Nebraska’s Platte River is a prime gathering spot for sandhill cranes (and birdwatchers) during their annual spring migration. Photo by Chris Sommerich.
ON MARCH 22, IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD WATER DAY, HUMANITIES NEBRASKA ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A YEARLONG CELEBRATION OF NEBRASKA’S WATER RESOURCES, FEATURING A NEW TOURING EXHIBITION FROM THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TITLED “WATER/WAYS.”

Water/Ways, inspired by an exhibition by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, was organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service to provide a quality Museum on Main Street experience for people in remote and rural communities nationwide.

“Since water is such an important component in all our lives, we’re excited to give Nebraskans a way to learn about and celebrate it,” said Mary Yager, HN associate director. The exhibition will be hosted at the following locations:

- Niobrara National Scenic River Visitor Center in Valentine, June 23-August 3
- Custer County Historical Society Museum in Broken Bow, August 11-September 21
- Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art in David City, September 29-November 9
- Nebraska Prairie Museum in Holdrege, November 17-December 21
- Knight Museum and Sandhills Center in Alliance, January 5-February 15, 2019
- Legacy of the Plains in Gering, February 23-April 7, 2019

Visitors will explore the relationships between people and water and learn about water as both a critical resource and

Nebraskans are encouraged to visit Snake River Falls when in Valentine to see “Water/Ways” at the Niobrara National Scenic River Visitor Center, on display June 23-August 3, 2018.

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Jon Meacham will explore the major events of 1968 when he delivers the 23RD annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities.

“Tumult, Tragedy and Hope: America in 1968 from a Half Century’s Perspective” will be offered free to the public on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln. Meacham will draw on his extensive understanding of American history to trace the social and political ramifications of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the Tet Offensive, the Cold War, the space race, and other significant events. Please see the back page of this newsletter for details.
“World War One: Legacies of a Forgotten War,” is a free, four-day festival of entertainment, historic presentations, and more. Wayne will host the family-friendly event June 7-10, and Sidney will follow June 14-17.

It is the final year for this particular theme, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the ending of the Great War.

“This Chautauqua helps us develop a fuller understanding of World War I and the impact it continues to have on our nation and in the world,” said Kristi Hayek Carley, Chautauqua program manager. “Audiences have told us they are surprised and enthralled to learn what they’ve never heard before.”

Each evening of Chautauqua, scholars appear as key WWI figures. These include President Woodrow Wilson, Nebraska politician William Jennings Bryan, humanitarian Jane Addams, sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois, and author Edith Wharton.

After the evening presentations, audiences ask questions of the scholars, who answer first as their respective historical figures and then as themselves.

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.

Each community is also hosting local programs leading up to Chautauqua week.

Chautauqua is made possible through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as support from the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and many other donors, sponsors, and volunteers.

Find the complete schedule, a reading list and other items at www.NebraskaChautauqua.org.
WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Humanities Nebraska recently welcomed seven new board members. Four have joined the board of the Nebraska Humanities Council, and three were added to the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities.

NEW TO THE COUNCIL

Chris Cornelius of Lincoln is a faculty member in the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at UNL and Editor of the *Journal of Materials Science*. A member of the Oneida Nation, he uses his unique perspectives to promote student/faculty diversity, and to enrich research, scholarship, and learning domains.

Barb Schlothauer of Gering earned a degree in speech pathology and elementary education at UNL. She worked as a speech therapist and was Director of Development for the University of Nebraska Foundation in western Nebraska for 25 years. Besides serving on several charitable boards, Barb co-chaired HN’s “Free Land” Chautauqua in Scottsbluff-Gering in 2014.

Dori Wanitschke of Grand Island is finance officer at the Grand Island Community Foundation and has 35 years experience in banking operations and compliance management. Dori has served the communities where she has lived in numerous ways and currently is on the board of the Grand Island Little Theater and volunteers at the Nebraska State Fair and her church.

Governor Pete Ricketts recently appointed Lynette Krieger of Hastings to one of the five appointed positions. She is a retired teacher and former president of the Cather Foundation board. She currently serves on the boards of Hastings Public Library Foundation and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation.

NEW TO THE FOUNDATION

Brenda Christensen of Omaha has been a volunteer leader for a number of charitable and civic organizations, including: Hope Center for Kids, Millard Public Schools Foundation, Junior League of Omaha, Aksarben Women’s Ball Committee, and Completely Kids.

