



ISSUE 25 | SPRING 2021

RAPPORT

HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

HELPING NEBRASKANS EXPLORE WHAT CONNECTS US AND MAKES US HUMAN

“CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA” COMING TO NEBRASKA

PG 2



THE MOORE FAMILY FROM SARGENT, NEBRASKA - PHOTO BY SOLOMON BUTCHER, 1886



“THE FIFTIES IN
FOCUS” COMING
TO ASHLAND
AUG. 6 & 7

PG 3



PRIME TIME FIRST
AID KITS INSPIRE
FAMILY DISCUSSION

PG 12



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

RAPPORT

ISSUE 25 | SPRING 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

DUE MAY 03	MINI GRANT May 3, July 1, September 1 (details on our website)
DUE JUN 15	MEDIA/WEBSITE/DIGITAL GRANT June 15 (details on our website)
DUE JUN 18	SOWER AWARD NOMINATIONS Deadline is June 18
DUE JUL 01	CAPITOL FORUM TEACHER APPLICATIONS Deadline is July 1
DUE AUG 02	MAJOR GRANT August 2 (details on our website)
AUG 6-7	1950s CHAUTAUQUA "The Fifties in Focus," Ashland
SEP 11-30	"CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA" Plains Historical Society, Kimball

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"CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA" TO GIVE NEBRASKA COMMUNITIES A CHANCE TO CELEBRATE LOCAL PROGRESS

THE NEBRASKA TOUR OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S "CROSSROADS: CHANGE IN RURAL AMERICA" EXHIBITION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER 2021 AND END IN JUNE 2022, WITH OPENINGS AT SITES IN SEVEN COMMUNITIES.

"Crossroads: Change in Rural America" offers small towns a chance to look at their own paths to highlight the changes that affected their fortunes over the past century. Designed and offered by the Smithsonian, this exhibition prompts discussions about what happened when America's rural population became a minority of the country's population and the ripple effects that affect our communities to this day.

In 1900, 40% of Americans lived in rural areas. By 2010, that population measured less than 18%. In just over a century, significant economic and social

changes led to massive growth of America's urban areas. Yet, less than 10% of the U.S. land-mass is considered urban.

Many Americans assume that rural communities are endangered and hanging on by a thread—suffering from ailing schools, over-used land, higher costs for groceries and durable goods, and dwindling populations as younger generations seek careers and amenities in urban areas.

But that perception is far from true in many areas. Many rural Americans work hard to sustain their communities. In Nebraska, communities have become destinations for dining, tourism, entertainment, and unique cultural offerings. Whether it is a boutique offering one-of-a-kind items, a small restaurant operated by a five-star chef, a state-of-the-art coworking facility, a thriving manufacturer, an historic site, or a festival that draws people from across the nation, Nebraska's rural towns and villages have exhibited creative thinking and a work ethic that enables them to thrive.

Why should revitalizing the rural places left behind matter to those who remain, those who left, and those who will come in the future? All Americans benefit from rural America's successes. There is much to be learned from listening to the story of rural America!

As part of this traveling exhibi-



PERCH COURTESY PHOTO

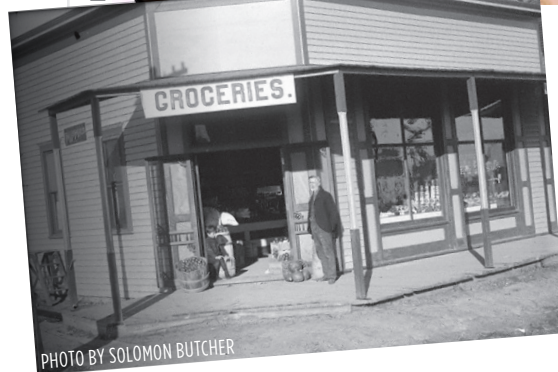


PHOTO BY SOLOMON BUTCHER

Top: A former service station in Petersburg has become Perch, a high-tech coworking place that anyone in the community can use as a workspace or for business or private gatherings. Bottom: A grocery store in Overton, Nebraska in 1904.

tion, both Johnson County Historical Society Museum in Tecumseh and McCook Economic Development Corporation have been selected to participate in the MOMS “Stories: YES” program. This engages community youth with collecting oral history stories centered on the content of the exhibition. The youth will learn about primary source research using local resources and develop 21st century skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, as well as important technology skills.

Each organization will receive the resources and the support of the Smithsonian, including training materials, storytelling guides, and educational webinars. The Smithsonian will bring its expertise in storytelling and technology, as well as collective knowledge from previous projects. They will also supply a getting started pack with some technology and how-to guides, including one to assist local

fundraising efforts for “Stories: YES.” The youth projects will be highlighted and featured on the national MOMS website and social media platforms. HN funded mini grants to help with the cost of “Stories: YES”, in addition to the usual financial support in bringing Crossroads to all seven hosts.

