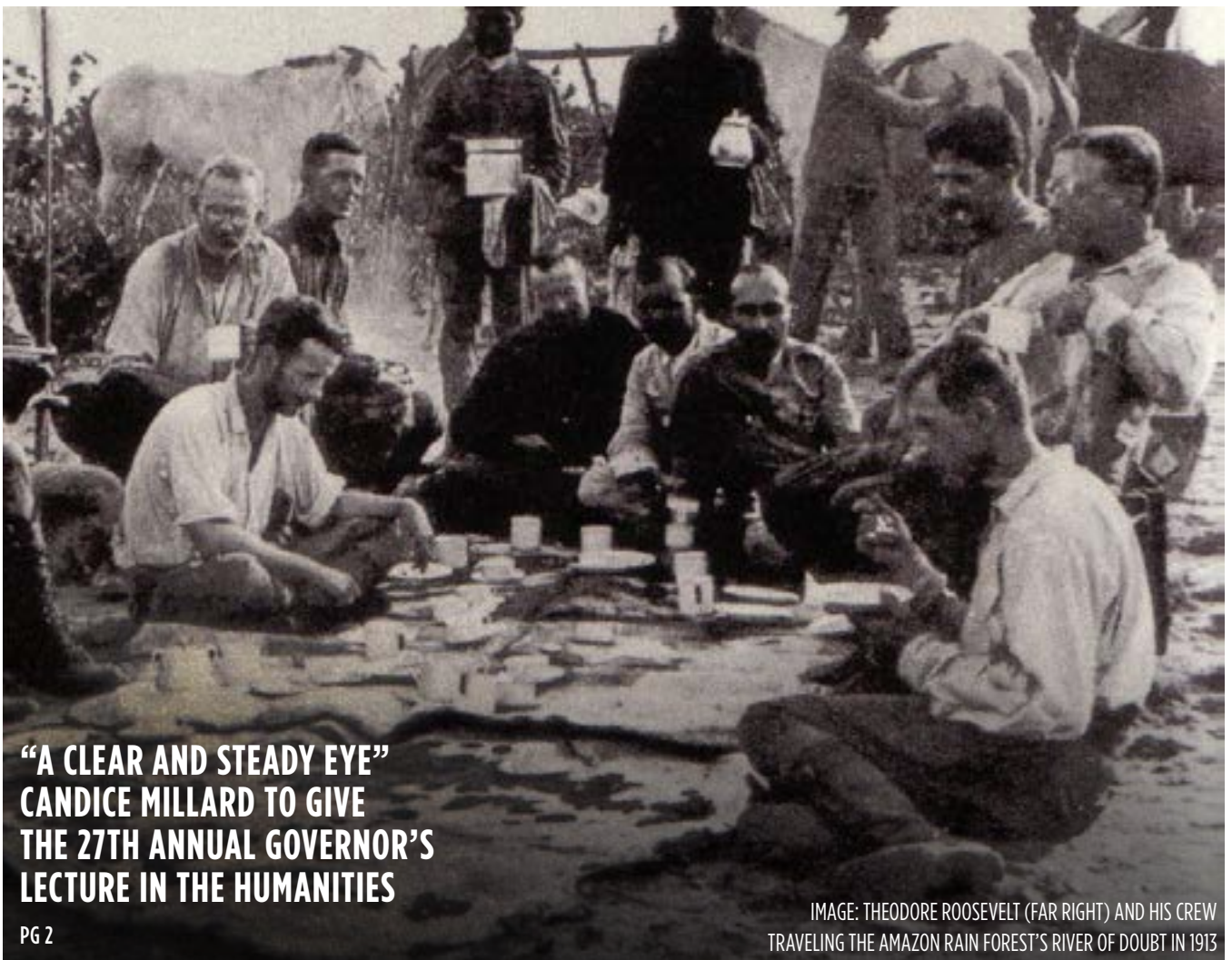




RAPPORT

HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

HELPING NEBRASKANS EXPLORE WHAT CONNECTS US AND MAKES US HUMAN



**“A CLEAR AND STEADY EYE”
CANDICE MILLARD TO GIVE
THE 27TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S
LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES**

PG 2

IMAGE: THEODORE ROOSEVELT (FAR RIGHT) AND HIS CREW TRAVELING THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST’S RIVER OF DOUBT IN 1913



**PHOTOS FROM “THE
FIFTIES IN FOCUS”
CHAUTAUQUA IN
MCCOOK**

PG 5



**NEW SPEAKERS
BUREAU PROGRAMS
NOW AVAILABLE
TO BOOK**

PG 12



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

RAPPORT

ISSUE 29 | SUMMER 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

- BEGINS** **NEBRASKA WARRIOR WRITERS**
AUG 13 Fall sessions in Lincoln, Omaha, or Online
- DUE** **MINI GRANT DEADLINES**
SEP 1/NOV 1 September 1, November 1 (details online)
- SEP 16** **HN BOARD MEETING**
Grand Island
- SEP 28** **GOVERNOR'S LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES**
Featuring Candice Millard
- OCT 14** **BOARD NOMINATIONS DUE**
(see page 3 for instructions)
- NOV 10-13** **NATIONAL HUMANITIES CONFERENCE**
Los Angeles

IN THIS ISSUE

"In Conversation with Candice Millard" . . . 2
 Board Nominations Due 3
 Sower Award in the Humanities 4
 National History Day: Nebraska 4
 "The Fifties in Focus" Recap/Photos . . . 5
 Thank You, Donors! 6-7
 "Weathering Uncertainty" 8
 In Memory 8
 Grant Spotlight: Crane River Theater . . . 9
 Recent Grants 9
 Meet New Staff, Interns 10
 Strengthening Our Mission 11
 New Speakers Bureau Programs 12

HumanitiesNebraska.org
 f HumanitiesNebraska
 t HumanitiesNE

IN CONVERSATION WITH CANDICE MILLARD

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR CANDICE MILLARD WILL SPEAK ABOUT HER BOOKS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING HISTORY AS SHE KICKS OFF THE E.N. THOMPSON FORUM SERIES "CREATIVITY TO SOLVE GLOBAL CHALLENGES" WITH THE 27TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES SEPT. 28.