John H. Conley of Omaha is a financial advisor and senior vice president of D.A. Davidson Company. A graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University, he is currently a member of the Nebraska Investment Council, a Trustee of the Business Ethics Alliance and is Governor Emeritus of the Knights of Aksarben.

Tami Hellman of Kearney just completed a second term as president of the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) board, and is serving a final year as its past-president. She also serves on the Merryman Performing Arts Center Board, the Archway Foundation Board, and the G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture Advisory Board. Tami and her husband are also trustees of the University of Nebraska Foundation.

The Council also elected John Schleicher of Omaha as chair, Amy Sandeen of Hastings as vice chair, and Steve Elliott of Wayne as treasurer.

Katherine L. Walter of Lincoln is immediate past-chair. The Foundation elected Cynthia Milligan as president, Nicholas W. Baxter as vice president, and Beth Whited as treasurer, all of whom live in Omaha.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWLY RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS!

Humanities Nebraska is grateful to the board members who reached the end of their board service in January.

These included: Council members Connie Adams of Broken Bow, and Andrea D. Miller of Bayard, immediate past Foundation president Catherine Lang, and Foundation board members Jessica L. Janssen of Fremont, Lianna Steele of Grand Island, and David Buntain of Blair, who served on both boards.

We are grateful to them for their leadership and dedication to improving the cultural and educational life of our state.
More than 100 students from 25 high schools across the state and their teachers gathered at the State Capitol in Lincoln March 19 to discuss foreign policy at the 20th annual Capitol Forum on America’s Future.

The program helps students become engaged citizens by encouraging them to explore different policies on global issues including immigration, terrorism, international trade, nuclear proliferation, and climate change.

“I never thought I would be interested in trade,” one student said, “but after reading about it, I realize just how monumental an issue it is.”

Humanities Nebraska provides the year-long curriculum in collaboration with the Office of Secretary of State John Gale and the Choices Program from Brown University.

On Capitol Forum Day, delegations of students from each school split into groups for deliberation, leading to a deeper understanding of how different policies can affect different populations. Students from cities like Lincoln and Omaha gained insight into how climate change policies affect family farms by listening to students from rural areas, while other students had the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of immigration and terrorism from kids their age.

“Without Capitol Forum, I would not have been exposed to such diverse views,” said a Norfolk Senior High student.

Following student presentations representing four global policy platforms, participants voted for their preferences. U.S. Representatives Jeff Fortenberry, Adrian Smith, and Don Bacon then answered students’ questions via live video conference.

Student delegations have now returned home to share their experiences with their classes and participate in more deliberation and voting.

Nebraska teachers who wish to be part of next year’s Capitol Forum should submit their applications by June 1. The 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
HUMANITIES NEBRASKA DONORS: THANK YOU!
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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Patron’s Circle
We thank these generous individuals who helped ensure a vibrant cultural life in Nebraska with annual gifts of $1,000 or more made between December 1, 2016 and February 28, 2018. To learn more about the Patron’s Circle, please contact Heather Thomas at 402.474.2131 or heather@HumanitiesNebraska.org.

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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

SHOUT OUT FOR HN ON GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY!

Sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation, Give to Lincoln Day will be held May 31. With a $400,000 challenge match fund, donations received by nonprofit organizations on Give to Lincoln Day earn a proportional share of that fund based on dollars raised. HN will earmark all funds raised on Give to Lincoln Day toward expanding Prime Time Family Reading Time in the capital city, making a real impact on quality of life.

Please mark your calendar and plan to make an online donation any time in the month of May to maximize your gift. Thank you!

www.givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/humanities-nebraska
HN AWARDS 36 GRANTS TOTALING $110,181

Humanities Nebraska recently awarded the following grants:

Asian Community and Cultural Center, Lincoln, $6,000 in support of citizenship classes and $625 for Camp Culture 2018 for 1st through 5th grade students.

Bright Lights, Inc., Lincoln, $1,600 to help cover teacher salaries for humanities classes offered within this summer enrichment program.


Central Community College, Hastings, $1,626 for a program titled, “Earth Week: Native Corn,” which was offered April 28 at the Hastings Campus.

College of Saint Mary, Omaha, $1,800 for its Native American visiting artist program, featuring four monthly lectures by Kelly Church in February-May.

