NEW CHAUTAUQUA! THE FIFTIES IN FOCUS

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If you believe all the movies, music and television programs, the 1950s are regarded with nostalgia and romanticism. However, when using a more objective eye, it is easy to see that this decade was also a time of sweeping change in Nebraska, across the nation, and around the world. Humanities Nebraska invites you to explore the many social, economic, political, and international changes that still impact our world today.

It is time to put “the Fifties in Focus.”

On the international front, the 1950s mark the early years of the Cold War and the rising tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. In his book, “The Age of Eisenhower: America and the World in the 1950s,” William I. Hitchcock used some newly declassified material from the Eisenhower Library, the CIA and Defense Department, and troves of unpublished documents. Hitchcock shows how “Ike” shaped modern America, and is now commonly regarded as one of the best leaders our country has ever had.

“The Fifties in Focus” will look at issues related to the Korean War, which are reflected in today’s challenges with North Korea. In his keynote address, Hitchcock will walk listeners through the rise of

2019 GOVERNOR’S LECTURE TO REVEAL EISENHOWER’S METHODOLOGY AND MINDSET AT NORMANDY

David Eisenhower, grandson of former president and World War II general Dwight D. Eisenhower, will provide fascinating insight into key decisions made regarding the pivotal D-Day invasion of Normandy during this 75th anniversary year of that action. The 24th annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities will be offered free to the public on Thursday, October 24, 2019, at the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more information.
two nuclear powers, the arms race, and the space race as fertile ground for the Cold War. All this uncertainty abroad contributed to McCarthyism at home, as a political struggle between internationalist- and isolationist-minded politicians dominated the headlines.

The 1950s were a time of significant social change as well. Following WWII, workplaces had to adjust to the return of servicemen, often at the expense of women, African-Americans and other marginalized groups who had benefitted from a more open labor market during the war years. Meanwhile, the post-war baby boom strained domestic resources.

Despite this, the 1950s were a new era of prosperity for some, creating an expanded middle class — and a new suburbia to cater to their desires. Television became mainstream media. Pop culture was dominated by hot rods and rock-n-roll.

But, as two Chautauqua scholars will demonstrate during their visit to Kearney, the 1950s were difficult for African-Americans, who battled open racism in the Jim Crow South. This is when the Civil Rights Movement first took hold. With television making these issues more broadly visible, the ruling of Brown v. Board of Education, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and other major 1950s events led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

“The Fifties in Focus” will also look at how the decade affected Nebraska. There were key agricultural advances, the impact of the new Interstate Highway System, and Offutt Air Force Base becoming the site of the Strategic Air Command.

Nebraskans held their collective breath and locked their individual doors — some for the first time ever — during the Starkweather manhunt. Would we ever be the same?

In addition to Hitchcock’s keynote, there will be various immersive learning experiences, presentations by Chautauqua-style speakers, workshops, and other family-friendly activities. “The Fifties in Focus” will be held August 2 and 3 in Kearney. Currently, Humanities Nebraska and the history department of the University of Nebraska at Kearney are collecting oral histories about the 1950s online at NebraskaChautauqua.org. All Nebraskans old enough to recall the decade are invited to visit the site and answer a few questions. Readers also will be able to find the complete schedule, a suggested reading list, and other resources on the same website after May 15. Stay tuned for pre-Chautauqua events in Kearney leading up to Chautauqua weekend.

Chautauqua is made possible through support from the State of Nebraska, the Johnny Carson Fund at the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and many other donors, sponsors, and volunteers. To become a sponsor, call Heather Thomas at 402.474.2131.

SOWER AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE JUNE 14

Nominations are now being welcomed for the 2019 Sower Award in the Humanities, to be presented at the Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities on October 24, 2019 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.

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

- 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.

PREVIOUS SOWER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Paul Olson  Joe Seger  Keith Blackledge  Bernice Sote  Gene Bunge  Larry Wewel  Robert Audi  Walter Friedlander  Robert Manley  Frederick Luebke  Rhonda Seacrest  Jack McBride
WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Humanities Nebraska recently welcomed four new board members at the spring board meeting. Two have joined the board of the Nebraska Humanities Council, and two were added to the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities.