BY CINDY HOEDEL

Excerpts of this May 1, 2022, article reprinted with permission from the In Kansas City magazine.

After six years at *National Geographic*, Candice Millard took the researching and writing skills she had acquired there and developed a signature style of writing historical narrative nonfiction books.

Millard's latest story drops readers into 1850s Great Britain and Africa to follow the expedition of two British explorers, Richard Burton and John Speke, and an East African freed-slave-turned-guide, Sidi Mubarek Bombay, as they set out to find the then-unknown headwaters of the Nile River.

CINDY HOEDEL: *Where did you travel to research "River of the Gods" and for how long?*

CANDICE MILLARD: Like all my books, this took about five years to write, which I know seems like a lot, but it goes pretty fast to me. Early on I went to Scotland, and then to London to do archival research at the National Library of Scotland, the British Library, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Royal Asiatic Society.

I had an incredible trip to Neston Park (Wiltshire), where Speke died in a hunting

accident. I was with, I think, the great-great-grandson of Speke's cousin who was hunting with him that day.

It took me longer to

plan my trip to East Africa. We flew into Kenya, and went immediately to Zanzibar (the launch point of the expedition). We went to mainland Tanzania, then stopped in Tabora. We went on to Ujiji on the banks of Lake Tanganyika. That's where Sidi Mubarek Bombay took Henry Morton Stanley to meet David Livingstone, and where Burton and Speke were with Bombay.

We went on to southern Uganda where Speke first saw the Nyanza [Lake Victoria] with Bombay and up to the northern part, which is where the Nile pours out of the Nyanza, and then back to Kenya.

The historical details in your book of deprivation, disease, and danger that accompanied the explorers is mind-boggling. How much realism do you strive for in your research? Did you try any super primitive camping?

No, no, no. I didn't want to risk getting sick on top of everything else. I was focused on seeing the land, which hasn't changed all that much. And I was trying more to understand the sorrow that they experienced. They were following paths that were worn by slavers, and it's wrenching. You can't get away from it. In Tanzania, around Lake Tanganyika, there are wide paths flanked by beautiful trees that grew up from Arab slave traders dropping seeds along the way. You can't separate yourself from the immense tragedy of the story.

Like your other books, this one is as much a character study as an adventure tale with three main characters: The explorers Richard Burton and John Speke and their hired former-slave guide, Sidi



Candice Millard



Mubarek Bombay. Did you develop a relationship with the characters? Did your initial impressions of them change over time?

Yes, absolutely, on both counts. You spend years and years of your life with these characters, and you feel like you know them, even though you don't. You miss them when you finish. Sometimes they impress you and thrill you, and sometimes they disappoint you.

That was absolutely the case with Burton and Speke. When I first heard the story 20 years ago about these two men and their friendship, and then the betrayal of that friendship, I was drawn to them because they were so diametrically opposed in the way they look and their backgrounds and their interests.

I started out, especially with Burton, really admiring him. He was so brilliant. He spoke all these languages and was very, very brave. But the farther I read, the darker and the more damaging some of the writings became. He was deeply flawed, and it poured out into his writing and his understanding of these cultures that he started out being genuinely interested in.

It was the same with Speke. His brand of racism was more condescending. He was very religious, and he thought they were helping Africans and that they would be grateful. He looked at them in a fatherly way and that did serious damage.

And what about Sidi Mubarek Bombay? I had never heard of him.

Me, neither. But his name kept coming up again and again when I was reading books by Burton and Speke and other explorers. Very early on it became apparent that he was just as central to these expeditions as these other men that we know. He played a huge role in the mapping of Africa.

Your books take years to research and write. What kind of emotions do you experience when the book is finished and headed to the printer?

Fear. *[Laughs]*

Do you feel like you are only allowed to write bestsellers?

[Laughs] No. I was just trying to do the best job I could.

I think it's a really bad approach to set out to try to interest other people or make other people happy. If you are not interested in it, nobody



Speke's team of African guides on the journey

else is going to be. And if you are genuinely fascinated by something, that is going to come through and it makes it interesting for the reader. **HN**

27TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S LECTURE IN THE HUMANITIES: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Join HN and co-sponsors E.N. Thompson Forum and the University of Nebraska at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln for "A Clear and Steady Eye" by Candice Millard. This free public lecture will also be live-streamed online.

