



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

JULY

28 - 30

McCook, Neb. 2022



The 1950s are often looked at with a sense of nostalgia and romanticism. However, this decade was also a time of sweeping change that can now be revisited with a critical, more objective eye.

This weekend's Nebraska Chautauqua will explore various social, economic, international, and political changes during the '50s. Multiple scholars from around the state and across the nation are gathering in McCook to share their insight and lead discussions for an unique experience that will be as fun as it is educational. Just as important are the personal memories attendees share with each other.

The Nebraska Chautauqua is also an opportunity for the community to come together to discuss these complex historical events and explore how the 1950s still connect with current events. As you enjoy the events, presentations, discussions, and the interactive Q&A sessions, we hope you will draw your own connections from the 1950s to today.

Thank you for joining us. It is time to put "the Fifties in Focus."

7 p.m.

Thurs. July 28

MNB

Hot Summer Nights Concert

featuring Jimmy D and the
Fabulous Destinations

at Norris Park



Friday • July 29 2022

- 3 - 4 p.m. 1950s Tea Party Museum of the High Plains (413 Norris Ave)
- 5 - 7 p.m. Food Trucks (*West D Street*)
- 5 p.m. "A Century of Fashion: The 1950s" with Sue McLain, Fox Theatre (412 Norris Ave)
- 6 - 8:30 p.m. 1950s Car Exhibit (*West D Street*)
- 7 p.m. Keynote: "The Middle Way: Eisenhower and the Struggle for National Consensus," by Jim Newton,
Fox Theatre, with Q & A moderated by Dr. Catherine Biba, Hastings College
- 8 - 10 p.m. Reception at Keystone Business Center/Norris Alley, with "For Dancers Only" presentation
and sock hop, (402 Norris Ave, '50s attire welcome!)

Saturday • July 30, 2022

- 9 - 11 a.m. Norris Avenue Walking Tour Meet at Museum of the High Plains
- 9 a.m. - Noon Discovery Center Kids' Activities (*West D Street*)
- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Farmers Market/Flea Market (*West D Street*)
- 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Rock Around the Clock Breakout Sessions (*Museum of the High Plains & Keystone Business Center*)
(See following pages for specific times, descriptions and speaker information.)
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
and 5 - 7 p.m. Food Trucks (*West D Street*)
- 6:30 p.m. Rosa Parks, as portrayed by Becky Stone, Fox Theatre
- 7:30 p.m. Thurgood Marshall, as portrayed by Dr. Lenneal Henderson, Fox Theatre
- 8:15 p.m. Q&A with Chautauqua Scholars and closing remarks, Fox Theatre
- 8:30 p.m. Chautauqua Celebration (*Keystone Business Center*)



Rock Around the Clock Breakout Sessions

Two sessions are scheduled for each timeslot except at 10:05 and 11:10 a.m.

9 a.m.

Museum of
the High Plains

The Korean War: Bewilderment in the

New Cold War *Dr. Thomas Berg, HN Speakers Bureau*

After victories in two world wars, Americans expected a similar victory in Korea. However, with no comprehensive defense plan, inadequate forces, few allies with military power, changing political objectives, a different homefront mentality, and a fight between Pres. Harry Truman and Gen. Douglas MacArthur, we were woefully disappointed with the war's outcome. Less than five years after the end of the most horrific war in world history, the roiling Cold War could become even worse.

9 a.m.

Keystone
Business Center
Training Room
(3rd Floor)

What's Up with Ward & June? The '50s American Family in Myth, Memory,

& Reality *Dr. Catherine Biba, Hastings College*

One of the enduring images of 1950s in the United States is that of the nuclear family. Indeed, there is much truth to the idea that the 1950s were an intensely family-focused time period. Explore the reasons for this family-centered cultural moment and the limitations and realities of family life in 1950s America.

10:05 a.m.

