



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 500  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852  
E-mail: [nhc@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:nhc@nebraskahumanities.org)  
Website: [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org)

---

# ***N E W S   R E L E A S E***

For release: March 24, 2006

Contact: Erika Hamilton, (402) 474-2131 ext. 104

## **Prime Time literacy program goes to South Omaha**

Prime Time Family Reading Time, a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program for low-literacy, low-income families, will be presented in South Omaha with opportunities for both Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children.

The South Branch of the Omaha Public Library will host the award-winning series on six consecutive Monday evenings April 3 through May 8.

The six-week series of reading and discussion is designed for families with children ages six to 10. It includes sessions on justice, greed, loyalty, bravery, and dreams for the future. All books are read and discussed in both English and Spanish.

Each program begins with a light dinner and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children's literature. A discussion leader and a storyteller introduce parents to the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children, and a library representative introduces families to library resources and services. Joel Gajardo will participate as discussion leader and Linda Garcia, former children's librarian for the South Branch, will return as storyteller.

Younger siblings participate in separate pre-reading activities.

Prime Time reinforces the role of the family in society, encourages parents and children to form bonds over reading and learning together, and teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics. The program also encourages low-literacy, low-income parents to enter or continue their own educational programs to improve their employment opportunities.

"It is so important for children to learn the joys of reading early in life, especially when it involves reading and discussing books with their families. A love for learning through reading has a positive impact on how well a child does in school," said NHC Program Officer Erika Hamilton. "We're pleased to be working with the South Branch Library to bring this exciting family literacy program to the citizens of Omaha."

Initially developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, Prime Time has been held in Lincoln, Scottsbluff, Lexington and other Nebraska communities over the last several years.

Bilingual Prime Time programs are sponsored by the NHC, the State of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Library Commission, with additional support from Wells Fargo. Students from the Service Learning Spanish class at the University of Nebraska at Omaha will assist with the program.

The NHC is a private, statewide, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information or to register to participate, contact branch manager Norma Pountney at (402) 444-4850.

###