

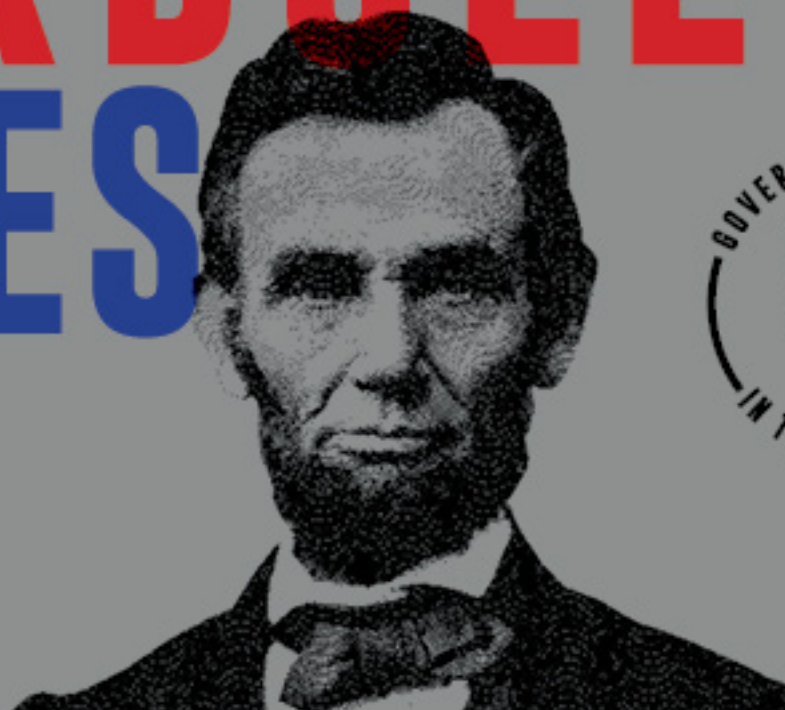
HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

RAPPORT

ISSUE 23 | SUMMER 2020

DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN: “LEADERSHIP IN TURBULENT TIMES”
ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S LECTURE TO LOOK AT LINCOLN, T. ROOSEVELT, FDR, JOHNSON PGS 2-3

LEADERSHIP IN TURBULENT TIMES



Doris Kearns Goodwin (inset photo by Annie Liebowitz) will deliver the 25th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities on Tuesday, September 22

ALL ABOUT BOOKS & GOVERNOR’S LECTURE: PG 3 • BOARD NOMINATIONS: PAGE 3 • SOWER AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT: PG 4
NEBRASKA STUDENTS HONORED AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY: PG 4 • RETIRING BOARD MEMBER CAROL GENDLER: PG 5
THANK YOU DONORS: PGS 6&7 • RECENT GRANTS: PG 8 • GRANT SPOTLIGHT: ADAPTING DURING A PANDEMIC: PG 8
VIRTUAL CHAUTAUQUA: PG 9 • NEBRASKA WARRIOR WRITERS: PG 10 • INTRODUCING “DEAR STRANGER”: PG 12





HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

RAPPORT

ISSUE 23 | SUMMER 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

VISION MAKER FILM FESTIVAL

August 31–October 5 (online)

(see page 8)

MINI GRANT DEADLINES

September 1, November 2

(details on our website)

NEBRASKA WARRIOR WRITERS

Every other Saturday online

beginning August 29 (page 10)

HN BOARD MEETING

September 18

GOVERNOR'S LECTURE

September 22, Lincoln,

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Lied

Center for Performing Arts or

online via live-streaming

IN THIS ISSUE

Leadership in Turbulent Times . . 2
Board Nominations Due. 3
Sower Award Announced 4
National History Day Honors. . . 4
Retiring Board Member:
Carol Gendler 5
Thank You, Donors! 6
Give to Lincoln Day Recap 7
Recent Grants. 8
Grant Spotlight 8
CARES Act Grants 9
Virtual Chautauqua 9
Nebraska Warrior Writers 10
Celebration of Nebraska Books. . 11
Introducing "Dear Stranger" . . 12

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"LEADERSHIP IN TURBULENT TIMES" ANALYZES FOUR U.S. PRESIDENTS

THE FOLLOWING IS ADAPTED FROM AN "ALL ABOUT BOOKS" SEGMENT ON NET RADIO WITH PROGRAM HOST PAT LEACH AND HN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS SOMMERICH. (Edited for brevity and clarity)

PAT LEACH: Chris, today you have brought along the newest book by Doris Kearns Goodwin called "Leadership in Turbulent Times." Goodwin is going to be the featured speaker for the 2020 Governor's Lecture in the Humanities on September 22. Tell us about "Leadership in Turbulent Times."

