

Hettinger to Play Prominent Role in ND 125th Celebration

BISMARCK — In a joint effort with the South Dakota Humanities Council and the 125th Anniversary Committees from the states of North and South Dakota, the North Dakota Humanities Council will commemorate the entry of South and North Dakota into statehood with a special One Book collaboration.

“Dakota: A Spiritual Geography” by New York Times bestselling author Kathleen Norris will serve as the joint One Book for the two states in 2014. The San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle calls Norris “one of the most eloquent yet earthbound spiritual writers of our time.”

“The South Dakota Humanities Council is very pleased to be able to work with our neighboring state on this very special and unprecedented One Book collaboration,” said Sherry DeBoer, executive director for the South Dakota Humanities Council. “We are excited to commemorate both states’ heritage with the brilliant work of a tremendous author.”

A joint special edition of the book has been printed and free copies are being distributed to libraries across both states. The Adams County Library in Hettinger has thirty copies of the book on hand and will feature a “Dakota” book discussion on June 14, at 2 p.m. led by Margaret Barnhart of Dickinson State University. Contact library director Pat Anderson for more information.

“When Sherry called and asked if North Dakota wanted to partner on this project, I was thrilled,” said Brenna Gerhardt, executive director of the North Dakota Humanities Council. “When it was written, Norris’s book represented the Dakotas to the nation, and it still does. When I travel and tell people I’m from North Dakota, I often have people ask me if I’ve read “Dakota.” Revisiting her book is a lot like looking in the mirror and thinking, „Is this how people see us?“ I’m curious to see if people will agree with the picture she paints of us or find it as appealing as people from outside our borders do.”

Kathleen Norris will conduct a sixteen-city tour in North and South Dakota, including a special joint-state event in Hettinger, ND and Lemmon, SD on June 16, 2014. The day’s activities will kick off with a book talk and book signing with Kathleen Norris at 3:30 p.m. at the Lemmon Senior Center. At 5:30 p.m. residents from both states are invited to a public picnic in Mirror Lake Park sponsored by the Dakota Buttes Visitors Council followed by a Sense of Place Concert featuring music by Jessie Veeder

Scofield and Chuck Suchy with poetry woven through the performances by Kathleen Norris.

Blending western rock, blues and heartfelt honest lyrics Jessie Veeder Scofield released her first original album at age 16. Since then she has gone on to tour nationally and record three more albums. The latest "Nothing's Forever," released last fall, features the acclaimed song "Boomtown," a folk ballad about life for people in the Bakken that has been featured on area news programs, national and international documentaries.

Chuck Suchy is one of the foremost musical voices of the American Great Plains. A working farmer, born and raised and at home in the blue hills along the Missouri River south of Mandan, North Dakota, Chuck Suchy has a love for making music that goes back to his childhood. Suchy writes songs evoking and extolling the Great Plains region and lifestyle.

All events are free and open to the public. For more about the North Dakota Humanities Council and the One Book program, visit www.ndhumanities.org/.

A CELEBRATION OF WORDS & MUSIC

FEATURING

KATHLEEN NORRIS is the award-winning poet, writer, and author of *The New York Times* bestsellers *The Cloister Walk*, *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*, and *The Virgin of Bennington*. Exploring the spiritual life, her work is at once intimate and historical, rich in poetry and meditations, brimming with exasperation and reverence, deeply grounded in both nature and spirit, sometimes funny, and often provocative.

CHUCK SUCHY is one of the foremost musical voices of the American Great Plains. A working farmer, Suchy has written, sang and recorded music evoking and extolling the Great Plains region and American farm life. His themes have expanded to include relationships, spirituality, motorcycles, and even sailing. *Crossroads Magazine* has called Chuck "...one of the shining lights of the Upper Great Plains." His music and stories speak to everyone—urban and rural—because laughter, love, gain and loss are common human property.

JESSIE VEEDER SCOFIELD Singer, songwriter, photographer and writer Jessie Veeder Scofield tells the story of Western North Dakota. Blending western rock, blues and heartfelt honest lyrics, Jessie has been singing and talking about the buttes and creeks of her family's working cattle ranch since releasing her first original album at age 16. Since then, she has gone on to tour nationally and recorded three more albums. The latest "Nothing's Forever," released last fall, features the acclaimed song "Boomtown," a folk ballad about life of people in the Bakken.



MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014

3:30 PM, LEMMON SENIOR CENTER, LEMMON, SD

Book reading and signing by Kathleen Norris

5:30 PM, MIRROR LAKE PARK, HETTINGER, ND

Public picnic, followed by Sense of Place concert featuring Jessie Veeder Scofield, Chuck Suchy, and poetry by Kathleen Norris

Free and open to the public
For more information visit
www.ndhumanities.org/Dakota