Completely KIDS, Omaha, $3,380 for an afterschool program that encourages students in 3rd through 6th grade to learn about local historic figures.

Durham Museum, Omaha, $10,000 to help fund an August 18-January 27, 2019 exhibit, “Fighting for the Good Life: Nebraskan Memories of World War I.”

El Museo Latino, Omaha, $3,900 to help fund four presentations about Latino Art and Culture in 2018: May 31, June 14, August 23, and September 21.

Film Streams, Inc., Omaha, $5,100 to bring three professionals for a May 19 conversation at the Dundee Theater titled, “Women in Television in Conversation.”

Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Lincoln, $3,000 for summer Shakespearean sonnet workshops for students in grades K-12.

Fontenelle Forest, Bellevue, $6,220 for an exhibit on the history of the people who lived in the area of Fontenelle Forest around 1,000 years ago.

Fort Atkinson Foundation, Fort Calhoun, $1,595 for an exhibit on the War of 1812 during the park’s bicentennial celebration this summer.

Friends of the Homestead, Beatrice, $1,800 for the annual Heartland Storytelling Festival; $1,800 for humanities programming and sign language interpreters at Homestead Days, June 22-24; and $1,400 for the Tallgrass Prairie Fiddle Festival.

Friends of the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, $1,300 for presentations by two authors during the Nebraska Book Festival August 25.

John G. Neihardt Foundation, Bancroft, $1,420 for the 37th Annual Neihardt Spring Conference, which was held April 28 at the Neihardt State Historic Site.

Lincoln City Libraries, $1,796 to supply Nebraska’s 320 libraries with posters and bookmarks promoting the new NebraskaAuthors.org website.

Malcolm X Memorial Foundation, Omaha, $1,970 to help produce “Lives,” a weekly one-hour radio show that features interviews and panel discussions.

Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, $10,000 for the Great Plains Theatre Conference scheduled May 27-June 2, 2018 at the Fort Omaha campus.

National Orphan Train Complex, Concordia, KS, $4,954 to help fund multimedia presentations about the Orphan Train to be held in Scottsbluff, Ogallala, Gothenburg and North Platte this August.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, $2,000 to bring a Teddy Roosevelt impersonator to teach attendees at the Fort Kearny Outdoor Expo.

Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, $1,300 for its “Looking Past Skin” winter programming series related to immigration in Nebraska.

North Platte Public Schools KIDS Klub Afterschool Program, $1,081 to take 125 elementary students on a day-long field trip to the Hastings Museum.

Plum Creek Children’s Literacy Festival, Seward, $9,000 to help fund participation by 18 children’s book authors and illustrators at the October 4-6 event.

Scotts Bluff County Tourism, Gering, $2,600 to help fund a festival to honor the Irish and Scottish heritage of the region, to be held in Gering May 25-27.

Strategic Air and Space Museum, Ashland, $5,500 to bring a traveling exhibit about Francis Gary Powers from June 9-December 9, plus a talk by his son on the day the exhibit opens.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha Board of Regents, $1,100 to help fund keynote speaker Adam Beach’s delivery of the annual John Trudell Lecture in Native American Studies on February 16; and $800 to help bring acclaimed musician Benjamin Bagby to give a free February 26 lecture in anticipation of the following day’s event, “Beowulf: The Epic in Performance.”

Union for Contemporary Art, Omaha, $1,350 for a free public lecture and panel discussion, “Dividing Lines: Documenting Institutionalized Racism in America.”

Verse, Inc., Omaha, $1,200 to present history through “An Ode to Burlesque: A Tribute to Josephine Baker” at Love’s Jazz and Art Center.

Vision Maker Media, Lincoln, $1,000 in support of the 2018 Vision Maker Film Festival, which featured works by Native Americans and was held this April.

Volunteers of America (Western Nebraska), Lewellen, $1,054 to help sponsor the Ash Hollow Historical Pageant, featuring stories collected from the diaries and songs of Mormon Trail pioneers.

Wessels Living History Farm, York, $740 for a variety of humanities programming during its Living History Day on May 26, 2018.

Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud, $9,470 to help fund the 63rd annual Willa Cather Spring Conference May 31 – June 2. “Here At Last Is an American Novel: Celebrating 100 Years of My Ántonia” will focus on the legacy and long-lasting relevance of this popular Cather novel.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Community Services Fund (CSF) connects donors to causes they care about. CSF is a coalition of 62 diverse nonprofits working to build a vibrant, creative and healthy community.