CHRIS SOMMERICH: This book came out in late 2018. Doris Kearns Goodwin is probably best known for "A Team of Rivals" about Abraham Lincoln's presidency, which was also a basis for the Steven Spielberg movie. She has also written about Teddy Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

She took her expertise on all of them and brought it together for "Leadership in Turbulent Times," looking at those four presidents—Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, and LBJ—exploring their different leadership styles and what made them who they were during some really turbulent times in our country's history. It's just a great book on leadership for anybody.

Goodwin divided the book into three parts. One section looks at them early in life: what kinds of things happened to them when they were younger? How did they first get into politics?

Then she moves into a second section. She sees resiliency as a theme with leaders and how they respond to adversity. She writes about setbacks each of them

had that helped shape them.

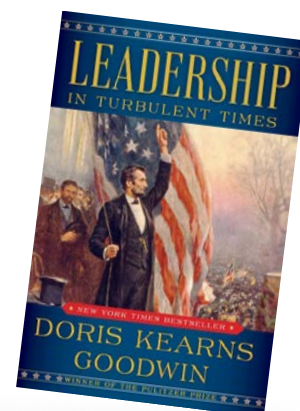
Third, she moves into their rise as political leaders and on to the White House. What were major issues they had to deal with?

Of course, with Abraham Lincoln, that's the Civil War. With Teddy Roosevelt, it is monopolies, trustbusting and labor strikes, and economic turmoil in the beginning of the 20th century. With FDR, it's the Great Depression and World War II. Johnson comes into office with the assassination of Kennedy, working to push forward some of the things that President Kennedy was aspiring to do, particularly with civil rights.

So I just enjoyed this book as a history buff and as somebody who really appreciates learning about different leadership styles as well.

PAT: I'm curious about the section about setbacks in that sometimes I think maybe we somehow get the impression that these people just emerged from the womb as full-blown leaders and didn't have those kinds of setbacks. It's surprising to realize what they've been through.

CHRIS: Exactly. Take Abraham Lincoln. If you asked most Americans, "Who do you wish you could



meet in history?" many people say Abraham Lincoln. When you really dig into his life, he becomes more and more remarkable...losing his mother as a young boy, his father basically leaving him and his sister to fend for themselves for months, being in extreme poverty. And later, his first forays into politics, losing elections, making mistakes, suffering depression almost to the point of being incapacitated, and then to emerge out of that and become this confident leader by the time he was president.

FDR was also one that for me personally really stood out. We know about the Great Depression, and the New Deal, and World War II. But to learn about when he was struck with polio, and the paralysis he dealt with, and being a young man and having this change his life forever—the unbelievable physical regimen he put himself through in order to be able to function as well as possible is quite a story.

PAT: I recall the stories of his essentially training himself so he could walk across the stage at one of the political conventions. It was an incredible story of determination and physical strength in almost a miraculous way, a demonstration of his grit.

CHRIS: Yes, exactly. The time he put in to show that he could be strong and able was a glimpse of where things were going with FDR, and why he was a successful leader.

Lyndon Johnson probably doesn't quite fit in the same way as the other three, but having to follow on the heels of Kennedy so abruptly and figure out what to do, and how

masterfully he pulled things in a different direction and became an effective leader at moving domestic policy legislation. Looking at him versus Lincoln and how they handled losing elections is interesting. When Johnson lost elections early on, it just crushed him. Whereas Lincoln thought, "Well, I'm going to learn from that." But they both overcame it in their own ways and moved forward.

PAT: So as you're thinking each year who would be a great speaker for the Governor's Lecture in the Humanities, do you start with a book that somebody has written? How does that choice work?