Museum of
the High Plains

Fire in the Hole: The Contrasting Visions of Dwight Eisenhower and Earl Warren

Jim Newton, Eisenhower and Warren Scholar

Dwight Eisenhower and Earl Warren were among the most prominent Republicans of their day. They shared many views on matters foreign and domestic. Eisenhower appointed Warren to the Supreme Court, yet they came to regard each other warily, even with suspicion. What happened, and what were the implications for the country? Join in on a discussion about this tenuous relationship.

Rock Around the Clock Breakout Sessions

Two sessions are scheduled for each timeslot except at 10:05 and 11:10 a.m.

The Fight for Civil Rights

Dr. Lenneal Henderson and Becky Stone

Join our Chautauqua scholars in exploring significant developments in the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and how the different events are tied to issues of politics, faith, and mass media. They will focus on how some of the major players in the Civil Rights movement at that time (including Rosa Parks and Thurgood Marshall) found their way into turning points in history. Extra time allotted for this segment to allow for questions and answers following the presentation.

11:10 a.m.

Museum of
the High Plains
(75 minutes)

Lunch

Food available for purchase from food trucks on West D Street as well as local restaurants.

12:25 p.m.

Crises and Opportunities of the 1950s Cold War

Dr. Thomas Berg, Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau

The tension in the post-World War II decade between the United States and the Soviet Union became the new normal that impacted the whole world. What were some of the flashpoints in the Cold War in the 1950s, and how did the super-powers and their allies maintain the general peace and resolve some of the tension without entering a new "hot war"?

1:15 p.m.

Museum of
the High Plains

Rock Around the Clock Breakout Sessions

Two sessions are scheduled for each timeslot.

1:15 p.m.

**Keystone
Business Center
Training Room
(3rd Floor)**

Red Channels: Anti-Communism in 1950s Film and Television

Dr. Sean Trundle, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Second Red Scare famously reached its zenith with the Army-McCarthy hearings in 1954 broadcast directly into American living rooms. These hearings put McCarthy's overzealous and often paranoid efforts to root Communists out of the federal government on full display, effectively ending his moment in the political spotlight. But this was hardly the first — or the last — time that anticommunism would grace either the 'idiot box' or the silver screen over the course of the decade.

2:20 p.m.

**Museum of
the High Plains**

Let's Play Ball! Sports in American Life

Dr. Catherine Biba, Hastings College

Playing and watching athletic competitions have been popular in the United States for a long time, but the 1950s marked an important decade for the growing importance of sports in Americans' recreational life. Professional leagues expanded, colleges began concerted efforts to grow football programs into well-attended spectacles, and TV provided a new opportunity to enlarge fanbases. Sports now consume many American leisure hours.

2:20 p.m.

Keystone
Business Center
Training Room
(3rd Floor)

History of Rock N' Roll

Dr. Randall Snyder, Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau

What would the 50s have been without rock & roll? This presentation takes a look at rock music's interaction with social history, with topics ranging from the origins of rock to Elvis Presley.

Rock Around the Clock Breakout Sessions

Two sessions are scheduled for each timeslot.

SAC, Deterrence, and Nebraska in the Early Cold War

*Dr. Karen Miller, Command Historian of U.S. Strategic Command,
Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska*

Nebraska was far away from many crisis points early in the Cold War, but with the establishment of Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska played a central role in world crises in the 1950s and beyond. Explore the role of the SAC and Offutt Air Force Base in the containment and deterrence during this tumultuous time.

3:25 p.m.

Museum of
the High Plains

A Lost Consensus? Politics and Culture in the 1950s

Dr. Thomas Berg, HN Speakers Bureau

After World War II, America's thinly-restrained domestic and political unity fractured into business as usual. After suffering privations during the Great Depression and WWII, Americans wanted new and better "everything:" consumer goods, housing, jobs, education, government services, and more. How to improve the nation's standard of living while dealing with the Soviet Union was anyone's guess.

3:25 p.m.

