HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY NEBRASKA!

WORLD WAR I CHAUTAUQUA COMING TO SEWARD JUNE 15-18 & NEBRASKA CITY JUNE 21-24! SEE PG 3

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President Woodrow Wilson and his wife Edith came to Nebraska for the 50th anniversary of statehood. Photo: The Bostwick-Frohardt Collection at the Durham Museum.
HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY, NEBRASKA!

Celebrate Nebraska’s sesquicentennial throughout the year with a variety of events and activities, sponsored by grants provided by Humanities Nebraska.

Nebraska 150 Books is a collection of 150 literary works selected for readers to enjoy during the sesquicentennial. For the reading list and information about reading groups, etc., visit Nebraska150Books.org.

Now You Know Nebraska is a series of short videos that explore Nebraska History. Themes have included politics, agriculture, education and the like. Five videos are posted each week. Find the videos at YouTube.com by searching for “Now You Know Nebraska.”

Painting the Legacy of Nebraska is an exhibition and educational art project created by Nebraska native and internationally renowned artist Todd Williams. His art depicts significant historic, geographic, and figurative elements from each of the state’s 93 counties. The project also includes a traveling exhibition, collectors’ art book, and NET documentary film.

One Book One Nebraska chose “Black Elk Speaks” by John G. Neihardt as the 2017 title. Libraries and book clubs around the state are hosting reading and discussion groups. You can also download the free Nebraska Literary Tour App from GooglePlay or iTunes and visit sites related to the book, including the John G. Neihardt State Historical Site.

Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau provides presentations on Nebraska history to schools, libraries, clubs and other not-for-profit organizations throughout the state. To sign up for weekly electronic notices detailing these Speakers Bureau events, as well as grant-funded projects that are open to the public, please send an email to info@humanitiesnebraska.org.

2017 Governor’s Lecture to Focus on Nebraska History

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author T. J. Stiles will focus on Nebraska’s place at the center of American history when he delivers the 22nd annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities. The lecture will be offered free to the public on October 3, 2017 at the Holland Performing Arts Center. Stiles will tell the stories of various historical figures as he explores factors that made Nebraska a key component in our nation’s history. A benefit dinner prior to the lecture will raise funds for HN programming. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more information.
“World War One: Legacies of a Forgotten War” is a free, four-day festival of entertainment, historic presentations, and more. Seward will host the event June 15-18, and Nebraska City will follow June 21-24.

Of special note this year, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission has endorsed the Nebraska Chautauqua as a partner program. It will serve as the state’s observance of the 100th anniversary of our nation’s entrance into WWI.

Scholars will appear as key WWI figures. These include President Woodrow Wilson, Nebraska politician William Jennings Bryan, humanitarian Jane Addams, sociologist/activist W.E.B. Du Bois, and author Edith Wharton. After their evening presentations, audiences will be invited to ask questions of the scholars, who will answer first as their respective historical figures and then as themselves.

“Many people don’t realize how much of an impact World War I had, both globally and domestically,” said Kristi Hayek Carley, Chautauqua program manager. “This year is an especially good time for Nebraskans to come together in each of these communities and develop a fuller understanding of the Great War.”

Educational workshops and activities will be held during the day. A Chautauqua youth camp will encourage kids to learn more about local stories from the Great War. The camp ends with youth portraying local historic figures on stage.

“Both communities have already uncovered little-known WWI stories,” Kristi Hayek Carley said. “It’s wonderful to know the younger generations will learn that history and pass it on.”

Chautauqua is made possible through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as support from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and many other donors, sponsors, and volunteers. Support in Seward comes from the Seward Foundation and the Seward Arts Council, along with many other contributors. In Nebraska City, support comes from Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce, Inc., Peru State College, and the Kimmel Foundation, as well as many other contributors.

Find the complete schedule, a reading list and other items at www.NebraskaChautauqua.org. For additional updates, follow HN on Facebook and Twitter.

From the executive director:
YOUR VOICE IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE FUTURE OF THE NEH

Humanities supporters are greatly concerned about the proposal from the Trump Administration to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and other entities that enrich the cultural life of our nation.