CHRIS: We build a potential speaker list over time. Doris Kearns Goodwin has been on that wish list for years. When we focused on her this year, we didn't realize just how turbulent the times would be for our country. We also work with the E.N. Thompson Forum when the Governor's Lecture is in Lincoln.

We exchange a lot of ideas with the Thompson Forum, our Governor's Lecture committee, the Governor's office, and others who are involved. We look for somebody who has scholarly substance, but who can also speak to a broad audience of people from all walks of life and who are good storytellers. And Doris Kearns Goodwin is a fantastic storyteller, both in writing and in person. I'm just so happy that it worked out for her to be our speaker this year.

NET's "All About Books" is heard weekly on Thursdays at 12:04 p.m. Central or online any time at NETNebraska.com/radio.

Please join HN at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, for the 25th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. This free public lecture will also be simultaneously live-streamed. Check our website for most current information about how to see the lecture. For sponsorship information, please email Heather Thomas at heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.

BOARD NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 16

Humanities Nebraska (HN) is seeking nominations for its Council board by Friday, October 16. Board members are selected statewide from those who show a strong appreciation for the humanities and the cultural life of Nebraska.

HN makes every effort to find community members from the state's diverse geographic, occupational and ethnic constituencies. The selection committee also seeks those who have a balance between involvement in the humanities and other professional, business or community pursuits.

Nominations for the Council board must be postmarked

on or before October 16. You can find nomination forms and a complete list of basic board responsibilities on our website at HumanitiesNebraska.org. Or, contact HN at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330, Lincoln, NE 68508 or e-mail your request to info@humanitiesnebraska.org.



Board member Kent Wainke moderated a panel discussion at "An Issue of Trust: Democracy and the Future of Journalism" in Norfolk.

NATALIE HAHN TO RECEIVE 2020 SOWER AWARD IN THE HUMANITIES

International United Nations official and Malaika Foundation founder Dr. Natalie Hahn will receive the 2020 Sower Award in the Humanities on Thursday, September 22, immediately prior to the 25th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities with presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Each year, the Sower Award is presented to someone who has made "a significant contribution to public understanding of the humanities in Nebraska."

A native of Polk, Natalie Hahn served 38 years with United Nations programs in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, New York City, and Rome. Her work with the U.N. included areas such as new food crops and nutrition in Nigeria, women and finance with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, youth initiatives with the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF Representative to Malawi, and Senior Private Sector Advisor at the U.N.'s Fund for International Partnerships.

Her favorite job was in Nigeria with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA-Ibadan) where she assisted in

introducing improved food crops and nutrition programs for rural women. One innovation was the adoption of soybeans, a new crop of the country. For this accomplishment, the Yoruba Peoples honored her with a chieftaincy and bestowed the title Balogun Iyalaje, meaning "the person who empowers."

Upon returning to her beloved Nebraska ("best decision ever"), Dr. Hahn honored the influence of her journalist mother, Grayce Hahn Burney, by founding the Malaika Foundation. Its mission is to build greater understanding of peoples and countries throughout the world and enhance global education in Nebraska schools and communities. Over the past 20 years, the Malaika Foundation has organized educational workshops for 3,000 teachers and provided 68 fellowships to teachers and students to study abroad.

Dr. Hahn has donated African art to Metropolitan Community College in Omaha; the Kenneth Morrison Cancer Center in Hastings; the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln; Wayne State College; and

the public schools and libraries in Lexington.

With an educational background that includes a B.A. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, an M.A. from The Ohio State University, and an M.P.A. and Ed.D from Harvard University, Dr. Hahn has also received honorary doctorates from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

She was nominated by HN board member Edgar Hicks of Omaha, who noted in his nomination letter that she is unique in making her contribution to public understanding of the humanities through all four categories cited in the nomination form: scholarship, volunteerism, philanthropy, and advocacy.

Sponsorships for the Governor's Lecture in the Humanities and presentation of the Sower Award, which support HN's statewide programming, are still available. Please contact Heather Thomas at heather@humanitiesnebraska.org to choose your sponsorship level, or go to HumanitiesNebraska.org.