Representatives of the seven host sites recently met via Zoom with HN staff and a representative from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street program to begin preparing for the Nebraska opening of the tour in September. The group will have three additional monthly Zoom meetings to discuss publicity, logistics, and programming ideas to increase interest.

HN thanks the Shoemaker Family Foundation for their support of “Crossroads.”



The first train to arrive in Broken Bow brought new opportunities for trade, travel, and immigration.

“CROSSROADS” SCHEDULE 2021-2022

SEPT 11-30	KIMBALL PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
OCT 8-NOV 12	TECUMSEH JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOV 19-DEC 27	FALLS CITY FALLS CITY LIBRARY AND ARTS CENTER
JAN 3-FEB 11	WISNER WISNER SENIOR CENTER
FEB 18-MAR 31	RED CLOUD NATIONAL WILLA CATHER CENTER
APR 8-MAY 25	MCCOOK KEYSTONE BUSINESS CENTER
JUNE 1-26	CHADRON DAWES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For details, visit [HumanitiesNebraska.org/programs](https://humanitiesnebraska.org/programs)
To become a sponsor, email heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.

“THE FIFTIES IN FOCUS” PLANNED FOR AUGUST 6 & 7 IN ASHLAND

After moving to virtual-only in 2020, the 2021 Nebraska Chautauqua will return this summer on August 6 and 7. “The Fifties in Focus” will be presented in Ashland with in-person programming that allows for social distancing as well as online opportunities.

“The Fifties in Focus” takes an objective look at America’s most iconic decade, idealized in television and movies, but also a time of sweeping change. The 1950s mark the early years of the Cold War and rising tensions for Civil Rights and workplace equality.

Dr. Lenneal Henderson and Becky Stone will return to

present history as Thurgood Marshall and Rosa Parks, respectively. The keynote speaker will be Jim Newton, former L.A. Times editor and author of “Eisenhower: The White House Years.”

Other scholars will conduct workshops on many topics, including agriculture, the impact of the new Interstate Highway System, fashion, television and music. The community of Ashland is also preparing other family-friendly activities.

Chautauqua is made possible



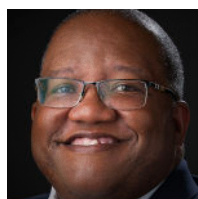
through support from the Johnny Carson Fund at the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and other donors, sponsors, and volunteers.

For more information, visit NebraskaChautauqua.org.
To become a sponsor, email heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.

WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

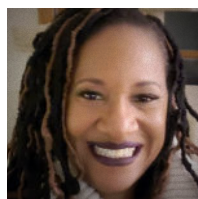
Humanities Nebraska recently welcomed eight new board members and one returning member during its spring board meeting. Three have joined the board of the Nebraska Humanities Council, and six were added to the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities.

NEW TO THE COUNCIL



CECIL L. HICKS

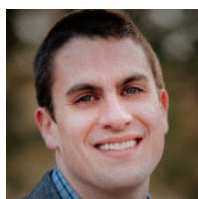
(Omaha) has 25+ years of experience in leadership roles in the financial industry, city government, non-profit and higher education. He is currently Associate Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO).



JEANNETTE EILEEN JONES

(Lincoln) is Associate Professor of History and Ethnic Studies

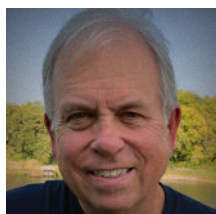
at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Her expertise includes American cultural and intellectual history and African American Studies. Her research includes Black European Studies and the Black American West.



DAVID D. VAIL

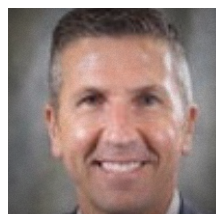
(Kearney) is Associate Professor of History at the University of

Nebraska at Kearney (UNK), specializing in Environmental and Agricultural History, science and medicine, the Great Plains, and public history.



is also an active community volunteer who has developed significant expertise on the Lewis and

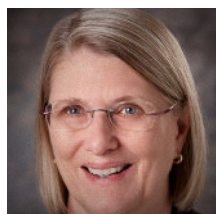
Clark Expedition, genealogical research, and his deep family history in Nebraska.



JOEL FALK

(Omaha) is regional president of UMB Bank's Nebraska region. He has served

on multiple boards of community organizations including United Way of the Midlands. Falk is also a graduate of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Leadership Omaha program.



KAREN HIGGINS, M.D.