Please check the HN website for the most current information: **HumanitiesNebraska.org/Governors-Lecture**

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Heather Thomas at **Heather@HumanitiesNebraska.org**

For free tickets to the *lecture only*, please call the Lied Center box office: **(402) 472-4747**

BOARD NOMINATIONS DUE OCT 14

Humanities Nebraska (HN) is seeking nominations for its Council board by Friday, October 14. Board members are selected statewide from those who show a passion for the humanities and the cultural life of Nebraska. HN makes every effort to find community members who reflect the geographic, occupational, and ethnic diversity of Nebraska. The selection committee also seeks those who have 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 14. Find nomination forms and a complete list of basic board responsibilities online or e-mail your nomination to info@humanitiesnebraska.org.

For more information, visit **HumanitiesNebraska.org** and select "Board" under the "About Us" menu.



TRAILBLAZING PROFESSOR KATHERINE L. WALTER NAMED 2022 SOWER AWARD RECIPIENT

Humanities Nebraska is pleased to announce that UNL Emeriti Professor Katherine L. Walter will receive the 2022 Sower Award in the Humanities.

For many years, Walter chaired UNL's Digital Initiatives & Special Collections Department and was a founding director of the nationally-renowned Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. Her work established Nebraska as a leader in digital humanities while enriching the humanities throughout the state. Walter was a board member of HN's Council from 2013-2019, serving as Council chair in 2016 and 2017. She also has chaired the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, and was appointed to the Nebraska State Historical Records Board by

Governors Mike Johanns and Dave Heineman.

"Kay's profound impact on the humanities in Nebraska has literally transformed the field, touched the lives of generations of students, teachers, and librarians, and reached tens of thousands of Nebraskans across the state," said nominator and University of Nebraska historian William G. Thomas.

Among Walter's many national grants was the transformative Nebraska Digital Newspaper Project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, which resulted in preservation and digitization of community newspapers from across Nebraska. Through *Nebraska Newspapers* (<http://nebnewspapers.unl.edu>), Nebraskans have free online

access to more than 650,000 pages of historic Nebraska newspapers.

Walter will be honored on September 28, 2022, at the benefit dinner immediately preceding the 27th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, which will be delivered by *New York Times* bestselling author Candice Millard. "A Clear and Steady Eye: Storytelling and Our Shared History" is a free public event beginning at 7:30 p.m. with a live-stream viewing option. The preceding benefit dinner will help raise funds to support HN's statewide programming.



NEBRASKA STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Thirty-three Nebraska students competed at the virtual National History Day during the second week in June after qualifying at the state contest, which was held in early April at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Working with the theme "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, and Consequences," various Nebraska entries were recognized as outstanding.

This includes Eva Jaixen and Olivia Fitzgerald from Loup City Public Schools, who received the United States Marine Corps History special award; Lauren Buban of Westside High School in Omaha; Anna Moelle of Lewis & Clark Middle School in Omaha, whose documentary was selected for the virtual showcase; Sophia Wortmann of St. Rose of Lima in Crofton, whose individual performance was named the

Nebraska affiliate outstanding Junior entry; Katie Neuharth and Lauren Loecker, also of St. Rose of Lima in Crofton; and CeCi Urbanski of Marian High School in Omaha, whose documentary was selected as the Nebraska affiliate outstanding Senior entry.

All entries are viewable by visiting National History Day's website. The state program and contest were funded in part by Humanities Nebraska, the D.F. Dillon Foundation, and Nebraska Wesleyan University.



Loup City students and their teacher at Nebraska Wesleyan University for the state competition last April.



McCOOK WELCOMES HUNDREDS TO “THE FIFTIES IN FOCUS”

During the last weekend in July, the community of McCook hosted “The Fifties in Focus” Nebraska Chautauqua with a great deal of community spirit.

Thursday evening, the local concert series, sponsored by MNB Bank, featured a 1950s band to set the tone. Many came to dance, some wearing 1950s clothing. On Friday the 29th, locals hosted a 1950s-style tea party, complete with authentic table linens. Guests saw a 1950s fashion show led by Sue McLain of the HN Speakers Bureau and a keynote talk by Eisenhower biographer Jim Newton at the Fox Theatre. Newton spoke about the president’s “Middle Way” strategies for the various polarizing controversies during his presidency, with Dr. Catherine Biba of Hastings College as moderator.

Saturday was a full day of breakout sessions at the Keystone Business Center and Museum of the High Plains. Various scholars informed attendees about the Cold War, rock & roll, collectibles, suburbia, and 1950s ideals and lifestyle characteristics that influenced our nation.

That evening, Chautauquans Becky Stone as Rosa Parks and Dr. Lenneal Henderson as Justice Thurgood Marshall shared first-person accounts of history at the Fox Theatre. Questions from the audience helped everyone understand how history is connected to current events.

The McCook community also provided a car show, 1950s children’s activities, food trucks featuring delicacies of the era, a reception featuring a signature cocktail selected in a contest, and a dance demonstration.



Q&A with the Chautauquans



Jim Newton’s keynote address



Karen Miller’s workshop on SAC and the Cold War



Local 4H-ers modeled 1950s fashion with Sue McLain (far right)



Becky Stone: Rosa Parks



Lenneal Henderson: Thurgood Marshall



Catherine Biba: Let’s Play Ball!

Humanities Nebraska would like to thank McCook, the steering committee (including HN board member Linda Graff), plus the committee volunteers for all the work and contributions of time and effort that made “The Fifties in Focus” a success.