NEBRASKA STUDENTS EARN RECOGNITION AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

Three Nebraska students were recognized at National History Day, an international program for students in grades 6-12. This year's theme was "Breaking Barriers in History."

Sean Mathews and **Iman Pearson**, Ralston Middle School, Third Place Junior Group Website, "Lovings' Fight to Break Interracial Barriers." Outstanding Affiliate Winners from Nebraska were **Shelby Stephens** and **Cassidy Culjat**, Ralston Middle School, for their Junior Group Website, "Light and Color: How Claude Monet Changed the Art World," and **Thomas**

Kaus, Chadron High School, for his Senior Individual Website, "Kuklinski Breaks the Iron Curtain Barrier." **Carol Van Lancker** and **Kinston Muiu**, Ralston Middle School, made finals in the Junior Group Exhibit category with their project titled, "Thurgood Marshall, 'Mr. Civil Rights': The Fight for School Equality."

Coordinated by NWU's Professor Steven Wills and Shari Sorenson, the state program is funded in part by Humanities Nebraska, the Dillon Foundation, History Nebraska, and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

CAROL GENDLER RETIRES FROM HN BOARD AFTER 14 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Chris Sommerich, Executive Director

Humanities Nebraska has been very fortunate that throughout our 47-year history, we have benefited from the service of a long list of dedicated leaders from across the state. Even with so many wonderful people who have served over those years, Carol Gendler of Omaha stands out.

All state humanities councils are independent nonprofits, and all have boards of directors made up of three-fourths elected members and one-fourth gubernatorial appointees. Elected members serve three-year terms (once renewable), while appointees serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Carol was first appointed by Governor Dave Heineman in 2006, then reappointed by Governor Pete Ricketts in 2014. After fourteen years, Carol has decided it was time to hand her seat off to someone new.

Carol has had no shortage of organizations seeking her involvement over the years, and the list of nonprofits who have benefited from her guidance, expertise, philanthropy, and overall involvement is long. It is a rare and special combination to have a board member like Carol; descriptors that fit her include researcher, librarian, historian, writer, business person, philanthropist, and volunteer.

We sat down with her to reflect on her board service, what she values about nonprofits, the humanities, and Humanities Nebraska in particular.

When deciding to what extent she would become involved with any given nonprofit organization, a very important factor for Carol has been their mission and subject matter: Is the mission important to the community

and broader society? Are they providing a service that enhances the public good?

In Humanities Nebraska's case, giving people opportunities to learn about history, heritage, current affairs, and various areas of the humanities was something Carol felt is very important. She sees HN as unique in the state in our work to expand people's knowledge in these areas, and that without HN, there wouldn't be enough opportunities for all Nebraskans to have access to the humanities.

Carol noted that people who engage with HN are people who are continuously learning, who appreciate educational opportunities. (This brings up another accurate word for Carol: "lifelong learner"). She also sees HN as fortunate to have had strong staff cohesion over the years of her involvement, another sign of a strong organization.

One of Carol's favorite HN programs, and one that she has made an extraordinary positive impact with, is Prime Time Family Reading Time.

Prime Time was still a new program area when Carol joined the board, and it was still finding its legs. Carol visited the participating libraries many times to observe the families reading and discussing books in Prime Time around the Omaha area. As she saw the value and potential of the program, she made significant philanthropic investments in it to enable its expansion.

As Carol reflected on watching these

families at Prime Time, predominantly low-income and low-literacy, including many immigrants, she remarked

at how gratifying it was to see the excitement of the fathers who participated in the program with the children. Today, Prime Time is taking place in libraries, schools, and community centers all across Nebraska, thanks in large part to Carol.

Humanities Nebraska is not alone in our gratitude for Carol Gendler's service. Organizations such as Heartland Family Service, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Douglas County Historical Society, Joslyn Art Museum, Legal Aid of Nebraska, and many others would readily agree.

On behalf of all of us, thank you Carol for all you have done for the humanities in Nebraska. Your retirement from the HN board is well deserved!

Carol Gendler has been an enthusiastic supporter of numerous HN programs, including the annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities. Below, she is shown with speaker Annette Gordon-Reed (front left), historian Peter S. Onuf (back left), and former council chair Andy Alexander (back right) at the 2013 lecture.



