



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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# **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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## **Hastings plans schedule of events for Chautauqua**

The community of Hastings has planned a five-day weekend schedule of events surrounding the visit July 2-6 of "Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties," the Nebraska Humanities Council's 2008 Chautauqua program.

Main events will be held each evening in the Chautauqua Pavilion at Chautauqua Park, 2219 W. Fifth St. Evening stage performances offer local entertainment and first-person interpretations of historical figures from the era of the Great Depression. The evening Chautauqua sessions begin at 7 p.m. July 3 and 7:30 p.m. July 4-6. Daytime workshops will be held for adults and children.

Scholars will portray five historical characters who helped shape America's response to the Great Depression. The characters are humorist Will Rogers, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Louisiana governor and U.S. Sen. Huey Long, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson and Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston.

Hastings has planned several events to complement Chautauqua events, including a "Dust Bowl" exhibit of photographs, a youth camp, high school workshops, a July 4 celebration, local tours of historic Hastings, a 1930s farm equipment display and a 1930s vintage car show. Opening day events on July 2 include a 6 p.m. social to meet the Chautauquans.

A collaboration of the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Kansas Humanities Council, the Chautauqua also visits Falls City from June 25-29 and Lawrence and Beloit in Kansas.

The "Bright Dreams, Hard Times" Chautauqua is funded, in part, by a major three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the NEH's special "We The People" initiative.

For additional information on this summer's Chautauqua, go to the Nebraska Humanities Council's website, [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org) or contact Beth McQueen at (402) 474-2131 ext. 108 or [beth@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:beth@nebraskahumanities.org).

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