(Grand Island) attended UNL and medical school at the University of

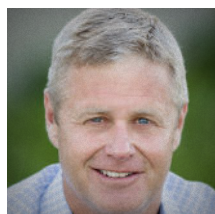
Nebraska Medical Center. She retired after practicing general pediatrics for 40 years at the Grand Island Clinic and serving on the Nebraska Medical Board for 10 years.



RENÉE MCCLYMONT

(Norfolk) is an avid pursuer of history in all its forms. She has a bachelor's

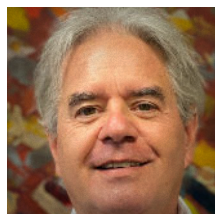
in History, Anthropology, and Secondary Education from UNL. She works with her family raising beef cattle in Norfolk.



ANDY POLLOCK

(Lincoln), a partner in the Rembolt Ludtke law firm, works in government relations and

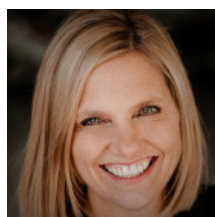
lobbying. He currently spends much of his time pushing for policies to accelerate rural broadband deployment. In 2020, Andy published an anthology of his creative writing.



THOMPSON H. ROGERS

(Omaha) is Chairman of Affiliated Companies, Inc., as well as Chairman

of VidaNyx Investment, LLC. He has worked in banking, venture capital, and investment management throughout his career. He is currently focused on serving non-profits and on investment management.



The Council also elected **CONNIE DUNCAN** of

Lincoln as chair and **BETH WHITED** of

Omaha as vice

chair. **MIKE LINDER** of Omaha was re-elected treasurer.

AMY SANDEEN of Hastings is immediate past chair. The

Foundation elected **TAMI HELLMAN** of Kearney as president, **BRENDA CHRISTENSEN**

of Omaha as vice-president and **MIKE HOMA** of Omaha as treasurer.

NEW TO THE FOUNDATION

KEITH N. BYSTROM

(Plattsmouth) is a retired attorney who has practiced law in Nebraska, Oklahoma and Minnesota during his career. He

DEAR STRANGER CONNECTS MORE THAN 100 NEBRASKANS

Earlier this year, Humanities Nebraska invited Nebraskans to participate in a second round of an anonymous letter exchange program called "Dear Stranger." Based on a program of the same name created by Oregon Humanities, the idea is to send a letter, be matched with a Nebraskan from a different part of the state, and receive their letter in return.

After the first anonymous exchanges, if both members of an exchange agree to continue the correspondence, they are given each other's names.

The theme this winter was "place." A total of 110 Nebraskans wrote letters and included photos, sketches and memorabilia related to a place they love.

At the end of February, participants began receiving letters. Reactions began filtering in almost immediately.

"I enjoyed reading the letter a lot and plan on writing another," wrote one participant. "This was a great way to get mail that was not a bill or junk mail. It brightened up my day."

"This has been interesting to write to a complete stranger during this isolated time," said another person. "Thank you for facilitating connections."

Several participants noted how Dear Stranger makes a difference during the social isolation we are all experiencing during the global pandemic.

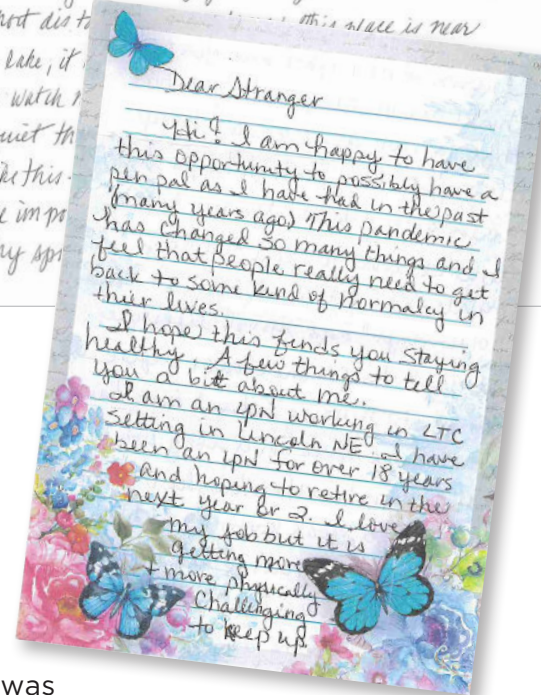
"I just received my Dear Stranger letter, and it was a perfect pairing," said one. "In this hectic year, it felt great to hear from another voice...Both politically and socially, this year reminded me how important it is to connect with neighbors, those across boundaries, break free of our typical social circles. Thank you."

"Making connections is so important, particularly given this past year when all of us have been so isolated," another offered. "Getting to know others is a skill that takes practice, and letter writing is one great way to get that practice."

