



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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NEWS RELEASE

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Author Starita joins NHC speakers bureau

Joe Starita, author of “I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear’s Journey for Justice,” which was chosen for the 2012 One Book One Nebraska initiative, has joined the Nebraska Humanities Council’s speakers bureau with a program that complements the acclaimed book.

Gov. Dave Heineman launched the 2012 statewide One Book One Nebraska initiative on Jan. 18 with a proclamation encouraging all Nebraskans to participate by reading Starita’s book, joining community book discussion groups and participating in local community events.

The One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska Library Commission, is an annual event that invites residents statewide to read and discuss one book chosen from many written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting.

“I Am a Man” chronicles Standing Bear’s 600-mile walk to return the body of his only son to traditional burial ground. It examines the complex relationship between the United States government and the small, peaceful tribe and the legal consequences of land swaps and broken treaties. It also explores fundamental issues of citizenship, constitutional protection, cultural identity, and the nature of democracy—issues that continue to resonate in 21st-century America.

An associate professor in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Starita also wrote “The Dull Knives of Pine Ridge—A Lakota Odyssey,” published in 1995 and nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Libraries, schools and other literary and cultural organizations across Nebraska are planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this important book with ties to Nebraska history and the history of human rights.

Libraries and other organizations across the state who wish to bring Starita to their communities in conjunction with the 2012 One Book One Nebraska will find it inexpensive and easy through the NHC speakers bureau. The NET documentary “Standing Bear’s Footsteps” is also available on loan through the Humanities Resource Center, which can be accessed at www.nebraskahumanities.org.

Additional resources to assist with local reading and discussion activities are available at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2012>. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.

Speakers Bureau programs are available to any Nebraska non-profit organization for a small processing fee. For details about programs or to book a speaker, visit the NHC website or call (402) 474-2131.

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