CSF celebrates the arts/humanities, protects and improves our environment, provides health care to those who cannot afford it, works for education and advocacy, and protects at-risk children. HN greatly appreciates donors who designated gifts to us through CSF workplace giving campaigns. Thank you!

Read more about CSF at communityservicesfund.org.
SOWER AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE JUNE 15

Nominations are now being welcomed for the 2018 Sower Award in the Humanities, to be presented prior to the Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities on October 9, 2018 in Lincoln.

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

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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 • Stuhr 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
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What role should the news media play in our democracy? How do we identify biased or inaccurate reporting? What are the obligations of citizens and journalists in today’s news environment? What does the future hold for the consumption and dissemination of news?

If you are interested in joining other Nebraskans in exploring these and other related questions with people working in journalism, a series of community conversations across the state will give you the opportunity to do so, starting this fall.

This program series, entitled “Democracy and the Future of Journalism,” will bring together the public and panels of journalists in Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha, and Scottsbluff-Gering. Panelists will represent a variety of perspectives on the state of the news media in our society and how this relates to the state of American democracy, and will include local and regional voices as well as Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists.

This program is part of a national “Democracy and the Informed Citizen” initiative by the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Councils are creating various programs to engage the public in discussion of the vital connections between democracy, humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry.

Humanities Nebraska thanks the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the James and Rhonda Seacrest Foundation for their generous support of this initiative, and the Pulitzer Prizes for their partnership.

More information on dates, locations, and other details will be announced soon.

STATE POET NOMINATIONS

Watch for an announcement this June about the process for selecting the next Nebraska State Poet!

The Nebraska State Poet program is a partnership between Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Library Commission, and the Governor.

Recently elected U.S. President Harry S. Truman shows off a copy of the Chicago Tribune issue predicting his electoral defeat in 1948.
CARTWRIGHT TAKES THE HELM AT NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT

The Nebraska Cultural Endowment’s new Executive Director, Kyle Cartwright, comes from a background in music, education, administration, and fund development. Thanks to his experiences with Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment and the Lincoln Community Foundation and the Lied Center for Performing Arts, Kyle marries his understanding of unique charitable funding structures with his creative background in music education to have an impact on Nebraska’s cultural communities.

“I am excited to put my skills to work in this important role. I feel very honored for the opportunity to serve our state’s most important assets, its cultural organizations,” he said.

Kyle is also proud to serve as a member of the 43rd Army Band of the Nebraska Army National Guard.

To learn more about the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, go to www.nebraskaculture.org, call 402.285.2226 or email info@nebraskaculture.org.
Pulitzer Prize-winner Jon Meacham will deliver the 2018 Governor’s Lecture on October 9 in Lincoln. A presidential historian and regular contributor to TIME and The New York Times Book Review, Meacham is one of America’s most prominent public intellectuals. His talk, “Tumult, Tragedy and Hope: America in 1968 from a Half Century’s Perspective,” will be part of the 2018-19 E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.


Meacham’s most recent presidential biography, “Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush,” debuted at #1 on The New York Times Best Sellers list in November 2015. The Times said, “Destiny and Power reflects the qualities of both subject and biographer: judicious, balanced, deliberative, with a deep appreciation of history and the personalities who shape it.”

A contributing editor at TIME, Meacham writes for the magazine’s Ideas section. He also pens “The Long View” column in The New York Times Book Review in which he “looks back at books that speak to our current historical and cultural moment.”

From 1998 to 2006, he served as Newsweek magazine’s managing editor, and he was editor from 2006 to 2010.

Named a “Global Leader for Tomorrow” by the World Economic Forum, Meacham is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a fellow of the Society of American Historians. He chairs the National Advisory Board of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University, Distinguished Visiting Professor of History at The University of the South and Visiting Distinguished Professor at Vanderbilt.

Co-chaired by HN board members Shannon Harner and Matt Schaefer, the benefit dinner prior to the free public lecture raises important funds for HN’s statewide programs.

Tuesday, October 9, 2018
5 p.m.  Benefit Reception, Dinner & Presentation of the Sower Award at Embassy Suites
7:30 p.m.  Free Public Lecture, Lied Center for Performing Arts
9-11 p.m.  Humanities After Hours, location to be announced

For more 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.