This round of Dear Stranger

Today I am sharing with you one of my very favorite places to visit. It isn't a long distance away but actually very close to my home. I don't have to get on an airplane or pack a bag- but only get in my car and drive a short distance to a lake, it's quiet & beautiful. The importance of my spirit.

Dear Stranger-



was sponsored by Postscript in Ashland and Diane Kaye Walkowiak. HN staff is planning another round of Dear Stranger next winter.

To be added to the Dear Stranger notification list, email info@humanitiesnebraska.org
For sponsorship information, please contact heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.

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. **HAL FRANCE** of Omaha served on both the Council and Foundation boards from 2015-2021, and **MARK ELLIS** of Kearney and **BARBARA HEWINS-MARONEY** of Omaha served on the Council from 2015-2021.

Board members retiring from the Foundation included **NICK BAXTER** of Omaha, who began his service in 2014 and finished with a year as

board president; **JOHN CONLEY** (2018-2021) and **PETE ZANDBERGEN** (2015-2021) of Omaha, **SHANNON HARNER** of Lincoln (2015-2021), and **KENT WARNEKE** of Norfolk (2015-2021). Each of these board members provided leadership in many ways, including chairing numerous committees.

We are grateful to them for their service and dedication to enriching the lives of all Nebraskans through the humanities.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Join these generous contributors and help to cultivate an understanding of our history and culture.

ORGANIZATIONS

\$10,000 OR MORE

Anonymous
Andrew W. Mellon
Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Acklie Charitable Foundation
Shoemaker Family
Foundation

\$2,500-\$4,999

Union Pacific

\$500-\$999

Bluestem Prairie
Foundation
C.W. Yount Foundation, Inc.

\$100-\$249

Republican Valley Arts
Council

INDIVIDUALS

\$5,000+

Kelvin & Beth Whited

\$2,500-\$4,999

Judy & Jack Ekeler
Julie & Lance Fritz
in honor of Beth Whited
Gene Spence

\$1,000-\$2,499

Amy Bones
Brenda Christensen &
Michael Morris
Jay Conrad & David Clark
Amy Haddad & Steve Martin
Tami & Jerry Hellman
Michael & Shelley Homa
in memory of
Karen Ruth Eakins
Anne M. Hubbard
Calvin R. & Jane Johnson
Beverly Kracher &
Jerry Stegeman
Paul & Lynette Krieger
Roger & Carol Lewis
Charles & Ellen Lierk
in memory of Cloyd Clark

Angenette & Bob Meaney
June Pederson
Barb & Ron Schaefer
Robert L. & Paulette Steffa
Laura & Bill Troshynski
in memory of Don &
Virginia Pederson
Peter Zandbergen

\$500-\$999

Anonymous
John & Virginia Aita
David & Laura Buntain
Steve & Mary Jo Chatelain
David & Ann Duey
Richard Fellman
Jane Renner Hood in
memory of Cloyd Clark,
Judge Norman Krivosha
and Jody Fike
Mark & Deanna Hutchins
Pat & Don Kingsley
Brad & Amy Knuth
Bill & Kathy Lydiatt
Jane & Randy Moody
Andy & Kris Pollock in honor
of Beverly Buck Pollock
Brenda Robinson in
memory of Cal Robinson
Kent & Susan Warneke
Ross & Judy Wilcox

\$250-\$499

Anonymous (3)
Sharon Bohling in memory
of Cloyd Clark
Jon & Kathy Bokenkamp
Beverly A. Cunningham
Dave & Paula Cure
Linda High Daniel
Karen Wyatt Drevo in
memory of Dennis Drevo &
Nancy Jane Drevo
Tom Gallagher
Jeffrey & Rebecca Gerhart
Drs. David & Aileen Gruendel
Shannon Harner & Philip
Goddard in memory of
John Schleicher
Virginia K. Knoll
Dr. Robin & Ann Koozer
Linda & Terry McClain

Sharee & Murray Newman
Jennifer & Bill Pospichal
Bill & Linda Pratt
Max & Karen Rudolph
Chris & Vicki Sommerich
Sherry & Dennis Thompson
Jane Tonniges
Diane Kaye Walkowiak
Kate & Roger Weitz
John A. (Jay) Yost &
G. Wade Leak