Congress created the NEH in 1965 based on the belief that “democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens,” a statement that seems more relevant than ever in today’s complex world. NEH Chairman William D. Adams noted recently that since its founding, the agency has awarded 63,000 grants totalling $5.3 billion for humanities projects. Nebraskans have reaped the benefits, including vital support of Humanities Nebraska that has enabled us to consistently reach citizens all across the state.

The NEH’s $148 million budget is an investment that yields a remarkable cultural infrastructure throughout the country, with national, state and local partners working together to enrich lives. Losing this infrastructure would serve a devastating blow to the cultural, educational, and civic life of our country.

Ultimately it is Congress who makes these funding decisions. Encouragingly, there continues to be support and appreciation for the work of the NEH and state humanities councils across the political spectrum. Please encourage your members of Congress to continue to support the humanities. We will keep you informed, and we appreciate your voice of support.

Chris Sommerich, Executive Director
Welcome, New Board Members!

Humanities Nebraska recently welcomed four new board members. Two were elected to the board of the Nebraska Humanities Council, and two were added to the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities.

New to the Council

Connie Duncan of Lincoln spent 17 years as a teacher in the Lincoln school district, and also co-chaired its $153 million bond issue in 2014. She is the District 2 representative of the Lincoln Public Schools board. In addition to operating the Duncan Family Trust, Connie serves on several nonprofit boards: Boys and Girls Club Board of Advisors, Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln Community Foundation, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, Lutheran Family Services, and United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County. In 2016, Connie and her husband, Todd, co-chaired the United Way Campaign.

David Nesheim of Chadron is a history professor at Chadron State College, and is currently interim director of assessment in the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs. An environmental historian who earned his doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, David teaches Great Plains and Native American history. He has also published several articles on buffalo husbandry practices in the twentieth century. In 2014 and 2015, he presented two “Free Land?” Chautauqua workshops on the dispossession of Plains Indians to audiences in Scottsbluff and Alliance for Humanities Nebraska.

New to the Foundation:

Glenn Van Velson of North Platte is an attorney who works in private practice. Currently, he sits on the boards of the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation (past president), the North Platte Opportunity Center, and the Great Plains Health Care Foundation. He previously served as chairman of the Mid Plains United Way board, and as a board member for the Nebraska Public Radio Foundation, the Community Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Inc, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Nebraska District, and the North Platte Community Playhouse.

Christine Zygielbaum of Lincoln has been active as a community volunteer since she and her husband moved to Nebraska from California. She worked for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a computer programmer and project/line manager for 30 years. Since retiring, she has served as a volunteer for the American Red Cross and served on the boards of the YWCA, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Women’s Club. Her past service to the Friends of Lied includes a term as president. Chris currently serves on the boards of the Omaha Town Hall Lecture Series and the Downtown Lincoln Rotary Club #14 Foundation board.

The Council also elected Catherine Lang of Omaha as the new Foundation president for the years 2017-18. Lang is director of the Nebraska Business Development Center, a cooperative program of the U.S. Small Business Administration and the College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Katherine L. Walter of Lincoln will serve a second year as chair of the Nebraska Humanities Council. She is co-director of the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Thank you to our Retiring Board Members!

Humanities Nebraska is grateful to the board members who reached the end of their board service in January. Retirees included: immediate past Council chair Carol Rempp of Santee, Foundation board member Bradley L. Knuth of Omaha, and Eric Brown of Lincoln who served on both boards and was most recently treasurer for the Council. We are grateful to them for their leadership and dedication to improving the cultural and educational life of our state.
Nearly 100 students from 20 high schools across the state and their teachers gathered at the State Capitol in Lincoln March 27 to discuss foreign policy at the 19th annual Capitol Forum on America’s Future.

Capitol Forum gives students an opportunity to explore different positions on global issues, which helps them become engaged, thoughtful citizens. It is offered each year by Humanities Nebraska in collaboration with the Office of Secretary of State John Gale and the Choices Program from Brown University.

On Capitol Forum Day, students split into groups for deliberation, leading to a deeper understanding of how different policies can affect different groups. For example, students discussed the different impact of climate policies, international trade, and immigration on rural and urban communities, sharing their personal experiences.

