



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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# **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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**For release: Sept. 15, 2009**

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## **Prime Time reading program returns to Lincoln**

Prime Time Family Reading Time returns to the Eiseley Branch Library in Lincoln Sept. 17 with opportunities for Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children.

Prime Time is a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program designed to help strengthen participants' interest and skills in reading. The six-week series is offered free to families with children ages 6 to 10. Each program begins with a light meal and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children's books.

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

The Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library will host the bilingual series on six consecutive Thursday evenings from Sept. 17 through Oct. 22. Selected books will help families discuss themes of fairness, dreams, determination, curiosity and ingenuity.

In collaboration with the Sheldon Museum of Art's "Día de los Muertos" festival, Prime Time will also include discussion on the festival's theme of masks.

"It's important for children to learn the joys and relevancy 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. "We are excited about this new partnership with the Sheldon and this opportunity to link family experiences and traditions with the discussion of books."

Developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 48 bilingual and English-only Prime Time series have been held in 15 Nebraska libraries, five schools and one community center in the last five years, including programs in Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, South Sioux City, Norfolk and Scottsbluff. This will be Lincoln's eighth bilingual Prime Time, having held their first in 2005.

In a 2008 survey of Nebraska families who participated in Prime Time, 87 percent indicated that the program changed the way they read and discuss books together, 68 percent improved their attitude toward the library, and 98 percent showed interest in participating again in Prime Time or similar family reading and educational programs.

Prime Time is sponsored in Nebraska by the NHC with support from the State of Nebraska and Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Prime Time is made possible in Lincoln through major funding from the Lincoln Community Foundation and Lincoln Community Outreach Foundation, partnerships with West Lincoln and Belmont elementary schools, and donations from McDonald's® Corporation, DaVinci's, Runza Restaurants and El Rancho Mexican Restaurant.

For more information, contact Janine Copple at (402) 435-5612.

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