Keystone
Business Center
Training Room
(3rd Floor)

Post-War Pop: Memorabilia of the '50s

Donald-Brian Johnson, Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau

America has been flooded with pop culture collectibles for the better part of a century, but perhaps none are as iconic as those that recall the 1950s. Johnson's entertaining, informative program examines how the trends of this fabulous decade came to be. A colorful PowerPoint presentation and artifact samples bring the mid-twentieth century vibrancy to life. Enjoy an invigorating exploration of the tastes that shaped an era.

4:30 p.m.

Museum of
the High Plains

Rock Around the Clock Breakout Sessions

Two sessions are scheduled for each timeslot.

4:30 p.m.

Keystone

Business Center

Training Room

(3rd Floor)

Conformity and Its Discontents:

Suburbanization & Consumer Culture

Dr. Sean Trundle, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Though suburban development undeniably raised the living standards for millions of Americans, the bland uniformity of tract housing and visible status symbols of mass consumption also led to a hyperawareness of even small social or economic differences. This reality bred fears that cookie-cutter neighborhoods would lead to an eradication of individualism, replacing the free 'American spirit' with 'The Organization Man.'

Please share your opinion!

Your feedback will help Humanities Nebraska create more programs like "The Fifties in Focus" in the future.

Please visit

tinyurl.com/50sFeedback

or scan the QR code below
to provide your thoughts.

*Thank
you!*



About the Keynote Speaker

Jim Newton



Jim Newton is a veteran journalist, author and teacher. In 25 years at the *Los Angeles Times*, Newton worked as a reporter, editor, bureau chief, columnist and, from 2007 through 2010, editor of the editorial pages. He is the recipient of numerous national and local awards in journalism and participated in two staff efforts, coverage of the 1992 riots and the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, that were awarded the Pulitzer Prize. He is now a lecturer of public policy at UCLA and is editor-in-chief of *BluePrint Magazine*. Newton also is a respected author of four important works of history, including "Eisenhower: The White House Years," (Doubleday, 2011); and "Worthy Fights: A Memoir of Leadership in War and Peace," (Penguin Press, 2014), a collaboration with former CIA Director and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.



Meet the Chautauquans

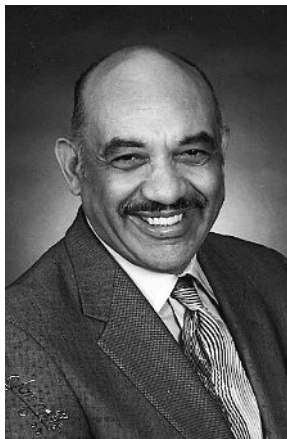
Becky Stone



Becky Stone was born and raised in Philadelphia. She earned her undergraduate degree at Vassar College in Drama with a minor in French. Her M.A. is in Elementary Educational Counseling from Villanova University. She worked for seven years for the Philadelphia School System and taught theater for 10 years at a classical Christian school in Fletcher, NC.

Becky has been a Chautauqua scholar since 2003 when she first researched and presented Pauli Murray. Her other characters are Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Maya Angelou. Becky continues to act in theater. More often she is on stage as a storyteller at festivals, libraries, and schools.

Dr. Lenneal Henderson



Dr. Lenneal Henderson was born in New Orleans and raised in the housing projects of San Francisco, California. He received his A.B., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley.

Currently a professor at the Fielding Graduate University and visiting instructor at the College of William and Mary among other key roles in academia, Dr. Henderson has produced four books and more than 60 articles and editorials for various publications. He is an international lecturer/presenter, a Fulbright Senior Specialist, an actor, and the playwright of *Thurgood is Coming*, a one-man play commemorating the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. the Board of Education*, in which he performed the role of Thurgood Marshall.

Meet the Speakers

Dr. Catherine Biba is a Nebraska native, born and raised in Geneva, Nebraska. She earned B.A. degrees in English and History from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in History from Cornell University. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of History at Hastings College where she teaches a wide array of courses in U.S. History.

