

# NEW MEXICO HUMANITIES

Newsletter of the New Mexico Humanities Council

*...seeking to understand who we were, who we are and who we hope to be...*

Fall-Winter 2012

NMHC receives funding from the Federal/State Partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the NM Department of Cultural Affairs

## Celebrating the New Face of the NMHC and Commemorating the Past

by Craig Newbill, Executive Director

The New Mexico Humanities Council finally has a permanent home. For the past 40 years, thanks to the generosity of the University of New Mexico (UNM), the Council has operated out of a mobile home and in converted dormitory space. The NMHC Board and Staff are truly grateful and indebted to UNM for the office space which was supported by 11 university presidents, beginning with Dr. Ferrel Heady in 1972. This move to permanent headquarters for the Council will contribute to greater visibility for the Council within the State's largest urban center as well contributing to the revitalization of a neighborhood that has been ongoing for the past few years.

The year 2012 also marks the 40th anniversary of the NMHC. We had hoped

to be in our new offices early enough to commemorate the new space and recognize our 40th anniversary this year. The move was made during the last week of June due to construction delays and afterwards I took an unexpected leave of absence of two months for personal reasons. As a result, we have now elected to plan and implement several public activities statewide in 2013 to mark our programming successes and celebrate the new office space in Albuquerque's Historic Nob Hill District.

The talents and enthusiasm of the NMHC Board will be put to the test in the upcoming year as they plan and implement activities statewide to celebrate the NMHC's 40 years in the public humanities. At the same time, they are dealing with ways to bring additional re-

sources online for the Grant and Chautauqua programs while maintaining the current funding level for National History Day. Our objective is to return to the high programming levels maintained by the Council up to the last current fiscal crisis of 2007-2008, considered by many economists to be the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Please take the time to go online at [www.nmhum.org](http://www.nmhum.org), or [www.facebook.com/NewMexicoHumanitiesCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoHumanitiesCouncil) for recent announcements & event listings related to the NMHC's 40th Anniversary, and the availability of NMHC public programs & grant opportunities.

For any questions you may have, please call us at 505-633-7370.

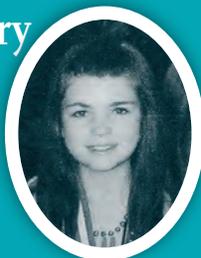
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## History's Inspiration

For nearly 20 years, Kit Carson and Clyde Tingley—as portrayed by Dave Jackson—have been delighting and educating audiences all over New Mexico. It all started in 1994 when Dave, an avid outdoorsman, was a trip leader with the mountain club. He would study the area and give a history lesson at the end of the trail. Upon taking part in those hikes, Nancy Brouillard—now retired former Finance Officer—encouraged him to audition with NMHC, feeling he would make for a good Chautauquan. A Kit Carson scholar, Dave made quite the impression and thus began his journey with the NMHC Chautauqua.

Dave has presented in every major town in New Mexico—except Gallup, oddly enough, where he was born—and in numerous small communities as well. “I’ve enjoyed every minute of being a Chautauquan. I’ve gotten great assignments, met wonderful people. No matter where you go, there are people who want to hear what you have to



Dave Jackson

say.” Now, Dave is retiring from the NMHC Chautauqua after presenting over one hundred programs. He gave his last performance in Farmington, portraying Kit Carson, where three audience members from the Navajo Nation thanked him for educating people about the “real story.”

For info on Chautauqua programs visit: <http://nmhum.org/chautauqua>

## Mission

The New Mexico Humanities Council supports and conducts innovative and imaginative programs through the State that lead to a greater understanding of, and motivate interest in, the richness of our human experience and heritage.

El Consejo de las Humanidades de Nuevo México dirige y apoya programas novedosos y creativos a través de la provincia que conlleven a la mayor comprensión y motivación de nuestro rico legado cultural humano.



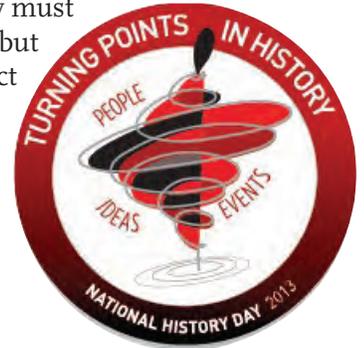
## National History Day 2013

### “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events”

The dictionary defines “turning point” as a point at which a decisive change takes place. So a turning point in history is more than just an important event that happened a long time ago. It is an idea, event or action that directly, and sometimes indirectly, caused change—it could be social, cultural, political and/or economic. Students are forced to ask questions of cause and effect, time and place, change

over time, impact and significance. They must ask not only when events happened but also why they happened and what impact they had.

For more information on the theme, visit: <http://nhd.org/AnnualTheme.htm>



## NHD Nationals Finalists

Three students (pictured right) from West Mesa High School in Albuquerque were finalists in the 2012 NHD National Competition. Their senior-level group performance focused on public reactions to the AIDS virus and its treatments. The AIDS virus was put on trial, with lawyers presenting cases for AIDS versus the public/humans being the cause for continuation of the epidemic. The students were able to interview AIDS patients, utilizing the interviews as part of their primary source material.



## NHD Special Award Winner

Los Alamos 6th grader Ruby Selvage is the New Mexico winner of the World War II National Museum *Salute to Freedom Award* essay competition. In two required essays, Ruby highlighted how participation in the NHD program has impacted her view of the past—specifically including what she has learned about how the past impacts the present—and she demonstrated how WWII has impacted New Mexico.