Thanks also go to this year’s many contributors: **The Johnny Carson Fund at Nebraska Cultural Endowment • National Endowment for the Humanities “A More Perfect Union” initiative • State of Nebraska • Graff Charitable Foundation, Inc. • McCook Community Foundation Fund • McCook/Red Willow County**

Visitors Bureau • Community Hospital of McCook • MNB Bank • Midwest Liberty Federal Credit Union • Museum of the High Plains/Carnegie Library • Fox Theatre • McCook Economic Development Corporation • McCook Chamber of Commerce • Wagner Auto Group • The Discovery Center • “For Dancers Only” Studio • McCook Arts Council • Rotary Club of McCook • Community Chest of McCook • McCook Community Kitchen • Red Willow County Extension • McCook Public Library • 96.1 KICX/High Plains Radio • Coyote Country 105.3 FM • McCook Gazette • Cobblestone Hotel • ACME Printing • Coppermill Steakhouse • Sehnert’s/310 Social • Loop Brewing Company • Masonic Temple



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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

ORGANIZATIONS

\$5,000 OR MORE

Duncan Aviation
Rogers Foundation
Herbert T. Weston Jr.
& Marian S. Weston
Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Abel Foundation
Aksarben Foundation
Graff Charitable Trust
Hastings Community
Foundation
Lincoln Community
Foundation

\$500-\$999

Community Hospital,
McCook

\$100-\$249

DA Davidson
HBE LLP
Republican Valley Arts
Council

\$50-\$99

Friends of Trenton Public
Library

INDIVIDUALS

\$2,500-\$4,999

Margaret Hornady-David
Roger & Carol Lewis
Katie Weitz, Ph.D.
Art & Chris Zygielbaum

\$1,000-\$2,499

Eric & Connie Allen
David Clark & Jason Conrad
Anne Hubbard
Pat & Don Kingsley
John & Wende Kotouc
Ana Lopez Shalla &
Hassan Shalla

Robert & Christine
Makowski
Jim McKee &
Linda Hillegass
Cynthia & Robert Milligan
Bob & Mary Nefsky
Don & Rita Otis
Connie Ryan
Dr. Michael Stieghorst &
Dr. Sue Conley
Jen Rae & Major Alan Wang
Dori Wanitschke
Ross & Judy Wilcox

\$500-\$999

Robert & Jo Anne
Bettenhausen
Graciela Caneiro-Livingston
& Dana Livingston
Al & Dottie Davis
Joel & Stacey Falk
Randy & Bev Greer
Fred & Julie Hoppe
Fran & Rich Juro
James G. & Connie J. Kube
Gerald & Lee-Ellen Matzke
Jack & Terri McDonnell
Andy & Kris Pollock
Tim Stuart in memory
of LaVon Crosby
Eric & Kristin Wiebe

\$250-\$499

Anonymous
Patricia Armstrong
Amanda & Scott Barker in
honor of Dr. Sarah Crook
Charlie & Marilyn Bicap
Keith & Dianne Bystrom
John & Bonnie Cederberg
Ian Cottingham &
Stephanie Mahlin
Dr. Daniel & Trudie
DePasquale
Sid & Patty Dillon
Jim & Marsha Fairbanks

Stephen Hilliard &
Jessica Coope
Chris Hochstetler &
Jacki Proctor
Jane Renner Hood
in memory of Brad
Ashford, Elaine Spire,
& Dale Young
R. Kay Horner
Ted Kooser &
Kathleen Rutledge
Peggy & Arlyn Montgomery
Jeff & Sarah Peetz
Keith & Mallory Peterson
Chris & Vicki Sommerich
Sen. John & Rita Stinner
Del & Phyllis Toebben
Birgit Young

\$100-\$249

Anonymous (6)
Dr. Tyler & Stephanie Adam
Dean & Gaylene Aden
Jim Albin
Pam Baker
Keith & Mary Bartels
Doug & Louise Bereuter
David Booker
Edna M. Broad
Robert & Kate Brooke
Sandi & Bill Bruns
Jack & Sally Campbell
Dr. David & Kimberly
Cantral
Agnes Carey
Jody & Gayle Carstens
Larry & Beverly Cast
Kevin Cederberg
Dennis Collins
Spencer & Vivian Davis
Sean Doolittle
Robert Dover
William & Jane Dugan
Dr. Ali Eminov
Thomas Emrich

Sarah Ferneding
Dr. Richard & Linda French
Julia Gale
Patty Gritzfeld
Leirion Gaylor Baird &
Scott Baird
Korby Gilbertson
John & Kay Lynn Goldner
Stephen Griffith
Lisa & Mick Hale
Erika Hamilton
Katie & Gary Hejl in honor
of Joanna Hejl and
Heather Thomas
Susan Henrie
Thomas & Carol Holyoke
Paul & Helen Hrdy
Lynn & Linda Jones
Dr. M. Colleen Jones
Sissy Katelman Silber
Louise & Douglas Kent
Betty Kenyon
JB & Carla Ketner
Connie Klemm
Duane & Helen Krause
Barbara & Marshall
Kushner
Jane Langan Mach
Liz Lange
Patrick & Emily Leahy
Donna Lightbody
Max Linder
Dan & Carol Lindstrom
John & Mary Longo
Matt & Laura Low
Jim & Patty Manhart
Bryce McBride
Rosie Molvar
Paul & Ann O'Hara
Richard & Aimee Otto
Wil & Shari Packard
Kenneth & Norene Pavlik
David & Judy Pederson
June Pederson
Marlene Perkins