Dr. Thomas Berg received his M.A. and Ph.D. in US military history from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has taught courses in American history, European military history, US military history, and the Second World War. Dr. Berg has received a high number of teaching awards at UNL and is one of the most popular instructors for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Donald-Brian Johnson is the co-author of several books on Art Deco through Mid-Century decorative arts. Prior to his career as an author, he worked in the Midwest as an award-winning theatre director, television/radio reporter, and advertising writer. Johnson has earned a national reputation as a seminar speaker and contributing writer for numerous design publications.

Dr. Karen Miller is the Command Historian of U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. She produces the USSTRATCOM official history, protects and maintains its historical archive, material collection and heritage program, provides historical perspective, and is responsible for the global command and control of U.S. strategic forces to meet decisive national security objectives.

Dr. Randall Snyder is a composer and jazz musician who lives in Lincoln and teaches at Peru State College. Born in Chicago, he studied saxophone with his father, a professional jazz musician. He earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1973. While simultaneously publishing original compositions, Snyder teaches courses in jazz, ethnomusicology and rock and roll.

Dr. Sean Trundle is an Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His primary research interests center on postwar popular culture, science and technology, and digital pedagogy. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2013.

About Humanities Nebraska

Humanities Nebraska is a statewide non-profit organization supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the State of Nebraska, and many generous donors throughout the state.

For nearly 50 years, HN has helped Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human. HN programming offers engaging experiences for residents of all ages to explore other worlds of expression and human existence, celebrate shared histories and diverse cultures, and engage in meaningful conversation that respects difference and finds points of common experience. These opportunities include:

- Grants to non-profit organizations for public programs
- Speakers Bureau available to communities throughout the state
- Reading and discussion programs
- History events and traveling exhibits

HN programs enrich Nebraskans and cultivate a more informed, thoughtful, and just society through reading, learning, thinking, questioning, and discussing.

For more information, please visit HumanitiesNebraska.org.

Humanities Nebraska

funds programs in communities across the state each year, thanks to generous contributions from citizens like you. Please consider joining them in supporting HN's many programs that help Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human. To make a gift that will support HN programming, please visit our website, www.HumanitiesNebraska.org, or pick up an envelope at our Chautauqua information table.



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Cultural Endowment

is pleased to be a partner with Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Arts Council in ensuring a lasting legacy of arts and humanities programs for all Nebraskans. Congratulations to HN for its 2022 Chautauqua season and best wishes to volunteers in McCook for making it possible. To become a partner in Nebraska's cultural future, contact Maggie Smith, executive director of NCE at 402-595-2722 or by sending email to info@nebraskaculturalendowment.org.



NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT

Endless ARTS & HUMANITIES

Humanities Nebraska Programming

Capitol Forum on America's Future

Using a curriculum from Brown University, Capitol Forum encourages high school students to develop better understanding of U.S. democratic principles as they discuss global issues with their peers and elected officials.

Chautauqua

Chautauqua immerses audiences in exploring our history through educational entertainment for all ages in workshops, evening presentations, and performances.

Community Conversations

Humanities Nebraska supports community conversation programs that bring Nebraskans together to explore important topics from different perspectives.

Dear Stranger

HN matches pairs of anonymous strangers to exchange thoughts, ideas and experiences via personal letters.

Governor's Lecture in the Humanities

The annual Governor's Lecture brings an outstanding national speaker to Nebraska for a free public lecture on the humanities. A benefit reception preceding the lecture raises critical funding for statewide programs.

Grants

Humanities Nebraska grants are available to non-profit organizations, government entities, and schools in support of humanities-related programs that are accessible to the public.

Museum on Main Street

Collaborating with the Smithsonian, Humanities Nebraska brings traveling exhibits to small Nebraska museums, building interest in exploring American history and culture. "Voices & Votes" will tour Nebraska in 2023.

Prime Time Family Reading

Underserved families gather to read and discuss award-winning children's books with discussion leaders. Prime Time fosters academic skills for children and encourages family literacy to help break the poverty cycle.