“The discussions opened my mind to different views and opinions, which I will keep in mind as I become a voter,” said one senior from Platteview High School.

Following students’ presentations representing four policy platforms, participants voted for their preferences. Students were then able to ask policy questions of Senator Deb Fischer, and Congressmen Jeff Fortenberry, Adrian Smith, and Don Bacon via live video conference from Washington.

Student delegations have since returned home to share their experiences with their classes and participate in more deliberation and voting. Each year, more than 1,500 students from participating Nebraska schools learn about important world issues through this educational program.

Nebraska social studies teachers who wish to be part of next year’s Capitol Forum on America’s Future should submit their applications by June 1. Curriculum and teacher workshops are provided at no cost, and reimbursement is available to cover travel and substitute teacher expenses.

For details, contact Kristi Hayek Carley at (402) 474-2131 or kristi@HumanitiesNebraska.org or download a brochure at www.HumanitiesNebraska.org.
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Many donors make multiple gifts throughout the year. Donors are listed at the level of their cumulative giving for the year in our annual report.

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Thank you!
Join these generous contributors and help to cultivate an understanding of our history and culture. Thank you for becoming part of our mission!

www.HumanitiesNebraska.org

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Sponsored by the Lincoln
Community Foundation, the
6th annual Give to Lincoln Day
will be held on Thursday, May
18, 2017. Thanks to a $350,000
challenge match fund, every
donation that each participat-
ing non-profit organization
receives on Give to Lincoln
Day will receive a proportional
share based on dollars raised.

Humanities Nebraska will
designate all funds raised
through Give to Lincoln Day
to our family literacy program,
Prime Time Family Reading
Time.Prime Time is growing in
Lincoln, and your support will
make a difference. Mark your
calendar and plan to make an
online donation any time after
May 1 through May 18 to help
maximize our share of the
matching funds. Thank you!
HN AWARDS 18 MINI GRANTS TOTALING $28,196

Humanities Nebraska recently awarded the following grants:

Audubon Nebraska, Denton, $725 to help fund the second annual “Words 4 Birds” community poetry workshop on April 23.

Boy Scouts of America, Cornhusker Council, Walton, $1,460 to fund components of two activity stations at their April 8 “NE 150: Diverse Origins” Nebraska History celebration at the State Capitol.

Bright Lights, Inc. of Lincoln, $1,890 for scholarships to enable students to attend humanities-themed summer enrichment day camps.

Doane University, Crete, $2,000 to collect oral histories from local community members, which will be archived and used in a March 2018 event and accompanying exhibit titled “Latinos in Nebraska: Oral Histories from the Heartland.”

Fly Over Media, Lincoln, $2,000 for three speakers at the Anvil Rural Journalism Conference on April 8.

Friends of the Homestead of Beatrice, $1,620 to fund three presentations by astronomer Dr. Bryan Mendez titled, “Darkness Over the Prairie” in conjunction with the total solar eclipse event in August 2017.

Great Plains Black History Museum, Omaha, $800 for three exhibits to be displayed during Native Omahans Week July 31-August 7.

Midland University, Fremont, $1,636 to fund the “Exploring Interfaith: Global Religion in Our Community” lecture series February-April 2017.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, $2,000 to bring a nationally renowned Teddy Roosevelt scholar to the annual Fort Kearny Outdoor Expo, May 11-13.

Nebraska Writers Guild, Omaha, $1,850, for presentations about the history and literature of Nebraska. Designated as a Nebraska 150 Signature Event, “Six Corners of Nebraska” runs April 2-August 6.

Omaha Creative Institute, $1,922 to fund a traveling photo exhibition and community dialogues related to “A Couple of 830 Mile Long Conversations.”

Opera Omaha, $1,850 to fund the William Blake Residency programming presented by scholar Michael Phillips April 24-28.

Sheldon Art Association, Lincoln, $1,750 to fund an April 13 public talk by Kirsten Pai Buick, Ph.D., titled “Slavery Makes the Woman.”

Steinauer Community Heritage House, $1,655 to create a Wall of Honor recognizing area veterans.