\$100-\$249

Anonymous (5)
Jerry & Linda Adams
Richard Allen & Mary
Rabenberg
Don Arp, Jr.
Jeff Barnes in memory of
John Schleicher
Kathleen Bassett
Tom & Deb Berger
John Royster & Katie Blesener
Dr. Blake & Gail Butler
Dennis & Janet Byars
Kyle & Koren Cartwright
Terry Christensen
Mary Jo & Dick Coffey
Glenn & Dixie Colson
Tim & Sharon Comstock
Hal & Mary Daub
Kirk & Karen Dielman
Robert & Anne Diffendal
Rosemary & Arthur Dobson
Michaela Dugan
Mary Teale Dupuis
Russ & Annette Eisenhart in
memory of Cloyd Clark
Steve Elliott in memory of
John Schleicher
Walt & Carol Fichter
Steve & Cathy Fosselman
Alan & Barbara Johnson Frank
Dr. Richard & Linda French
James K. Fruehling in
memory of John Schleicher
Nancy & Bert
John & Carol Gale
Georgia Glass
Deb Glenn
Marilyn L. Grady, Ph.D.
Jim & Margaret Griesen

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Belva Junker
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Kathleen Rutledge
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Julie MacDonald
Matt & Sarah Mason
Katherine S. "Toni" Mayer
Tom & Evelyn McKnight
Mary McNamee & Kieth
Simmons
Gwen Meister in memory
of John Schleicher
Francis & Maxine Moul
Gary Moulton
MaryLee G. Moulton
Nina M. Nelson
John & Dawn Nielsen
John M. Northrop
Dr. Erlene M. Patrick
Gretchen Peters
Glenda Pierce & Jeff
Kirkpatrick
Gale & Julie Pokorny
Norma & Cliff Pountney
Keith & Jan Prettyman
Robert Price
Deb & John Quirk
Neal & Deb Ratzlaff
Katherine Rhea

Steve & Velora Riese
Ronny & Kimbra Roberts
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Pamela Gardner
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Jack Schneider
Ruth Ann Schultz
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Steve Shively
Dan & Julie Speirs
Mary Spurgeon
Tom & Susan Surber
Jan Thelen
William & Heather Thomas
in memory of Cloyd Clark
Del & Phyllis Toebben
Barbara Tripp
Jan Wahl
Jim & Maureen Waldron
Roger Wehrbein
Deborah & Robert Wigton in
memory of John Schleicher
Paxton J. Williams
Dr. Barton Willis & Dr.
Anita Hart
Jaclyn Wilson
Robert & Katy Wilson
William Workman

\$50-\$99

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Barb & Don Batie
Michael & Stephanie Brogan
Lin Brummels
Judy & Gale Bullard
Don & Carole Burt
Jack & Sally Campbell in
memory of Helen Stauffer
Laura & Josh Capp
Debora Carpenter
Joanne Ferguson
Cavanaugh in memory of
Janice Collins-Brooks
Barbara J. Coffey, Ph.D.
Ed & Jan Connolly
Linda Crandall
Sara & David Crouse
Jason Cyza
Bonnie Daenzer
Meenakshi Nath Dalal
Nancy H. Dawson

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Mr. John & Dr. Kristina Pakiz
in honor of History teacher
Mrs. Dora Gommerman
Theresa Petr
Karen & Oliver Pollak
Vicki Pratt
Carolyn Rasmussen in
memory of Densel Rasmussen
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Janyce Warneke
Stephen Wehrbein
Leroy Wiekamp
Nate Woods
Bob & Janet Yanike
David & Kathy Young
Mary Zimmerman
Zak & Amy Zutavern

FOR THE LOVE OF FAMILY READING, SUPPORT HN



Mark your calendars: May 25 is Give to Lincoln Day! Sponsored by the Lincoln

Community Foundation, the 10th annual Give to Lincoln Day is an online event where you can show your love for nonprofit organizations, including Humanities Nebraska. Give to Lincoln Day gifts to HN will go toward "First Aid Kits" for Prime Time families. The kits, valued at \$150, help families read and discuss books together. See page 12 to learn more about them. HN distributed nearly 300 kits last December. Every gift will receive a proportional share of a \$500,000 challenge match fund. Thank you!

Make your donation between May 1-25 at givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/humanities-nebraska

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We thank these generous individuals who helped ensure a vibrant cultural life in Nebraska.

Patron's Circle

ANNUAL GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE MADE BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2020 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2021

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Judy & Ross Wilcox
Iris & Roger Winkelhake
Kristae & Peter
Zandbergen
Chris & Art Zygielbaum

Contact Heather Thomas at heather@HumanitiesNebraska.org to learn more.

HN ENHANCES ONLINE SPEAKERS BUREAU SEARCH FUNCTION

As part of an extensive website upgrade, Humanities Nebraska enhanced the online Speakers Bureau catalog to make it easier for host sites to search for programs.