Jerry & Mary Ann Petr
Bill & Linda Pratt
Kimberly Rath
Jane Raybould
Brenda Robinson
John Sampson
Skip & Judy Sawyer
Jonathan Scherling
Jeffrey & Amy Schmid
Joe & Sandy Schon
Mark Howard Schulze
Mr. & Mrs. Frank C. Sidles
Linda Simonsen
Susan & Robert Sondag
Joe & Jesse Starita
Ann Stephens
Barbara Stephens
Josephine R. Stewart
Gene & Kristen Stohs
Joe & Janet Swantek
Art & Carol Thompson
Dayle L. Wallien
Dr. Tom Waring
Kent & Susan Warneke
Pete Wegman
Phil & Colleen Werner
Don Wesely
Tom & Deanna Wolf
Dan Yost
Robert & Edith Zahniser

\$50-\$99

Anonymous (3)
Mary Barton
Mayrene Bentley
Michael & Stephanie
Brogan
Melissa Cast-Brede
John & Nancy Comer
Eve Coner
Kevin & Shannon Cooksley
Pat & Burdette Cooley
William & Mary Davenport
Dale & Mary Dueland
Dean & Christine Faubel

Robert & Bette Frels
Marcia Gray
Mary Gray
Jerry & Lisa Guenther
Kim Hachiya & Tom White
Al & Kathy Hamilton
Twyla Hansen
Matt & Kristi Hayek Carley
Wendy & Peter Hind
Don & Gayleen Hingst
Gloria & Jack Hoban
John & Jayne James
Jeannette Eileen Jones &
Alexander Vazansky
Phil & Mary Kommers
Marie Krohn
Pamela K. Lay
Liz Makowski
Ann Martin
John & Linda McPhail
Fred & Pat Meisinger
Patty & Jim Neid
Meg Noyes
Patrick J. & Mary Jo Randolph
Chris & B.J. Reed
Marilyn Reno
Mary Jane Rosenthal
Tammy & Steve Russell
Kathi & Chuck Schroeder
Mary Smith
Wendy Smith
Gloria Sorensen
Brian & Linda Striman
Vanessa Timberlake &
Dick Flebbe
Chris Timm
William & Heather Thomas
Julia Watson
Loren & Barbara Wroblewski
Mary Yager
Carole D. Young
Kevin Wailes &
Boots Primavera-Wailes
Zak & Amy Zutavern
Dennis Dohner & Zoya Zeman



THANK YOU, PATRON'S CIRCLE

Thank you for supporting HN's mission to help Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human!



WE THANK THESE GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE HELPING ENSURE A VIBRANT CULTURAL LIFE IN NEBRASKA WITH ANNUAL GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE MADE BETWEEN MAY 1, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2022. THANK YOU!

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Virginia & John Aita | Gloria Dinsdale | Tami & Jerry Hellman | Charles & Ellen Lierk | Thompson H. Rogers | Heather & William Thomas |
| Eric & Connie Allen | Kim & Tom Dinsdale | Karen & John Higgins | Mike & Denise Linder | Lynn & Dana Roper | Bill & Laura Troshynski |
| Cindy & Mogens Bay | Sandy & Kate Dodge | Linda Hillegass & Jim McKee | Mary & Rodrigo Lopez | Connie Ryan | Harriet Turner |
| Amy Bones | Connie & Todd Duncan | Mike & Shelley Homa | Ana Lopez Shalla & Hassan Shalla | Barb & Ron Schaefer | Gail & Irv Veitzer |
| John K. & Lynne D. Boyer | Judy & Jack Ekeler | Jane Renner Hood | Robert & Christine Makowski | David & Trixie Schmidt | Katherine L. Walter |
| David & Laura Buntain | Katherine & Dick Endacott | Margaret Hornady-David | Nancy & Mike McCarthy | Rhonda Seacrest | Jen Rae & Major Alan Wang |
| Keith & Dianne Bystrom | Joel & Stacey Falk | Anne Hubbard | Renée & Ed McClymont | Chuck Shoemaker & Lynne Friedewald | Dori Wanitschke |
| Graciela Caneiro-Livingston & Dana Livingston | Kay Fowles | Calvin R. & Jane Johnson | Emily J. McElroy | Todd & Betiana Simon | Dr. Tom Waring |
| Brenda Christensen & Michael Morris | Julie & Lance Fritz | Robert & Russell Kelley | Cynthia & Robert Milligan | Annette & Paul Smith | John & Nancy Webster |
| David Clark & Jason Conrad | Carol Gendler | Pat & Don Kingsley | Bob & Mary Nefsky | Pamela H. & Marcus J. Snow | Katie Weitz, Ph.D. |
| Linda Clark | Jan Gradwohl | John & Wende Kotouc | Molly & Tim O'Holleran | Chris & Vicki Sommerich | R. Ted & Sheila Weschler |
| | Linda & Mark Graff | Beverly Kracher & Jerry Stegeman | Natalie & Sam Olson | Dr. Michael Stieghorst & Dr. Sue Conley | Beth & Kelvin Whited |
| | Amy Haddad & Steve Martin | Paul & Lynette Krieger | Don & Rita Otis | Erin Swanson Russell & Joel Russell | Ross & Judy Wilcox |
| | | Pat & Lou Lamberty | June Pederson | | Iris & Roger Winkelhake |
| | | Roger & Carol Lewis | Brenda Robinson | | Pete & Kristae Zandbergen |
| | | | | | Art & Chris Zygielbaum |

To join the Patron's Circle, please contact Heather Thomas at Heather@HumanitiesNebraska.org.