NEW TO THE COUNCIL

Graciela Caneiro-Livingston of Lincoln became provost of Nebraska Wesleyan University in August of 2017. She is a member of the Academic Conference of Academic Deans, served on the Professional Development Committee of the National Academic Advisors Association. She also served two terms on the board of Humanities Iowa, and volunteered at the Multicultural Family Center in Dubuque.

Jaclyn Wilson of Lakeside is a fifth generation rancher at Wilson Ranch, a commercial cattle operation founded by her family in 1888. In 2013, she started Flying Diamond Genetics, north of Alliance.

She served on the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association board, the Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council, and various governmental ag advisory committees. She is the current Chair of Resolutions for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. An accomplished metal artist and writer, her weekly editorials for the Midwest Messenger reach 50,000 beef producers throughout the Midwest.

NEW TO THE FOUNDATION

Judy Ekeler of Fremont is a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and Honorary State Regent of Nebraska DAR. She is a past president of the Dodge County Historical Society. Following retirement, her volunteer work in the Fremont area has also included Historical Chair for John C. Fremont Days, serving on the boards of Fremont Area Hospital Foundation, Fremont Family YMCA and Fremont Friends of the Parks. She serves as a docent at Fremont’s May Museum, is a member and past president of Chapter EX, P.E.O., and is also a member of Colonial Dames XVII Century.

Julia Gale of Lincoln is a realtor with Woods Bros Realty, focusing on commercial real estate. She was previously a medical speech-language pathologist with Madonna, working primarily with patients who had suffered from strokes, spinal cord or brain injuries. She has a Master’s of Science in Speech-Language Pathology and a BA in Music-Vocal Performance and French, both from UNL. She is part of the Junior League of Lincoln, serving as the sponsorship chair for Fund Development. She served on HN’s Governor’s Lecture committee in 2018.

The Council also elected Amy Sandeen of Hastings as chair and Connie Duncan of Lincoln as vice chair. Steve Elliott of Wayne was retained as treasurer. John Schleicher of Omaha is immediate past-chair.

The Foundation retained its board officers for 2019: Cynthia Milligan, president, Nicholas W. Baxter, vice president, and Beth Whited, treasurer, all live in the Omaha area.

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.


Katherine L. Walter of Lincoln, served on both boards. She was on the Council board from 2013 to 2019 and on the Foundation board from 2014 to 2019. Kay was Council chair for 2017.

We are grateful to them for their leadership and dedication to improving the cultural and educational life of our state.
On March 29, more than 100 students from 22 high schools across the state and their teachers gathered at the State Capitol in Lincoln to deliberate foreign policy as part of the 21st Annual Capitol Forum on America’s Future.

By exploring different policies on global issues such as terrorism, immigration, international trade, nuclear proliferation, and climate change, students develop skills that will enable them to become more informed voters and engaged citizens in the future.

HN provides the year-long curriculum by the Choices Program at Brown University in collaboration with the Nebraska Secretary of State’s Office and Secretary Robert Evnen.

On Capitol Forum Day, Governor Pete Ricketts welcomed delegations of students from each school with specific information about Nebraska’s role in international trade, among other global issues. Assistant Secretary of State Cindi Allen also spoke to the group.

Students then began a series of deliberations, leading to a deeper understanding of how different policies can affect different populations. After defending an assigned policy stance—with which they may or may not have agreed—groups were given the chance to craft their own foreign policy position and present those to the larger group.

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

At the end of the day, U.S. Representative Jeff Fortenberry met with the students, and he, along with Representatives Adrian Smith, and Don Bacon who participated via live video conference, answered students’ questions about foreign policy.

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 an application by June 1, which is found on the HN website.

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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We thank these generous individuals who helped ensure a vibrant cultural life in Nebraska with annual gifts of $1,000 or more made between January 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019. To learn more about the Patron’s Circle, please contact Heather Thomas at 402.474.2131 or heather@HumanitiesNebraska.org.

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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HELP KIDS SUCCEED WITH YOUR GIFT TO HN

Sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation, Give to Lincoln Day will be held May 30. This annual giving day fosters city-wide giving with funds matched proportionately by a $450,000 challenge fund. HN will earmark all funds raised on Give to Lincoln Day toward expanding Prime Time Family Reading Time in the capital city, so that underserved families can improve their quality of life through improved literacy and academic success.