University of Nebraska at Omaha Board of Regents, $1,055 to fund Dr. Amy Lonetree’s delivery of the annual John Trudell lecture in Native American History on February 9.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Board of Regents, $1,178 to fund the 11th annual Poetry of Place celebration 2017, and $1,999 to fund the outreach phase of a multi-year project titled, “Family Letters: Digitization & Analysis of the Personal Correspondence of a Mexican American Family.”

University of Nebraska-Lincoln History Graduate Students’ Association, $806 to bring keynote speaker Dr. Nathan Probasco to the Twelfth Annual James A. Rawley Conference in the Humanities on March 31.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND YOU

More than 200,000 Nebraskans had the opportunity recently to view The Bill of Rights and You, a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives. In commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the ratification of this landmark document, the National Archives and Humanities Nebraska provided the exhibit to 123 schools, 49 community libraries, and 11 museums and other organizations.

The Bill of Rights and You spotlights one of the most remarkable periods in American history. It explores the origins of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution (the Bill of Rights), illustrates how each amendment protects U.S. citizens, and looks at how Americans exercise these rights. Participating organizations reported that the exhibit was popular. One library remarked that teenagers made the most comments. One school said students frequently gathered around the exhibit, reading different parts to each other. Another school received a framed copy of the Constitution from a community member.

The Bill of Rights and You was organized by the National Archives and Records Administration, distributed by the National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service and developed in collaboration with the National Archives’ National Outreach Initiative. The exhibition is presented in part by AT&T, Seedlings Foundation, and the National Archives Foundation. HN collaborated with the Federation of State Humanities Councils to bring it to Nebraska.

Teddy Roosevelt scholar/impersonator Adam Linquist will again appear at the Fort Kearny Outdoor Expo to educate visitors.
The Great American Comedy Festival was created in 2008 to pay tribute to the legacy of Norfolk native Johnny Carson, the famous comedian. Humanities Nebraska has helped the festival over the years with grants used for several different activities.

This includes sponsoring a comedy youth camp, which gave hundreds of high school students a chance to explore sketch writing, storytelling, and improvisational comedy with featured instructors from the Second City Training Center and San Francisco Comedy College. HN also supported the creation of an elementary curriculum so students could learn the history of Johnny Carson’s life and success in the entertainment industry, as well as his commitment to his hometown of Norfolk.

Most recently, HN provided funding for a panel discussion on the societal impact of NBC’s “The Tonight Show” through the eras of hosts Johnny Carson, Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon, presented by their producers. Approximately 350 people attended the talk.

Born in 1925, Carson and his family moved to Norfolk in 1933. Six years later, Carson began his life as an entertainer, and he never stopped. He graduated from Norfolk High School in 1943 and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1949.

By 1962, Carson became host of “The Tonight Show” on NBC and continued entertaining television audiences for 30 years. He is still hailed as one of America’s greatest comedians and a TV icon. Carson died in 2005 and the Great American Comedy Festival honors his memory.

Each year, Norfolk hosts nationally renowned comedians for four days of laughter. Comedians from across the country audition for professional talent scouts to be one of 20 acts competing at the festival. The festival also bestows an annual Johnny Carson Legend Award to a famous comedian. Previous recipients include Ed Asner, Dick Cavett, Cloris Leachman, Fred Willard, Stephen Wright, and Jimmie “J.J.” Walker. A panel discussion delivers an educational component—though it’s typically full of laughs, too.

Humanities Nebraska recently funded a panel discussion with late show comedy writers for the 2017 festival on June 14-17. For more information, visit greatamericancomedyfestival.com.

Sower Award Nominations Due June 16

Nominations are now being welcomed for the 2017 Sower Award in the Humanities, to be presented at the Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities on October 3, 2017 in Omaha.

Anyone may nominate an individual who has made a significant contribution to public understanding of the humanities in Nebraska via a commitment of time, expertise, resources, or any combination of the above. (In some previous years, the Sower Award was given to institutions and communities as well; as of 2016, only individuals are eligible.)

The selection committee will consider nominees’ contributions to the history, literature, culture and other areas of the humanities and how this has inspired and enriched personal and public life in Nebraska.

Past honorees have included:

- Talented humanities faculty who reach beyond their classrooms
- Committed volunteers and philanthropists who enhance cultural life of this state
- Journalists and filmmakers who shed light on important public issues

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the HN website: HumanitiesNebraska.org.