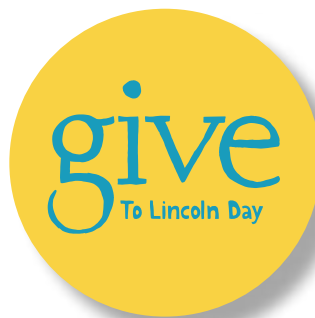
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

GIVE NEBRASKA is a coalition of 75 diverse nonprofits working to build a vibrant, creative, and healthy community. Humanities Nebraska greatly appreciates donors who designated gifts to us through their Give Nebraska workplace giving campaigns.



To learn more, please visit: givenebraska.org

THANK YOU, GIVE TO LINCOLN DONORS!



More than 100 donors contributed \$29,420 to Humanities Nebraska during May for Give to Lincoln Day. Sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation, more than \$8 million was raised for a record number of Lincoln nonprofits — 479 in all. This was the event's eleventh year.

Many gifts were designated for Prime Time reading kits that were distributed to 250 families in June. HN appreciates the many new and returning donors, match fund sponsors, media sponsors and the Lincoln Community Foundation for helping us reach families through reading.

Thank you!



NEBRASKANS GATHER FOR “WEATHERING UNCERTAINTY”

On June 15, hundreds of Nebraskans from around the state tuned in virtually or gathered in person at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln to explore how climate change is impacting different sectors in Nebraska. “Weathering Uncertainty: Conversations About Climate in Nebraska” included a dynamic discussion by panelists representing agriculture, the environment, city government, and public health, and was facilitated by Martha Shulski, Nebraska’s state climatologist.

Partway through the panel discussion, Shulski began adding questions from the audience, submitted through an online survey tool. As these audience questions were answered by Nebraska Farm Bureau President Mark McHargue, The Nature Conservancy’s Director of Agriculture Hannah Birgé, Mayor of Norfolk Josh Moenning, and University of Nebraska Medical Center Director of Water, Climate, and Health Jesse Bell, it became increasingly clear to the audience that there was more common ground in these perspectives than previously thought.

In concluding remarks from the panelists and from audience comments, people appreciated recognizing the overlap of shared



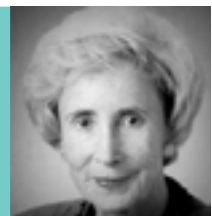
Josh Moenning, Jesse Bell, Hannah Birgé, and Mark McHargue with moderator Martha Shulski.

concerns, and the example that was set in how to disagree respectfully on an issue that has become so politically charged. “This was a necessary conversation with important voices,” one viewer wrote.

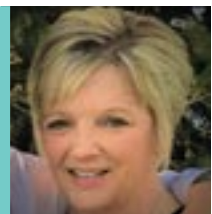
Anyone who wishes to view the recording of the June 15 “Weathering Uncertainty” program, or to learn about more such program opportunities in the coming months, should visit the Humanities Nebraska website: humanitiesnebraska.org/programs/weather.

“Weathering Uncertainty” was made possible in part by the Mellon Foundation’s “Democracy and the Informed Citizen” initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and by Rhonda Seacrest.

IN MEMORY



MARIAN ANDERSEN | 1928-2022 Marian Andersen died on April 28. While attending University of Nebraska- Lincoln, she received a degree in journalism, but had a passion for volunteering. She was recognized numerous times for her philanthropic service, including the Omaha Arthritis Foundation’s Woman of the Year, the United Way of the Midlands Citizen of the Year, Distinguished Nebraskalander Award from the Nebraskaland Foundation, and the Sower Award in the Humanities. She also co-founded the Alexis de Tocqueville Society and Nebraska Shakespeare.



RONDA SPANEL | 1965-2022 Ronda Spanel died on June 17. After earning her degree in elementary education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she taught in Enid, Oklahoma. She and her husband (also a teacher) later relocated to Norfolk. Thriving in the classroom, Ronda eventually earned her master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College. She was very involved in reading programs such as Delivering Infinite Book Shelves (DIBS) for Kids and was Norfolk’s longtime discussion leader for HN’s Prime Time Family Reading Time at Washington Elementary.

GRANT SPOTLIGHT: CRANE RIVER THEATER COMPANY INVITES STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT HISTORY THROUGH THEATER

Last spring, Humanities Nebraska awarded The Crane River Theater Company in Kearney a grant for their September 13, 2021, student matinee performance of “The Miracle Worker.” This play tells the story of Helen Keller and how her teacher, Anne Sullivan, brought light into her world as a deaf and blind person by teaching her to communicate.

The show captures Anne’s true resilience and dedication she had in helping Helen, not to mention Helen’s courage in trusting Anne after fighting off anyone who tried to help her in the past. The Crane River cast brought out the darkest emotions in their characters through intense physical actions. This in

turn drew emotion from the audience as they experienced the rawness of what was happening on stage.

At this production, students from high schools were invited to attend the show and tour the Trails and Rails Museum in Kearney, which was the location of the show.

While watching the production, students and the rest of the audience were able to make significant connections between history and the performing arts, one of Crane River’s goals for every production. The shows are not only for entertainment, but also

to teach students about the importance of historical figures and common literature.

Crane River Theater’s past grant-funded presentations include the annual “Page to Stage” summer events, hosted by libraries throughout the tri-city area.



Anne Sullivan, right (portrayed by Casey Borghes), uses a dramatic method to garner the attention of Helen Keller (portrayed by Kayli McIntyre).