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
In January 2019, Humanities Nebraska sent 12 new Prime Time facilitators to Louisiana for a day-long workshop by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Team members learned about Prime Time methodology, practiced skills, and networked with Prime Time teams from throughout the United States.

According to the Prime Time website, the goal of these workshops is for Prime Time staff or veteran team members to provide insight and advice to those who are new.

For coordinator Jeanette Broxterman, the experience excited her about the potential of her program at Lincoln’s Calvert Elementary School.

“Before the training, I did not know very much about Prime Time but loved the goal,” she said. “The training helped to ignite a fire for starting our Prime Time program and hit the ground running. Since the storyteller, discussion leader, and myself were all at the same training we also used it as a team building opportunity.”

Nebraska Prime Time leaders have attended similar workshops in the past and have been impressed with the skills they acquired on the trip.

Lisa Brown-Olsen has been a bilingual Prime Time discussion leader in Grand Island since the program was first offered in 2006. She has also helped to train new storytellers and discussion leaders across Nebraska and nationally.

In July 2018, she attended the Prime Time Preschool training in New Orleans.

“I was allowed to tap into the knowledge I already had about Prime Time and acquire new knowledge, which has helped me build new skills relevant to the preschool program.”

The HN Prime Time team members returned to Nebraska energized and excited to bring what they learned back to their own sites.

**APPLY NOW TO HOST SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT, “CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA” IN 2021-22**

Museums, libraries and other community centers may apply by October 15, 2019 to host the next Museum on Main Street exhibition, “Crossroads: Change in Rural America.”

The exhibition, specially designed for small museums by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, uses art, photography, artifacts and interactives to explore identity, place, community and persistence as change transformed a once rural America to an increasingly urban and suburban nation.

“Crossroads” offers small towns a platform to discuss their own paths and to highlight the changes of the past century and new opportunities for development.

Selected sites will host the exhibit for about six weeks each between September 2021 and April 2022, with support and materials from Humanities Nebraska and the Smithsonian. Hosts will be asked to help promote the national exhibition, develop a companion local exhibit, and offer educational programming related to the theme.

An application and more information about hosting and sponsoring “Crossroads” is available at humanitiesnebraska.org or by contacting Mary Yager at (402) 474-2131 or mary@humanitiesnebraska.org.

**MEET WHITNEY**

HN welcomed a new communications intern this year. Whitney Koehn is a junior at Nebraska Wesleyan University, majoring in communication studies with a minor in marketing. Whitney is involved in the community in various ways through her roles as vice president of Phi Beta Lambda, as a co-instructor for a freshman seminar and as a member of Willard Sorority.

The Elmwood, Nebraska native is excited to work with humanities organizations across the state. “I am grateful for the opportunity to combine my passion for community service with my love for communications and marketing in this position,” Whitney said.
GRANT SPOTLIGHT: “SELMA 50 YEARS LATER”

In March 2018, several Omaha-area high school students attended a ten-day civil rights journey. They were able to walk from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the 50th anniversary of “Bloody Sunday.” Omaha’s Great Plains Black History Museum (GPBHM) received a grant from Humanities Nebraska to produce a multimedia exhibit conveying the attitudes of the 600 peaceful protesters and the experience of the students.

The exhibit displayed black-and-white photographs of the events that took place during 1968, color photos of the 50th anniversary memorial march in Selma, artifacts, student journals, and a documentary. During the exhibition, 1,211 visitors were able to see and understand the importance of this march in protesting Jim Crow laws that kept African Americans oppressed and unable to vote.

“This project allowed the GPBHM to partner with Black Votes Matter to create an exhibit, ‘Face-To-Face with Black History,’” said Executive Director Eric Ewing.

Through this exhibition and others, GPBHM is able to encourage constructive discussion and help people of different cultures gain a better understanding of African American history.

With a mission to preserve, celebrate, and educate all people of the contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout the great plains of America, GPBHM is focused on educating and providing resources to African Americans below the poverty line, at risk youth, and military veterans/active duty personnel within the North Omaha Community.