Past Sower Award Recipients

Individuals
Paul Olson • Joe Seger • Keith Blackledge • Bernice Slote • Gene Bunje • Larry Wewel • Robert Audi • Walter Friedlander • Robert Manley • Frederick Luebke • Rhonda Searest • Jack McBride • Marion Marsh Brown • Mombie Tuttle • Nancy Duncan • State Sen. LaVon Crosby • Ron Hull • Jack Campbell • E.N. “Jack” Thompson • Ron Neuge • Don Welch • Gary Moulton • Ted Kooser • Charles “Chuck” Trimble • Richard Holland • Don Pederson • John Gottschalk • Judi galashkobos • Jane Renner Hood • Robert Netsky • Annette and Paul Smith • Marian Andersen

Institutions
InterNorth Foundation • Septemberfest Committee of Omaha • Holdrege Public Library • Woods Charitable Fund • Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation • Cooper Foundation • Commercial Federal Savings and Loan • Peter Kiewit Foundation • Sturh Museum of the Prairie Pioneer • El Museo Latino • Nebraska Federation of Women’s Clubs • Beatrice Public Library • The Omaha World Herald • Nebraska Educational Telecommunications

Communities
Seward • Oakland • Chadron • Verdigris • Henderson • Aurora • David City • Central City • Cozad • Gering • Scottsbluff
CELEBRATING PRIME TIME EXPANSION IN LINCOLN

On March 23, supporters and team members of Lincoln’s Prime Time Family Reading Time gathered at the Humanities Nebraska office to celebrate Prime Time’s growth in Nebraska and to discuss plans for expanded outreach in Lincoln.

Since 2002, HN has supported and coordinated 201 Prime Time programs in 17 public libraries, 17 elementary schools, five community centers (including two learning community centers), and one Head Start. These programs met in 15 communities across the state, from Omaha to Scottsbluff.

Guests at the March 23 open house heard about Prime Time children who have gone on to college, secured jobs as teachers, or found their way back to Prime Time as bilingual storytellers or program coordinators. Prime Time has been rated consistently as an excellent program by participating families, with 98% indicating they want to participate again. And many do!

“It has helped us have more family time and have better communication with our kids,” one parent said.

Another parent was grateful for the opportunity to bond as a family. “Due to me working, we never had time to read until now,” the parent wrote.

Thanks to the Woods Charitable Fund in Lincoln, Humanities Nebraska received a two-year $40,000 grant to hire a part-time Prime Time assistant and expand outreach to schools and organizations throughout the city, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.

Susan Hale (see below) was hired in February as the Lincoln Prime Time Assistant. Since then, she has been reaching out to elementary school principals, preschool programs, and local organizations to grow HN’s network of partners.

Lincoln City Libraries have been a long-time partner for Prime Time. HN’s first program, back in 2002, was held at the Bennett Martin Public Library in downtown Lincoln.

“Together, we believe there’s opportunity for growth of Prime Time Family Reading Time and Prime Time Preschool in Lincoln, just as we’ve seen growth in Omaha schools and libraries,” said Dr. Erika Hamilton, director of literary programs. “Prime Time offers parental engagement in schools, collaboration with public libraries, and support for early childhood education.”

For more information, call Erika at 402.474.2131, ext. 104.

WELCOME NEW PRIME TIME STAFF, COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Susan Hale

This spring, Kali Patterson joined the HN office as a communications intern. Kali is a Global Studies and Communication Studies double major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has interned abroad in New Zealand with New Zealand Society of Authors and tutors UNL students through the Office of First-Year Experience & Transition Programs. Kali works with HN social media and helps with website updates, weekly e-mail alerts, newsletters and other communications.

Susan Hale joined the Prime Time team this spring with a passion for family literacy. Susan has a Bachelor’s degree in social work and has long worked on public policies that impact underserved and disadvantaged populations. Susan lives in Lincoln and enjoys spending time with family, reading, playing the piano and working in her yard. Her role as Prime Time assistant will be key in helping expand the Prime Time program in Lincoln by reaching out to schools and other sites.