RECENTLY AWARDED GRANTS

African Culture Connection, Omaha, \$10,750 for summer student programming and event • **Bright Lights Inc., Lincoln, \$5,000** to support humanities-themed summer classes • **Buena Vista School, Omaha, \$924** for a faculty book club exploring diversity • **Center for Legal Immigration, Lincoln, \$2,500** to provide language learning materials and teacher stipend • **Crane River Theater Company, Kearney, \$3,350** for a student matinee of “Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” • **The Film Collaborative, Los Angeles, CA, \$15,000** to support a documentary film • **Flatwater Shakespeare Company, Lincoln, \$3,188** for the Little But Fierce children’s writing workshop • **Friends of the Homestead, Beatrice, \$2,550** in support of the Prairie Visions Fiddle Festival • **Friends of Loren Eiseley, Lincoln, \$6,500** for the Loren Eiseley “Star Thrower” series in Scotts Bluff County • **Genoa U.S. Indian School Foundation, \$2,000** for the 2022 Genoa Indian School Recognition and Remembrance Day • **Great Plains Theatre Commons, Omaha, \$10,000** for its new play conference • **John G. Neihardt Foundation, Bancroft, \$3,627** in support of the 41st Annual Neihardt Spring Conference • **LUX Center for the Arts, Lincoln, \$2,000** to help produce a Gladys Lux retrospective booklet • **Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, Lincoln, \$2,000** to support the 2022 Pilster Lecture & Sandoz Symposium • **Nebraska Poetry Society, Omaha, \$750** for virtual education events scheduled for fall/winter 2022 • **Nebraska StoryArts, Omaha, \$2,000** in support of the Moonshell Storytelling Festival • **Stand in for Nebraska, Lincoln, \$5,800** for Roots to Rise summer day camps • **Sidney Gold Rush Days Inc., \$1,500** supporting Gold Rush Days • **Tri-Faith Initiative, Omaha, \$5,000** for 2022 events on race, religion, and social justice • **University of Nebraska- Kearney Board of Regents, \$10,000** to support PAWS University summer Spanish immersion and humanities programming • **University of Nebraska-Omaha Board of Regents, \$3,700** for its “Memory Serves” symposium on dementia • **Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud, \$10,085** to support spring conference programming



A class at Genoa Indian School in 1910.

**22
GRANTS**

**\$108,224
TOTAL**



MEET KALI, KATIE, JENNIFER, ABBY & CLAIRE

This summer, Humanities Nebraska welcomed four new members to our staff.

Kali Patterson first joined our team in 2017 as the Communications Intern and is now back as our Development Associate. She graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) with a degree in Communication Studies and Global Studies.



Kali was drawn to HN because of her “desire to be a part of humanities cultivation in [her] own state.” Now

after being back, she is most excited for Prime Time and the Governor’s Lecture, but is overall ecstatic about the programming of it all to “reach, educate, and connect Nebraska’s diverse communities.”

Katie Bradshaw joined in May as part-time Grants Management and Outreach Specialist. She has been participating in HN

events since she moved to Scottsbluff in 2009, attending Community Cinema screening and discussion at the Midwest Theater. Katie is most excited about



the grants program. “I used to write grants in my previous jobs, including to HN, so I really know what it’s like being on the other side of the funder-applicant relationship.”

Jennifer Garza is HN’s special projects intern. Jennifer’s husband was involved in many different programs HN put on, and her son was an intern here in college. She has “always admired the work [HN] has done for the state.” She is most excited to be working on HN’s 50th anniversary project for 2023.



“Going

through all of the documents and pictures and interviewing people who have been a part of the rich history of HN has been very enlightening.”

Abby Javier-Paxtle was



a program intern this summer, tackling a mountain of Prime Time paperwork (in English and Spanish). She recently moved on to another internship while completing her studies at UNL.

Claire Lyons was the summer communications intern, mostly sharing her social media skills. She also contributed several of the articles in this newsletter before returning to UNL, where she is a junior majoring in Marketing and Management.



A CELEBRATION OF *Nebraska Books*

SAVE the DATE Oct. 22, 2022
2:30-6:30pm

NEBRASKA HISTORY MUSEUM
131 Centennial Mall North • Lincoln, NE



FOLLOW HN ONLINE



HumanitiesNebraska.org



Humanities Nebraska



HumanitiesNE



HumanitiesNE

STRENGTHENING OUR MISSION AND STATE THROUGH GIVING

Your annual donation strengthens our mission of helping Nebraskans explore what connects us and makes us human. Your support also strengthens our state with quality humanities programming.

Becoming a monthly donor provides dependable financial support for HN on a monthly ongoing basis, while 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. Your gift supports communities across the state, while allowing you the convenience and simplicity of automatic renewal.

- \$5 per month helps provide gift books for families who attend Prime Time Family Reading around the state
- \$10 per month sends a high school student



Student delegations from across the state discussed immigration and other issues last March at Capitol Forum on America's Future.

- 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 veteran participating in a workshop through Nebraska Warrior Writers
- \$100 per month qualifies you for the Patron's Circle, an annual recognition group.

It's easy and convenient to set up a monthly gift. Donations are made through automatic 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.

Thank you!