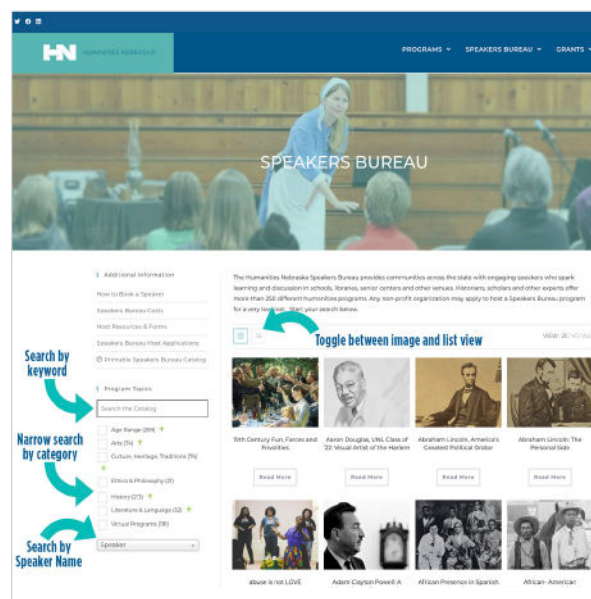
With over 300 topics available from more than 100 speakers, staff spent extensive time seeking a developer to help create a customized online catalog that would serve the public far better than previous online versions.

In addition to a new open-ended search function that can be used for a keyword search, the online catalog now has category check-boxes that enable users to narrow down their options. A second open-ended search box enables users

to search by speaker name — first, last or even a fragment.

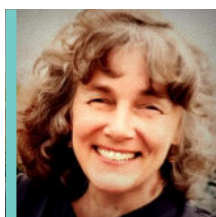
For users who prefer to scroll through options, the online catalog was designed with engaging photos to help communicate the content of each presentation. Users who prefer larger titles and smaller photos can toggle to a list view.

The HN Speakers Bureau provides engaging speakers who spark learning and discussion in schools, libraries, senior centers and other venues all throughout the state. Many provide virtual programs online

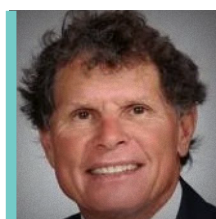


as well. Any not-for-profit organization may apply to host a program for a very low cost, with HN covering most of the speaker's expenses.

IN MEMORY



CAROLYN RAE (JOHNSEN) FOWLER | 1944-2021 Carolyn Fowler died January 20. She was a pianist, painter, writer, teacher, award-winning investigative journalist for Nebraska Public Radio, and world traveler. She was a two-time recipient of the Fulbright Award and retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she taught science journalism. As an accompanist on piano to her husband, violinist David Fowler, she traveled the state through the Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau.



DANIEL J. SEMRAD | 1940-2021 Dan Semrad, a longtime financial advisor for Kirkpatrick Pettis, AG Edwards, and SMITH HAYES / D.A. Davidson, died April 8. Dan was a lifelong learner and a philanthropist who often supported local artists, small businesses, and many nonprofits. Dan was particularly passionate about his alma mater, Creighton University, and the value of the liberal arts. He served on the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities board 2002-2003.



DEBORAH L. THOMAS | 1956-2020 Deb Thomas, a former state administrator and vice chancellor for business and finance at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, died December 10. Her career included more than 20 years in state government, serving as director of several health and human services agencies and working for both Republican Governor Kay Orr and Democratic Governor Ben Nelson. She served on the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities board 2009-2010.

GRANT SPOTLIGHT: UNK@THE WORLD MAKES INTERNATIONAL FILMS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

For six years, Humanities Nebraska has provided a grant to UNK@TheWORLD, a program that brings international films to Kearney. With each screening, University of Nebraska at Kearney students and the Kearney community at large have the opportunity to view a thought-provoking international film and engage in productive conversation.

In 2020, the series focused on Women in Politics and Activism

Around the World. The films included: *Camille* (France, 2019), based on the real-life story of a war photographer, *Divine Order* (Switzerland, 2017), about a Swiss housewife who campaigns for women's right to vote, and *El silencio de otros* ("The Silence of Others"; Spain, 2018), the story of current-day Spaniards fighting against injustices committed during the 40-year Francisco Franco dictatorship, presented online.



UNK@TheWorld organizers report that audiences have averaged above 500, and the program has helped connect UNK students with the World Theatre, different UNK departments with each other, and with the general public.

RECENTLY AWARDED GRANTS



IMAGE: PUBLIC DOMAIN VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Strategic Air and Space Museum in Ashland received a grant for an exhibition about the Cold War in film.

