the Nebraska Humanities Council, the “Bright Dreams, Hard Times” Chautauqua has visited the cities of Hastings, Falls City, Broken Bow, Plattsmouth, Columbus, and North Platte during the summers of 2008, 2009 and 2010.

The “Bright Dreams, Hard Times” Chautauqua is funded in part by support from the We The People initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the State of Nebraska, and the Hamilton Community Foundation.

For additional information on this summer’s Chautauqua, go to the Nebraska Chautauqua website, www.nebraskachautauqua.org, or contact Kristi Hayek at (402) 474-2131 ext. 108 or kristi@nebraskahumanities.org.

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Editors: The Chautauqua scholars are available for media interviews. Contact Kristi Hayek for interview requests.