IN MEMORY

MOSHE GERSHOVICH, 1959-2017

Born in Israel, Moshe earned a doctorate from Harvard and taught at MIT and Al-Akhawayn University in Morocco before becoming professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He was director of the Schwab Center for Israel and Jewish Studies, and founder of UNO’s Islamic Studies Program. For the HN Speakers Bureau, he taught about Morocco, genocide, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
MONTHLY GIVING: A DOUBLE WIN

With your continuing financial support, Humanities Nebraska reaches every corner of the state, promoting lifelong learning and civic engagement through programs like Chautauqua, Capitol Forum on America’s Future, and the Speakers Bureau. Every investment you make in Humanities Nebraska fosters personal and intellectual growth.

Small online gifts each month make a big difference in our ability to create opportunities for learning, personal growth and discussion. The benefits of recurring giving include:

- No need to remind yourself to renew your financial support
- Fewer solicitation letters
- Satisfaction from knowing that your steady support keeps our outreach and programs strong.

Monthly giving a true win-win!

$10 a month ($120/total/year) sends a high school student to Capitol Forum Day at the State Capitol.

$20 a month ($240/total) brings a program on Nebraska history to a fourth grade class via the Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau.

$50 a month ($600/total) covers the honorarium and travel expenses of a scholar leading a community conversation for a Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibition.

$84 a month ($1,000 total) supports HN’s core programs and is a qualifying gift for the Patron’s Circle, an annual recognition group.

It’s easy to set up a monthly gift. Please visit HumanitiesNebraska.org and click on the “Donate” button in the upper right corner to learn more today. Thank you!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Community Services Fund (CSF) connects donors to causes they care about. Community Services Fund is a coalition of 62 diverse non-profits working to build a vibrant, creative and healthy community. Humanities Nebraska is a proud member agency.

CSF celebrates the arts/humanities, protects our environment and creates green spaces, provides health care to those who cannot afford it, provides education and advocacy, and works to protect at-risk children.

HN greatly appreciates donors who designated gifts to us through CSF workplace giving campaigns last year, as well as those who are considering a gift this year. Thank you! For more information, visit communitieservicesfund.org and click on “Learn More.”
BIOGRAPHER/HISTORIAN T.J. STILES TO DELIVER THE 2017 GOVERNOR’S LECTURE

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author T.J. Stiles will deliver the 22ND annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities at Omaha’s Holland Performing Arts Center on October 3.

In presenting this year’s Governor’s Lecture, Stiles will use the opportunity of the Nebraska 150TH anniversary of statehood to address its centrality to American history. He will draw from his work on General Custer and other historical figures to explore geographical and other factors that made Nebraska a battleground in a series of conflicts that shaped national—even continental—history.

Stiles won the Pulitzer for History (2016) for “Custer’s Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America,” and the Pulitzer for Biography (2010) as well as the National Book Award for Nonfiction (2009) for “The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt.” He is also the author of “Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War.” “Custer’s Trials” also won the Western Writers of America Golden Spur Award and the William H. Seward Award for Excellence in Civil War Biography. In addition to the Pulitzer and National Book Award for Nonfiction, “The First Tycoon” was named a New York Times Notable Book and further lauded as one of the best books of the year by publications such as The New Yorker, Christian Science Monitor, Boston Globe, Kansas City Star, San Francisco Chronicle, and the Washington Post.

Stiles received the support of a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation for his work on “Custer’s Trials.” He is a past Gilder Lehrman Fellow in American History at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, an elected member of the Society of American Historians, and a past faculty member for the World Economic Forum. A native of rural Minnesota, Stiles received a B.A. in History (with distinction) from Carleton College and a Master of Arts and a Master of Philosophy from Columbia University.

Co-chaired by board members David Buntain and Beth Whited, the benefit dinner prior to the free public lecture raises important funds for HN’s statewide programs.

Tuesday, October 3, 2017
5:30 p.m. Benefit Reception & Dinner
7:30 p.m. Free Public Lecture & Presentation of the 2017 Sower Award
Holland Performing Arts Center

For information regarding sponsorships, please contact Heather Thomas at 402.474.2131 or heather@humanitiesnebraska.org. Invitations will be mailed this summer. For more details, please visit HumanitiesNebraska.org.