



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Prime Time reading program returns to Lincoln

Prime Time Family Reading Time, a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program designed to help strengthen participants' interest and skills in reading, will return to Lincoln with opportunities for both Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children.

The Bennett Martin Public Library in downtown Lincoln will host the bilingual series on six consecutive Thursday evenings from April 3 through May 8. Each program begins with a light dinner and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children's literature. The program is free and open to the public.

The six-week series is offered to families with children ages six to 10. It includes sessions on fairness, greed, courage, dreams, and cleverness. All books are read and discussed in both English and Spanish.

Discussion leader Joel Gajardo and storyteller Ricardo Garcia will introduce parents to the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children. Families also will learn about library resources and services. Separate pre-reading activities will be available for younger siblings.

Prime Time reinforces the role of family in society, encourages parents and children to bond over reading and learning together, and teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics. The program also encourages 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," said NHC Senior Program Officer Erika Hamilton, state coordinator of Prime Time. "A love for learning through reading has a positive impact on how well a child does in school."

Initially developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, bilingual and English-only Prime Time sessions have been held in Omaha, Crete, Grand Island, South Sioux City, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, and other Nebraska communities over the last five years. This will be Lincoln's fifth bilingual Prime Time.

Prime Time programs are sponsored in Nebraska by the NHC, the State of Nebraska, Nebraska Library Commission, and Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Sponsors and funders for Prime Time in Lincoln include Lincoln City Libraries, Cornhusker Bank, and Lincoln Community Outreach Foundation. 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 Vicki Wood, youth services librarian, at (402) 441-8566.

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