Speakers Bureau

Urban and rural communities have easy access to more than 300 humanities programs by 150 speakers. This includes a wide variety of topics, presented statewide each year at schools, libraries, and other venues.

Partnerships

Humanities Nebraska collaborates with other organizations on a variety of programs across the state, including National History Day: Nebraska, Nebraska Literary Tour, Nebraska State Poet, Nebraska Warrior Writers, One Book One Nebraska and others that enrich our appreciation for history, culture, and literature.

History of Chautauqua

Traveling Chautauquas in the late 19th and early 20th centuries brought the world to rural communities in Nebraska. Chautauqua combined programs of political oratory and lectures about health, science, and the humanities with entertainment, such as opera singers and stage performances of Shakespeare. Audiences heard about national issues and discussed their views with their neighbors. For many rural Nebraskans, Chautauqua was the most important week of the year.

On June 26, 1883, the first Chautauqua program in Nebraska opened in Crete. In 1884 the Crete Chautauqua Association acquired 109 acres along the Blue River for two lecture halls, a dining hall, and 700 trees on site. Trains brought culture-hungry participants from Wymore, Lincoln, and Hastings. One delegation traveled all the way from Chadron to live in the tent city and hear the 10-day series of inspirational lectures, lantern-slide illustrated travelogues, and musical concerts. One day in 1888, 16,000 people attended the Crete Chautauqua, giving it the reputation of the greatest in the Missouri Valley.

The success of the Crete Chautauquas encouraged businessmen in Beatrice to start a similar enterprise in 1889. Other Chautauqua programs sprang up across the state. Tent cities blossomed for week-long periods at Chautauqua. Some people camped while hundreds drove in, returning home to farm chores by night.

At the turn of the 20th century, Chautauqua circuits were created. National Chautauqua promoters would roll into town, put up a big canvas tent, and overnight, towns would be transformed into bustling cultural centers. Tent cities still appeared, but the Chautauqua circuits emphasized entertainment more than serious lectures or political debates.

In 1907, Kearney had its first Chautauqua circuit. According to Edna Luce's "Chautauqua," the 1907 circuit brought campers to Kearney who would "enjoy the week living the simple life mid the cool breezes and delightful shade of the park." Locals gathered at Third Ward City Park to hear orators and such musical performances as the Williams' Original Dixie Jubilee Singers.

Chautauquas were so popular that it was not uncommon for Lexington's Charles F. Horner, co-founder of the Redpath-Horner Chautauqua Circuit, to book more than 60 shows in one season. Chautauqua speakers included Teddy Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Mark Twain, Clarence Darrow, Carrie Nation, George Norris, and perhaps the most famous Chautauquan, William Jennings Bryan, who presented his speech "Prince of Peace" more than 3,000 times.

Several factors led to the decline of traveling Chautauquas: greater mobility, radio and film entertainment, economic decline, and a change in national attitude. Perhaps most significant was the radio, where news was quickly and directly broadcasted to the general public, making it possible to hear FDR's "fireside chats," opera, and radio shows like "Amos and Andy" from the comfort of living rooms.

Humanities Nebraska (HN) rekindled the tradition in 1984 with modern Chautauquas that use public forum and discussion to focus on a particular historical era or theme. For more than 35 years, HN has brought humanities-based Chautauqua programs to communities all across this great state. Humanities Nebraska is honored to continue its Chautauqua tradition by partnering with the community of McCook to present "The Fifties in Focus" in 2022.

2022 Chautauqua Steering Committee

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Please help us thank these generous contributors:

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McCook Arts Council

McCook Community Kitchen

96.1 KICX/High Plains Radio

Cobblestone Hotel

Sehnert's/310 Social

Rotary Club of McCook

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Coppermill Steakhouse

Masonic Temple

Thanks also to the many generous donors and volunteers whose names were not available at press time. Without your help, this wonderful event could not have happened.

PRESENTED BY:



HumanitiesNebraska.org