32
GRANTS

\$143,917
TOTAL

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, \$5,100 in support of "Art in Practice: The Intersection of Poetry and Visual Art." • **Bright Lights, Inc., Lincoln, \$4,902** for humanities programming within the Bright Lights Summer Learning Adventures program. • **Crane River Theater Company, Kearney, \$2,000** for the 2021 Page to Stage Library Outreach Program and **\$3,700** to help fund a student matinee series of "The Miracle Worker." • **Creighton University, Omaha, \$6,000** to help fund "Waves in the Sandhills" and **\$2,000** for the Carson Fable Collection exhibit. • **The Durham Museum, Omaha, \$10,000** for the exhibition "Omaha Uncovered: Revealing History through Art and Story." • **Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Lincoln, \$3,300** for the Little But Fierce summer sonnet writing workshop for children. • **Fort Laramie Historical Association, Ft. Laramie, WY, \$1,400** for the 2021 Fort Laramie Writing Festival, "Digital Experience with the Overland Trails." • **Friends of the Homestead, Beatrice, \$1,375** for the annual Tallgrass Prairie Fiddle Festival. • **Friends of the Lied, Lincoln, \$2,000** for MOSAIC Discussions scheduled for Spring 2021 • **Great Plains Theater Commons, Omaha, \$1,500** to help fund GPTC Connect, and **\$10,000** for their 2021 theatre conference. • **John G. Neihardt Foundation, Bancroft, \$1,800** to help fund the 40th Annual Neihardt Spring Conference titled, "Free Thinkers on the Plains." • **Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, \$200** for its Social Justice Art @ City Hall project. • **Lincoln Crossroads Festival, \$5,500** to help fund storytelling training for creating a speakers bureau during the annual festival. • **McCook Economic Development Corporation, \$2,000** to help fund student oral history collection. • **Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, Lincoln, \$12,000** to help fund a new documentary about Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte. • **Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, \$929** for "Culture, COVID, and Conversation: Humanities Insights on the Worldwide Effect of COVID-19." • **Omaha Performing Arts, \$6,100** in support of Voices Amplified 2021-2022. • **Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival, Seward, \$10,000** in support of the festival for children and adults scheduled for autumn 2021. • **Social Action Committee of Unitarian Church, Lincoln, \$1,000** in support of the winter lecture series for 2021: "Pandemics and the Social Fabric." • **Stand In For Nebraska, Lincoln, \$5,800** to help fund the Roots to Rise summer camps. • **Strategic Air and Space Museum, Ashland, \$1,484** for development of the SAC Museum app and **\$8,000** for the "Cold War in Film" exhibition. • **Together We Achieve Miracles, Inc., Omaha, \$2,000** to help fund planning for a podcast series on multi-cultural perspectives. • **United by Culture, Lexington, \$5,800** for the Courageous Muier podcast tour that is part of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. • **University of Nebraska at Kearney Board of Regents, \$10,000** for Spanish immersion and humanities components of their summer enrichment program for youth, PAWS University. • **University of Nebraska at Omaha Board of Regents, \$250** for "Singing Stones: Sacred Music and Sacred Spaces" and **\$1,852** to help fund "Conversaciones: Latino and Latina Voices of Omaha." • **University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, \$7,500** to help fund an exhibit titled, "Exploring a Square Meter of Prairie." • **Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud, \$8,425** supporting the 66th Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference.

DUE
JUL 01

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS INVITED TO APPLY FOR CAPITOL FORUM

All high school social studies teachers are invited to apply to become part of Capitol Forum on America's Future for the 2021-2022 school year.

Each year, up to 25 teachers from across the state are selected to receive free curriculum from the *Choices* Program at Brown University, training, and other support so they can enhance their students' knowledge on global issues such as international trade, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, immigration, and climate change. Students develop skills that will enable them to become more informed voters and engaged citizens in the future.

HN provides Capitol Forum

with the Office of Nebraska Secretary of State Robert Evnen.

Though students have been unable to meet in person for Capitol Forum Day for the last

"WITHOUT CAPITOL FORUM, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SUCH DIVERSE VIEWS."

— NORFOLK SENIOR HIGH STUDENT

two school years due to the pandemic, HN is planning to welcome next year's students to Lincoln to deliberate these important issues with delegations from other schools.

When possible, student delegations are able to have lunch with their state



senators. Capitol Forum Day culminates with a question-and-answer session with Nebraska's U.S. senators and representatives. This gives students a better understanding of government policy.

Benefits include curriculum from *Choices*, professional development opportunities, and reimbursement of travel costs and substitute pay to participating schools, alleviating any financial concerns.

Registration and brochure are available at [HumanitiesNebraska.org](https://humanitiesnebraska.org).

**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**



COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND (CSF) is a coalition of 70 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. To learn more visit communityservicesfund.org.

DUE
JUN 18

SOWER AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms can be found on the HN web site: [HumanitiesNebraska.org/programs](https://humanitiesnebraska.org/programs)

Nominations are welcome for the 2021 Sower Award in the Humanities, to be presented in conjunction with the 2021 Governor's Lecture in the Humanities 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.