HN AWARDS 30 GRANTS TOTALING $44,334

Humanities Nebraska recently awarded the following grants:

- **Asian Community and Cultural Center, Lincoln,** $1,000 to support the Camp Culture project.
- **Bright Lights, Inc.,** Lincoln, $1,700 to help cover teacher salaries for summer humanities classes.
- **Brigit Saint Brigit Theatre Company, Omaha,** $1,700 for the presentation of “Sirens’ Song: The Women of James Joyce.”
- **Douglas County Historical Society, Omaha,** $1,925 for the “Straight Out of Omaha” exhibition of acclaimed people, places, businesses and inventions.
- **Elkhorn Valley Historical Society, Norfolk,** $1,437 for “Dakota Daughters,” a living history performance about three cultures followed by open discussion.
- **Ethiopian Community Association, Omaha,** $850 to help fund Ethiopian community cultural festivals.
- **Fort Kearny Preservation Restoration Development Board, Kearney,** $1,245 for “Are We There Yet?” featuring homesteading stories and music.
- **Friends of the Homestead, Beatrice,** $1,500 toward the annual Tallgrass Prairie Fiddle Festival.
- **Great Plains Black History Museum, Omaha,** $650 for the African American History Challenge.
- **History Nebraska, Lincoln,** $1,425 for a January lecture by Lawrence Ross titled, “The Root Trip: Modern Day Travels with the ‘Negro Motorist Green-Book,’” and $1,850 for a staging of “More than Neighbors,” about the ‘70s Urban Renewal in Omaha.
- **Lied Center for Performing Arts, Lincoln,** $2,000 to present “Hip Hop: A History” in January 2019.
- **Lincoln, $2,000 for Forgiveness Project banners portraying active duty personnel within the North Omaha Community.”
- **Metropolitan Community College, Omaha,** $2,000 for a January lecture by Lawrence Ross titled, “The Root Trip: Modern Day Travels with the ‘Negro Motorist Green-Book,’” and $1,850 for a staging of “More than Neighbors,” about the ‘70s Urban Renewal in Omaha.
- **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Kearney,** $1,500 for their outdoor expo’s Heritage Encampment.
- **Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Inc., Omaha,** $1,250 toward Nebraska Shakespeare Scholars forums.
- **Omaha Symphony Association, $1,355, for “An Evening with Ann Hobson Pilot.”
- **One For All Musical Theater, Omaha,** $1,735 for history classes to inform a March staging of “Esther - A Reflective Study between Modern and Biblical Times.”
- **Poetry & Music Project.**
- **Sheridan County Historical Society, Hay Springs,** $2,000 for the “History of the Mirage Flats Irrigation District of Sheridan County” presentation.
Award-winning poet and slam poetry champion Matt Mason of Omaha was installed as Nebraska State Poet 2019-2023 during a February 25 ceremony in the State Capitol. Mason had been named State Poet by Governor Pete Ricketts in late January.

Special guests at the ceremony were Twyla M. Hansen, who served as Nebraska State Poet 2013-2018, State Poet finalists Grace Bauer and Steve Langan, and members of the State Poet selection committee. Bauer and Langan were applauded as they read their own works.

As Nebraska State Poet, Mason will serve a five-year term as an advocate for poetry, literacy, and literature in Nebraska.

In his acceptance speech, Mason said, "This is my home, my state, one with a tradition of work and of welcome, the state whose motto comes to us from the trial of Ponca Chief Standing Bear, 'Equality Before The Law,' and we, my state, my poets, let's strive to use what power, what privilege, what degrees, what credentials, what credits we have to make this truer than it was the day previous by reaching from whatever height we may find ourselves at and helping one another up."

The audience was delighted when Mason followed with a poem written specially for the installation ceremony titled, “Now That You’ve Made Me State Poet of Nebraska, Let the Reign of Terror Commence.”

“By the power invested in me by the State of Nebraska,” he intoned during this humorous reading, “…let Ted Kooser be paid more than whoever the big football coach is...Let Twyla Hansen’s pension make Warren Buffett wish he’d started with sonnets instead of paper routes…”

Mason is currently available for booking through the Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau. Simply search for “Mason” in the online catalog at HumanitiesNebraska.org/speakers.

The Nebraska State Poet selection process is a joint effort of Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Arts Council, and the Nebraska Library Commission in cooperation with the Nebraska Governor. To learn more about Matt Mason and his extensive influence as a poet, visit matt.midverse.com or the State Poet page at HumanitiesNebraska.org/state-poet.