Carol Gendler



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.

Gifts received between
March 1, 2020 & June 30, 2020

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THANK YOU, LINCOLN!

During the month of May, 90 donors contributed \$29,651 to Humanities Nebraska through the eighth annual Give to Lincoln Day, exceeding last year's total of \$22,969. Sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation, nearly \$7 million was raised for more than 450 Lincoln nonprofits.

Most gifts to HN were designated for Prime Time Family Reading Time in Lincoln, which is making a real impact on academic achievement and quality of life for many families, even during COVID-19.

HN appreciates the many new and returning donors, match fund sponsors, media sponsors, and the Lincoln Community Foundation for helping us serve Lincoln families through reading. **Thank you!**



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Community Services Fund (CSF) connects donors to causes they care about. It is a coalition of 70 diverse non-profit organizations, some of whom provide services statewide. Humanities Nebraska is a proud member agency.

For more than 30 years, CSF has been helping make Lincoln and Nebraska a better place to live. CSF celebrates the arts and 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 through CSF workplace giving campaigns in 2020. For details, visit www.communityservicesfund.com or call 402.489.4332.

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HN AWARDS 21 GRANTS TOTALING \$109,852

Humanities Nebraska recently awarded the following grants:

Asian Community and Cultural Center, Lincoln, \$2,500 to help fund "Stories of Us," which introduces immigrants to Nebraska history and American culture.

Blitz Locally Grown, Lincoln, \$8,125 to support the Dream Switch Project, a community development tool that creates a catalyst for realizing local dreams.

Bright Lights, Inc., Lincoln, \$4,902 to help pay teachers for humanities-themed summer camps.

Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival, McCook, \$500 to help support the annual Buffalo Commons Storytelling and Music Festival.

Completely KIDS, Omaha, \$4,000 to help fund a spoken word exploration and inspiration workshop.

Crane River Theater Company, Kearney, \$3,450 to fund the "Letters from Home" student matinee series.

Creighton University, Omaha, \$10,000 to help fund a project titled, "The Natural Face of North America: A Public Portal to the Maximilian-Bodmer Collection."

The Durham Museum, Omaha, \$10,000 for their "Beyond the Vote" exhibition.

El Museo Latino, Omaha, \$6,625 for a lecture series on Picasso and Latino Art.

Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Lincoln, \$3,125 to help fund the annual Little But Fierce sonnet writing summer camp for kids.

Fontenelle Forest, Bellevue, \$2,000 to help fund an artist series held in the Baright Gallery.

Lincoln Calling, \$2,000 to help fund, "Calling On Your City - A Civic Engagement Conversation" featuring Ana Maria Archila.

Lincoln City Libraries, \$2,000 to help fund an exhibit titled, "Hidden or Forbidden No More: Prequels to the 'Greatest Generation,' 1914-1939."

Lincoln Crossroads Festival, \$8,000 to support the annual music festival in 2020.

Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival, Seward, \$10,000 to help bring authors to the annual festival.

Prairie Pride Film Festival, Lincoln, \$1,555 in support of humanities discussions during the annual film festival, which took place online in late July.

Scotts Bluff County Tourism, Gering, \$2,500 for the annual Scotts Bluff Celtic Gathering.



El Museo Latino will host lectures on Picasso and Latin Art.

Strategic Air and Space Museum, Ashland, \$5,000 for an exhibit, "High Pressure: The Korean War & Aviation."

United by Culture Fund, Lexington, \$7,675 to help support a culture festival.

UNK Board of Regents, Kearney, \$9,200 to help fund PAWS University summer enrichment program.

Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud, \$6,695 to help support the organization's 65th annual Spring Conference, held online earlier this year.

GRANT SPOTLIGHT: GRANTEES SWITCH TO ONLINE PROGRAMMING DUE TO COVID-19

When the pandemic arrived in Nebraska last spring, many organizations that had received grants from Humanities Nebraska to fund public events for spring and summer programming had to rapidly adjust their plans.