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



The Nebraska Cultural Endowment Proudly Supports Humanities Nebraska

Learn more about how the Nebraska Cultural Endowment ensures an endless tradition of arts and humanities in our state, visit NebraskaCulture.org

Endless
ARTS & HUMANITIES



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Connie Duncan
Chair, Lincoln | Jeannette Eileen Jones
Lincoln |
| Beth Whited
Vice Chair, Omaha | Lynette Krieger
Hastings |
| Dori Wanitschke
Treasurer, Grand Island | Ana Lopez Shalla
Omaha |
| Mike Linder
At Large, Omaha | Matt Low
Omaha |
| Don Arp, Jr.
Lincoln | David A. Nesheim
Chadron |
| Graciela Caneiro-Livingston
Lincoln | Sarah Rowe
Omaha |
| Val Cuppens
Lincoln | Barb Schlothauer
Gering |
| Cecil L. Hicks
Omaha | Paulette Stefka
North Platte |
| Edgar J. Hicks
Omaha | David D. Vail
Kearney |
| | Jaclyn M. Wilson
Lakeside |

NEBRASKA FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Tami Hellman
President, Kearney | Patrick Leahy
Omaha |
| Brenda Christensen Vice President, Omaha | Renée McClymont
Norfolk |
| Michael J. Homa
Treasurer, Omaha | Andy Pollock
Pleasant Dale |
| Don Arp, Jr.
Lincoln | Thompson H. Rogers
Omaha |
| Keith N. Bystrom
Plattsmouth | Amy Sandeen
Hastings |
| Connie Duncan
Lincoln | Barb Schlothauer
Gering |
| Judy K. Ekeler
Fremont | Paulette Stefka
North Platte |
| Joel Falk
Omaha | Laura Troshynski
North Platte |
| Julia Gale
Lincoln | Beth Whited
Omaha |
| Linda L. Graff
McCook | Jaclyn M. Wilson
Lakeside |
| Karen Higgins, M.D.
Grand Island | Christine Zygjelbaum
Lincoln |
| Lynette Krieger
Hastings | |

STAFF

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Christopher Sommerich
Executive Director | SheriLynne Hansen
Communications Manager |
| Kristi Hayek Carley
Program Manager | Liz Makowski
Program Associate |
| Katie Bradshaw
Grants Specialist | Kali Patterson
Development Associate |
| Barbara Grant
Office and Grants Coordinator | Heather Thomas
Director of Development |
| Susan Hale
Prime Time Assistant | Mary Yager
Associate Director |
| Erika Hamilton
Director of Literary Programs | Jennifer Garza, Abby Javier-Paxtle, Claire Lyons
Interns |





NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 645
LINCOLN, NE 68508

TO UPDATE ADDRESS OR CANCEL SUBSCRIPTIONS,
CALL 402.474.2131 or E-MAIL INFO@HUMANITIESNEBRASKA.ORG

PHOTO: PUBLIC DOMAIN VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



U.S. officials met with Lakota leaders at Pine Ridge in 1891, a year after the Wounded Knee Massacre.

NEW SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING VIA THE HN SPEAKERS BUREAU

FIVE NEW SPEAKERS ARE OFFERING A TOTAL OF SIX NEW PRESENTATIONS ON TOPICS RELATED TO MUSIC, GENEALOGY, NATIVE AMERICANS, AND MORE

“AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC AND THE RESOPHONIC GUITAR” PRESENTED BY MIKE MCCRACKEN

Musician and teacher Mike McCracken reviews the history and influence of the seldom understood resophonic guitar with kinetic examples that delight listeners. From its inception in 1925, the resophonic guitar has played a strategic role in Americana music within several genres including rock and roll, blues, jazz, Hawaiian and Country.

“BEGINNING GENEALOGY” PRESENTED BY BETH SPARROW

Budding genealogists will learn how to start researching their families, what records would be useful and where to find them. Skilled genealogist Beth Sparrow also covers what tools of the trade are useful, and what to do if a family history trail runs into a dead end.

“CIVIL WAR MEDICINE” PRESENTED BY GARY RATH

Retired educator and museum docent Gary Rath speaks about the courageous efforts of doctors and nurses to save lives during the Civil War. Learn what medicine was like at this time, what challenges existed, what changes were made, and what advancements were achieved during the war.

PHOTO: PUBLIC DOMAIN VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



“NEBRASKA RESEARCH: HONESTLY IT’S NOT FOR EVERYONE” PRESENTED BY BETH SPARROW

With an overview of Nebraska history, Beth Sparrow shares research leads such as where to find vital records, censuses and courthouse records. Also covered are newspapers, libraries, ethnicities, occupations, and maps. This presentation is helpful to anyone researching family history in Nebraska.

“WOUNDED KNEE AND THE IMPACT OF NORTHWEST NEBRASKA” PRESENTED BY BROCC ANDERSON

Professor Brocc Anderson explores the complex economic and social relationship between settlers in Northwest Nebraska and Native Americans from the 1870s to the early twentieth century. Drove of miners and merchants and free land opportunities in northwest Nebraska forcibly relocated the Lakota who continued to struggle to control their way of life.

“YOU BE THE EDITOR” PRESENTED BY KENT WARNEKE

Long time newspaper editor Kent Warneke discusses the role of the editor in balancing the interests of thousands of readers who have a right to information against the concerns, wishes and desires of others, including the right to privacy. He shares some newspaper history and engages the audience in thinking through the topic of “news judgement.”

For more information about the Speakers Bureau, including how to book a program, please visit our online catalog of topics at HumanitiesNebraska.org/Catalog