PAST HONOREES INCLUDE:

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

PREVIOUS INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENTS

Marian Andersen • Robert Audi • Keith Blackledge • Marion Marsh Brown • Gene Bunge • Jack Campbell • State Sen. LaVon Crosby • Nancy Duncan • Walter Friedlander • Judi gaiashkibos • John Gottschalk • Natalie Hahn • Richard Holland • Jane Renner Hood • Ron Hull • Ted Kooser • Frederick Luebke • Robert Manley • Jack McBride • Gary Moulton • Ron Naugle • Robert Nefsky • Paul Olson • Don Pederson • Rhonda Seacrest • Todd Simon • Joe Seger • Bernice Slotte • Annette and Paul Smith • Pamela Hilton Snow • Joe Starita • E.N. "Jack" Thompson • Charles "Chuck" Trimble • Morrie Tuttle • Don Welch • Larry Wewel

MEETING THE MOMENT WITH YOUR SUPPORT

With thanks for your involvement over the past year, Humanities Nebraska rose to the challenges of the pandemic and created opportunities for Nebraskans to engage with one another.

Your gift now will allow HN to expand this crucial work and bring humanities programs to your community in 2021. Your donation, of any size, will help:

- Bring the new traveling Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibition "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" to seven Nebraska communities in 2021-22 (see page 2).
- Help HN create "First Aid Kits" for families participating in Prime Time (and check out Give to Lincoln in May - details on page 7).
- Bring the 1950s Chautauqua to Ashland in August with



Ed Ayers, renowned historian and founder of the hugely popular radio show and podcast "Backstory," was the featured speaker at the annual program in honor of Patron's Circle donors in April.

opportunities for in person and online participation (more information on page 3).

- Create connections for Nebraskans to participate in Dear Stranger, a letter exchange.
- Present Speakers Bureau programs in schools, libraries and senior centers.

Your gift will help HN meet the moment and connect Nebraskans in your community, sharing new stories and ideas in 2021. Check out the website for easy, secure online giving.

Make your gift at HumanitiesNebraska.org/donate
Thank you!

Ensure an *Endless* Tradition of Arts & Humanities in Nebraska

Preserve the values and assets that are important to you and your family while helping to preserve arts and humanities for the future.

Download our FREE legacy planning guide, Donor Strategies to Preserve Arts & Humanities in Nebraska, at NebraskaCulture.org/mylegacy.

Nebraska Cultural Endowment doubles your donations with public support to enhance the programs and grants of the Nebraska Arts Council and Humanities Nebraska.



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COURTESY PHOTO



PRIME TIME CONTINUES TO SERVE FAMILIES VIA ONLINE & SOCIALLY DISTANT SESSIONS, PLUS “FIRST AID KITS”

LEXINGTON TEAM PLANS AN OPEN AIR PRIME TIME IN A PARK, OTHER TEAMS CONTINUE TO MEET VIA ZOOM, AND STAFF PREPARES NEW “FIRST AID KITS” TO DISTRIBUTE TO FAMILIES IN MAY AND SEPTEMBER.

Prime Time Family Reading continues to be one of HN’s most active programs.

This spring, nine series for families with elementary school children and two Prime Time Preschool programs are in progress. Families from Bellevue, Fremont, Grand Island, Lexington, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Omaha are reading and discussing award-winning children’s books with humanities themes like perseverance, courage and honesty.

To assist with social distancing, the Lexington Public Library is presenting Prime Time in a public park for the first time since Humanities Nebraska began offering this program in 2002. Families will be seated at their own picnic tables arranged to promote open discussion.

Meanwhile, HN staff is preparing two more sets of Prime Time First Aid Kits to distribute

to families who do not have online access to the six-week series. The first set of these kits were distributed in December and received a great deal of positive feedback.

“I loved that it provided discussion questions and activities for each story,” said one parent. “They made it fun and kept my girls engaged.”

Another parent said, “The stories were thought provoking. They offered other points of view and an opportunity to discuss further. Also, I think the books were enjoyed by adults and kids.”

A similar kit will be distributed in May to encourage families to keep reading this summer break. The bilingual kit, designed for children ages 4-8, will include seven different books, a new discussion guide, writing supplies, tote bag, picnic blanket, toys, and a Dairy Queen gift card. For autumn, staff is creating a History and Culture kit for students in grades 2-5.

HN thanks the Sherwood Foundation, Acklie Charitable Foundation, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the Johnny Carson Fund at the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Carol Gendler, donors through Give to Lincoln, an appropriation from the Nebraska State Legislature, and an anonymous donor for providing generous funding toward the kits.



Items chosen for a forthcoming “First Aid Kit.”

For sponsorship information, please contact heather@humanitiesnebraska.org.
For more information about this program, visit humanitiesnebraska.org/programs