Some grant recipients chose to postpone their programs until 2021, while others were able to convert to online presentations, which provided valuable content during the most intensive period of social distancing in Nebraska.

Bemis Center hosted a virtual lecture on "Women of the Bauhaus" by Mark Hinchman on April 23. Registrants were able to access the lecture via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Bright Lights Inc., which usually hosts hundreds of children for dozens of week-long day camps on a variety of subjects, chose to present free virtual camps via Zoom this summer. Some camps were only a day long, while others provided multiple sessions during a specific week. Topics included learning sign language and making pioneer dolls.

Crossroads Music Festival postponed its live festival until 2021, but presented videos of the artists and scholars who were scheduled to present

in August on the festival website and through NET.

Nebraska Folklife Network replaced its planned live summer events with a series of podcasts so Nebraskans could still experience traditions from different cultures.

Vision Maker Media, which hosts a biannual Native American film festival, is taking their festival online for the first time. The celebration of American Indian, Alaska Native, and worldwide indigenous films will be held August 31 - October 5, 2020. All are welcome to sign up for updates on films by filling out a short survey at the following website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GDFD8R8>



HN AWARDS 76 CARES GRANTS FOR PANDEMIC RELIEF

By the end of June, HN had awarded \$435,600 in CARES Act dollars to 76 Nebraska non-profit organizations. Funding for these grants was provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The funds were designated to assist Nebraska museums, historic sites, and other cultural non-profits who were in need of general operating support in order to continue humanities activities during the pandemic.

"You came to rescue us," wrote Hubert Charles Ahovissi of African Culture Connection. "Thanks for helping us create a world that is aware of the profound impact African Culture has made in our society."

Recipients included:

Asian Community and Cultural Center, Lincoln
African Culture Connection, Omaha
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln
The Archway, Kearney
Bemis Center, Omaha

Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, Elmwood
Blixt Locally Grown, Lincoln
Bluebarn Theatre, Omaha
Brownville Fine Arts Association
Brownville Historical Society
Buffalo County Historical Society, Kearney
Crane River Theater Company, Kearney
Custer Co. Historical Society, Broken Bow
Creighton University, Omaha
The Digg Site Productions LLC, Fremont
Douglas Co. Historical Society, Omaha
The Durham Museum, Omaha
Elkhorn Valley Historical Society, Norfolk
El Museo Latino, Omaha
Father Flanagan's Boys' Home, Boys Town
Film Streams, Inc., Omaha
Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Lincoln
Fort Atkinson Foundation, Fort Calhoun
Fremont Area Art Association
Friends of the Kenfield Gallery, Ogallala
Friends of Midwest Theater, Scottsbluff
Friends of Opera, UNL, Lincoln
Friends of Paplin, Inc., Loup City
Genoa U.S. Indian School Foundation
Golden Spike Tower, North Platte
Great Plains Black History Museum, Omaha

Great Plains Theatre Conference, Omaha
Hall County Historical Society, Grand Island
Hastings College
Hastings Museum of Natural and Cultural History
Heartland Military Museum, Lexington
History Nebraska, Lincoln
John G. Neihardt Center, Bancroft
Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha
Joslyn Castle, Omaha
Kaneko, Omaha
Kregel Windmill Factory Museum, Nebraska City
La Casa del Pueblo, Omaha
Legacy of the Plains Museum, Gering
Lewis & Clark Visitors Center, Nebraska City
Lincoln Children's Museum
Lincoln County Historical Society, North Platte
The Malone Center, Lincoln
Merrick County Historical Museum, Central City
Multicultural Coalition, Grand Island
Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney
Nebraska Firefighters Museum & Education Center/ Nebraska Firefighter & EMS Memorial, Kearney
Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Omaha
Nebraska Prairie Museum, Holdrege

Nebraska Writers Collective, Omaha
NET Foundation for Television, Lincoln
Norfolk Arts Center
North Platte Community Playhouse
Friends of the International Quilt Study Center and Museum, Lincoln
Plainsman Museum, Aurora
Platte Valley Literacy Association, Columbus
Prairie Arts Center, North Platte
Rabble Mill, Lincoln
Robert M. Merryman Performing Arts Center, Kearney
Schuyler Historical Society
Sheldon Art Association, Lincoln
Sherman County Historical Society, Loup City
Sioux County Historical Society, Harrison
Strategic Air and Space Museum, Ashland
Stuhr Museum Foundation, Grand Island
University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln
Washington County Historical Association, Fort Calhoun
Wessels Living History Farm, York
Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud
Wood River High School/Celebrate Wood River Performing Arts Council
Yazda-Yazidi Cultural Center, Lincoln