One national-level qualifying student from each state and Washington, D.C. was selected for an all-expense-paid weekend to partici-

pate in the opening of the new WWII museum in New Orleans. The grand opening of the **U.S. Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center** will take place January 12-13, 2013. The U.S. Freedom Pavilion will feature the macro-artifacts of WWII, including a B-17 “Flying Fortress” and an interactive submarine experience.



Ruby and her mother at the 2012 NHD National Competition

## New Mexico Humanities Council Awards Grants

The NMHC Board of Directors has provided partial funding for the following projects in the grant cycle listed below. To learn more about these grant funded projects, please contact Senior Program Officer, Michelle Quisenberry, at 505/633-7374.



### JUNE 2012 AWARDEES

**\$2,000 to the Gila Conservation Coalition** for the *8th Annual Gila River Festival*.



Donna Stevens,  
Project Director  
575/590-5698

**\$2,000 to West End Press** for *Crossing Borders: Personal, Regional, International: The Albuquerque Cultural Conference 2012*.

Leslie Fishburn Clark,  
Project Director  
505/217-3654

**\$2,000 to the Ad Hoc Committee William W. and Evangeline L. Dunmire** for *New Mexico's Living Landscape Lectures*.

William W. Dunmire,  
Project Director  
505/867-3474

**\$2,000 to the Raton Museum** for *Riders on the Orphan Train - Riders to New Mexico - Public Programs for Museums*.

Alison Moore,  
Project Director  
512/393-9457

**\$2,000 to the Center for International Studies** for *Immigration Around the World and What We Can Learn From It*.

Marina Oborotova,  
Project Director  
505/867-7277

**\$2,000 to the Albuquerque Theatre Guild** for *Recognizing New Mexico's Theatrical Past, Present and Future: An Interactive Symposium*.



Linda López McAlister,  
Project Director  
505/247-1909

For upcoming grant deadlines and guidelines, visit: <http://nmhum.org/grants/>

## 'Riders on the Orphan Train' Receives Award

Phil Lancaster and Alison Moore were awarded the National Orphan Train Complex's Charles Loring Brace Award for their work, presenting 'Riders on the Orphan Train.' The Charles Loring Brace award is awarded annually to a person who has helped to preserve the history of the Children's Aid Society's participation in the Orphan Train movement. Since 1997, the program has evolved into a finely-honed journey accompanied by literary characterization, origi-

nal song, and music played against the backdrop of film footage and still photographs. Lancaster and Moore have performed an estimated 15-20 programs per year over the last 15 years throughout the United States.



Phil Lancaster and Alison Moore

For information about the program, visit: <http://www.ridersontheorphantrain.org>



## Staff Member Retires

I arrived in Albuquerque in March of 2003, the welcome end of a 20-hour road trip from Illinois with three cats in the backseat, squalling in disharmony. I had long wanted to live in Albuquerque ever since I felt its power rounding the mountain during a snowstorm in 1972, but various ties kept me in Illinois. When one of those now-or-never times came about—a year when things fell apart in Illinois—I knew it was time to head west.

I had no job and no prospects, and the economy was in pretty sad shape. By miracle, I saw an ad in the Journal for an administrative assistant at the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities (now NMHC). Thanks to another miracle, I got the job and it has turned out to be the highlight of my working life. The supportive staff has been a revelation and a pleasure to work with. When I was given responsibility for the Chautauqua Program, I was over the top.

I've always had a soft spot for talented people, so managing the Chautauqua was a perfect fit for me. I've had the opportunity to plan special events, hold auditions and chat with sponsors to help them find the perfect presentation for their event. I've had the opportunity to meet and get to know many incredible people.

Attending presentations, I have heard so many comments that have touched me and convinced me that this program is special. I remember a performance by Walt Whitman, as portrayed by Bruce Noll, when he appeared at a high school. On the way out, I heard a girl say "I think I'll read some more Whitman. Maybe I'll do my paper on him." I understood perfectly; if I'd seen that presentation as a high school student, I might have become a Whitman scholar.



"I've always had a soft spot for talented people, so managing the Chautauqua was a perfect fit for me."

Many such moments never appear in the official evaluations of the program. But they are the important moments—when someone's heart is touched, their world expanded a little—and perhaps a seed is planted that will lead to further exploration.

The last couple of years have been hard ones for the Council and for the Chautauqua. Budget cuts have restricted the number of programs and ruled out any special events. We haven't been able to add new programs, either. But we now have a splendid new building with a large open room in front, that one day will house Chautauqua events on a regular basis.

It is a job I hate leaving, but the time has come to retire and move on to new things—my own writing, helping run my teacher's Yoga studio, making jewelry, and who knows what else will come along? As I leave the Chautauqua in the capable hands of my colleagues, I know that the current economic climate will improve and this program will grow and flourish, providing moments of deep feeling and connection amongst the tens of thousands who attend the events each year.

—Jessica Billings

Visit [nmhum.org](http://nmhum.org)  
for programs, grant information,  
and more!

# EVENTS



Felipe de Ortego y Gasca  
photo by Gilda B. Ortego

## Special Talk by NMHC Board Member

The Magic of Words in  
*Bless Me, Ultima*

**D**r. Felipe de Ortego y Gasca is considered the principal scholar of the Chicano Renaissance and founder of Chicano literary history with *Backgrounds of Mexican American Literature*, first study in the field. Please join him at 10:30 am on Saturday, November 10th at the Special Collections Library in Albuquerque where he will discuss Rudolfo Anaya's literary masterpiece *Bless Me, Ultima*.

For the full schedule of events, visit [www.library.cabq.gov/bigread](http://www.library.cabq.gov/bigread)

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



# Friends of NMHC

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