



## NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330

Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852

E-mail: [nhc@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:nhc@nebraskahumanities.org)

Website: [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org)

# **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

---

For release: Oct. 9, 2008

Contact: Beth McQueen, (402) 474-2131, ext. 108

## **NHC extends deadline for 2009-2010 Chautauqua**

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) has extended the application deadline for Nebraska communities who want to host the “Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties” Chautauqua in the summer of 2009 or 2010. The new deadline is Nov. 15.

The NHC is especially interested in finding host communities in the state’s 3rd District. Chautauqua visits each community for five days of presentations and activities.

As they did this year, scholars will portray President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Louisiana governor and U.S. Sen. Huey Long, Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson, and humorist Will Rogers, five historical characters who helped shape America’s response to the Great Depression.

Thousands of Nebraskans were entertained and intellectually engaged when Chautauqua visited Falls City and Hastings this summer. It also traveled to Kansas for stops in Beloit and Lawrence.

The 2008 Chautauqua “truly was a history-making cultural event of our time,” said Donna Landis of the Falls City Chamber of Commerce. “All audience members and workshop attendees were captivated as the actors re-acquainted them with historical facts, brought characters to life, and transported them back in time.”

Children and youth also take part in Chautauqua, with middle schoolers who research and portray local historical figures during the Youth Chautauqua, high schoolers who photograph the iconic images in their communities and compare them with images of the past, children who create a colorful mural based on a folktale by Zora Neale Hurston, and youth who learn about children who wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt during the Depression and then write a letter to the current first lady.

Photographs and letters from the 2008 Chautauqua are posted on the Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua website at [www.knchautauqua.org](http://www.knchautauqua.org), along with the personal response and signed photograph from first lady Laura Bush, who applauded the Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua for providing such opportunities to youth and adults alike.

Audiences have an opportunity to examine four themes that were important during the Depression era and have particular relevance for us today: The changing relationship between Americans and their national government, the flowering of artistic and intellectual activity, the role of religion in public life, and the democratization of American culture through radio and sound movies.

A host community must be able to provide a steering committee and sub-committees to assist project coordinators; a grassy, well-protected site for the tent; and electricity and sufficient power near the tent.

If your community is interested in hosting the 2009 or 2010 Chautauqua, contact NHC Program Officer Beth McQueen at (402) 474-2131 ext. 108 or at [beth@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:beth@nebraskahumanities.org) for an application.

###