1950s VIRTUAL CHAUTAUQUA EXPLORES RACE, POLITICS

After it was decided to postpone the 2020 Chautauqua in Ashland due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HN staff searched for a way to host a "virtual Chautauqua" in response to the widespread interest in this particular Chautauqua. Scholars who had been preparing to come to Ashland at the end of July were enthusiastic about an online version of this deep dive into 1950s history.

On July 30, Chautauquans Lenneal Henderson, who presents Thurgood Marshall, and Becky

Stone, who presents Rosa Parks, spoke about "The Fight for Civil Rights" in a panel discussion led by Patrick Jones, historian and HN Speakers Bureau member.

The following day, Eisenhower biographer Jim Newton joined executive director Chris Sommerich for a discussion about Eisenhower's political influence, which continues to influence domestic and international policy to this day.

Stay tuned for more details about "The Fifties in Focus" at NebraskaChautauqua.org.



Top: Former L.A. Times editor Jim Newton spoke about President Eisenhower; Above: Dr. Patrick Jones (left) moderated a discussion on race with Chautauquans Becky Stone (right) and Dr. Lenneal Henderson (bottom).

NEBRASKA WARRIOR WRITERS GOES STATEWIDE ONLINE

By Dr. Erika Hamilton, Director of Literary Programs

As the pandemic swept through Nebraska this spring, shutting down venues for Nebraska Warrior Writers, program leaders and participants saw an opportunity to bring writers from Lincoln, Omaha, and Central Nebraska together via Zoom for online workshops. They met weekly on Saturday mornings, April 11 through May 23, to share their writing, offer feedback, and hear from guest speakers Steve Langan, Claire Jimenez, Damion Meyer, and Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason.

While most agree that it's best to meet in person, those who attended online sessions appreciated the opportunity to continue writing and learning from each other. In a post-workshop survey, one writer noted: "This group is like family to me. They encourage my writing and my accountability to keep going on my dreams of writing full time someday. It is not ideal to Zoom for most of us, but it is worth it to keep in touch and keep propping each other up."

Meeting online did present a barrier to some writers, such as those who struggled with connection issues, lack of equipment, unfamiliarity with Zoom, or *too much* familiarity with Zoom. One participant wrote: "Basically all aspects of my life have moved to Zoom (work, kids' schooling, church, volunteer activities), which made me not excited to fight with the internet again."

Everyone was hoping to meet in person this fall, but a lack of available venues will return Nebraska Warrior Writers to online meetings. The group will meet every other Saturday morning on August 29, September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 7, and November 21. Participants include combat veterans, retired military, active duty military, military spouses, family/support persons, and civilians whose lives were touched by war. To join the group, contact Tom Seib at tom.seib555@gmail.com for more information.

Humanities Nebraska partners with the Nebraska Writing Project at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to offer this series of writing and discussion workshops. HN thanks the Cooper Foundation for their help in funding this important program whose lives were touched by war.



To celebrate the program's and participants' success, Humanities Nebraska will soon publish an anthology of poems, fiction, and non-fiction written by Nebraska Warrior Writers. The anthology's launch date will be announced later this year, so stay tuned!

A CELEBRATION OF *Nebraska Books*

SAVE DATE

Oct. 17, 2020 • 2:30-6:30pm

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131 Centennial Mall North • Lincoln, NE



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\$25 FOR 25 CELEBRATING THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S LECTURE

Looking back over 25 years, which Governor's Lecture speaker is the most memorable to you? Was it...