### IN MEMORY

**MATTHEW JONES, 1948-2019**

Matthew Jones died March 30. A member of the Otoe-Missouria tribe, U.S. Army veteran and retired professor of multicultural studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Matt was also a member of the HN Speakers Bureau. He entertained and educated many Nebraskans of all ages with his retelling of Kiowa tales and the history of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

**JOHN WALKER, 1940-2018**

John Walker died November 19. After retiring from Nebraska Wesleyan University where he taught philosophy, John put his love for blues music to work as a member of the HN Speakers Bureau and the Nebraska Arts Council’s Touring Artists program, frequently teaming up with the late Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn. He also founded Prairie Dog Records.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Community Services Fund (CSF) is a coalition of 69 diverse nonprofits working to build a vibrant, creative and healthy community.

HN greatly appreciates donors who designated gifts to us through their CSF workplace giving campaigns. Thank you!

Please visit communityservicesfund.org to learn more.
INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES, INVEST IN HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

With your annual gift, HN invested in 155 communities last year—thank you! Becoming a monthly donor provides dependable financial support for HN on a continuing, monthly basis and you enjoy perpetual participation and the knowledge that your gift is making a difference.

Regular monthly online gifts help us create opportunities for learning, discussion and personal growth. We put your gift to work in communities across the state, while allowing you the convenience and simplicity of automatic renewal.

$5 per month helps provide gift books for families during Prime Time Family Reading Time
$10 per month sends a high school student to Capitol Forum Day at the State Capitol
$20 per month brings a Speakers Bureau program to a school or library
$50 per month helps support a storyteller at Prime Time
$100 per month helps provide gift books for families during Prime Time Family Reading Time

It’s easy and convenient to set up a monthly gift. Donations are made through secure bank withdrawal or credit card charge, saving you time and money since you don’t need to write a check or find a stamp. Spreading support over the year also makes generosity easier on your budget.

Please visit HumanitiesNebraska.org and click the “Donate” button in the upper right corner to learn more today. Thank you!

Speakers Bureau member Chris Sayre recently presented “A Musical Journey Across America: Songs That Helped Shape a Nation” in Palisades, Nebraska.

THE NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT PROUDLY SUPPORTS HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

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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2019 GOVERNOR’S LECTURE: DAVID EISENHOWER, GRANDSON TO PRESIDENT, TO SPEAK

Dwight David Eisenhower II is grandson of World War II General and later President Dwight D. Eisenhower. A highly respected historian and lecturer, Eisenhower has traversed the country in 2019, speaking to many different audiences about his grandfather’s perspectives on D-Day.

General Eisenhower was the supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces at the time, and the final call for launching “Operation Overlord” fell to him. With an eye on threatening weather, Allied forces numbering above 156,000 on stand-by, and thousands of tons of supplies “hanging on the end of the limb,” General Eisenhower had a narrow window of opportunity to launch the mission that would ultimately end Nazi Germany’s control over most of Western Europe. In later years, he shared his thoughts with his grandson David.

In 1986, David’s book, “Eisenhower: At War,” was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in history, and it was named one of the five best nonfiction books of the year by TIME magazine.

He has since written many magazine articles and book reviews on the subjects of politics and history. His most recent book was co-authored with his wife Julie Nixon Eisenhower. “Going Home to Glory,” chronicles the post-presidency years of President Eisenhower.

An historian and Director of the Institute for Public Service at the Annenberg Public Policy Center, David Eisenhower serves as a senior research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School of Communication, where he is also a fellow in the International Relations Department. A U.S. Navy veteran, he has lectured widely to audiences across the country on the presidency, foreign relations, and World War II.

Co-chaired by HN board members Brenda Christensen and Pete Zandbergen, the benefit dinner prior to the free public lecture raises important funds for HN’s statewide programs.

Thursday, October 24, 2019
5:30 p.m. Benefit Reception & Dinner
7:30 p.m. Presentation of the Sower Award and Free Public Lecture
9-11:00 p.m. Humanities After Hours
Holland Performing Arts Center, Omaha

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 information, please visit humanitiesnebraska.org.