- 1998 with Stephen Ambrose, historian, teacher, and best-selling author of "Undaunted Courage" on "Courageous Leadership: The Story of Lewis & Clark and the Opening of the American West"
- 2006 with Azar Nafisi, professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and best-selling author of "Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books"
- 2016 with Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, who spoke on "Enrique's Journey and America's Immigration Dilemma"
- 2012 with Robert Putnam, political scientist and co-author of, "American Grace," which won the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award, speaking on how religion divides and unites us

- For many, they remember September 2001, days after 9/11 with David McCullough, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the best-selling historical biography "John Adams" on "First Principles"



David McCullough, 2001

- Last year, we welcomed David Eisenhower, author, grandson of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to Omaha for a lecture on "D-Day + 75: In the Eyes of America's Postwar Generations"

Join us on September 22 for Doris Kearns Goodwin on "Leadership in Turbulent Times" and consider donating \$25 for 25 years as HN celebrates this special event's silver anniversary.

Please visit HumanitiesNebraska.org and click on the "Donate" button in the upper right corner to make your gift. Thank you!

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To learn more about how the Nebraska Cultural Endowment promotes the livelihood of arts and humanities in our state, visit
NebraskaCulturalEndowment.org
Or, contact Kyle Cartwright at kyle@nebraskaculture.org or 402-595-2722.







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HN LAUNCHES “DEAR STRANGER” LETTER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

BASED ON A PROGRAM ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED BY OREGON HUMANITIES, HUMANITIES NEBRASKA INTRODUCED “DEAR STRANGER” TO NEBRASKANS IN LATE JUNE. IF INTEREST CONTINUES, THIS PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERED AGAIN SOON.

As the COVID-19 virus continued to move people into their homes and away from their normal social routines, Humanities Nebraska borrowed an idea from our peers in Oregon and launched “Dear Stranger.”

“It’s a simple premise,” explained Chris Sommerich, executive director. “Write a letter, send it to HN, and be anonymously matched with a Nebraska resident from another part of the state. You get their letter, they will get yours. It’s up to participants if they want to continue the correspondence further.”

This letter exchange program is an ideal way for Nebraskans to make new connections and share thoughts and ideas—or newspaper clippings, recipes, photos, or anything else that fits into an envelope while still maintaining safe social distancing.

“Our goal is to build connections and encourage communication of thoughts and ideas between people who have different experiences and backgrounds,” Chris said. “We’re all very excited about it.”

For HN’s first foray into “Dear Stranger,” which ended July 31, 2020, participants were offered an optional prompt if they wanted a little extra help in writing their letters. The prompt was, “When you look back at your life in 2020, what stories

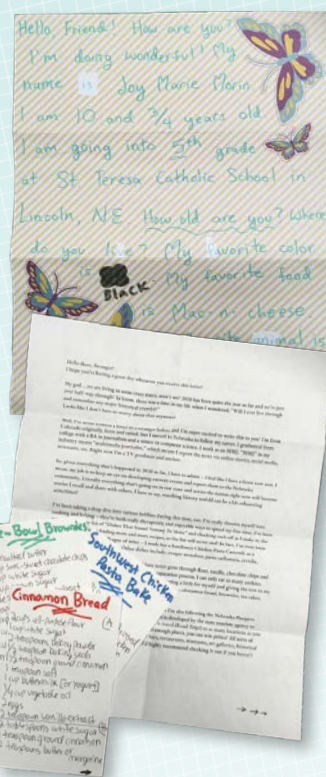
do you think you will tell about this time and what you learned about yourself?”

Most of the letter writers took advantage of the prompt, but some wrote about entirely different issues. More than 60 Nebraskans chose to participate, ranging in age from children (with the permission of parents) to retired persons. HN staff has been pairing the letters to send to participants in mid-August.

After the first letter exchange, which is anonymous, each pair of letter writers is free to share contact information through HN so they can continue their conversations.

If interest continues, Humanities Nebraska will offer another round of “Dear Stranger” in the future. Participation information and a new prompt will then be posted on the HN website, HumanitiesNebraska.org. If you are interested in this program, either as a participant or a sponsor, please let us know by sending email to dearstranger@humanitiesnebraska.org.

Support for HN’s “Dear Stranger” program has been provided by Postscript (Ashland, Nebraska) and an anonymous donor who is an enthusiastic letter writer.



Some “Dear Stranger” letters

