Friends, Food, Philanthropy. . .

They mix together so well! Especially when Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Trustees get involved.

This fall, three trustees hosted events to increase awareness of special projects for which the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is seeking funding, and to encourage gifts in support of them.

Joan Gibson of Omaha was the host of an event at the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha on September 21. Guests were pampered with wonderful food and enjoyed private, behind-the-scenes tours of the conservation laboratories. Ford Center conservators demonstrated conservation treatments on tin bowls from the Bertrand steamboat and a four-and-a-half-foot tall early 19th century dollhouse.

The Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney was the site of an event sponsored by Diane Oldfather of Lincoln. Diane’s goal for this event was to connect the Ford Center with art patrons cross the state, and what better site than MONA to make that connection? The MONA board of directors, county histori-
Above, left to right: Jackie McCullough, Foundation executive director, Julie Reilly, chief conservator of the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, and party hosts Joan Gibson and Don Wurster.

Right: Diane Oldfather (left) and Beverley Karrer at the MONA event hosted by Diane.

From Paintings to Pastures

The Nebraska State Historical Society and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications are co-producing a one-hour documentary about the history of beef in Nebraska.

Joanne Shephard was the host of a reception at the Valentine National Bank in Valentine on October 24, where guests were invited to “graze” on the fabulous appetizers and “beef up” on the documentary storyline. Senior Research Folklorist John Carter of the Nebraska State Historical Society was on hand to tell some unique tales learned during his research for the film. He encour-
aged everyone with stories to share to contact him at the historical society or email at jcarter@nebraskahistory.org.

Besides the opportunity to share ranching lore, there are still opportunities to join in the funding for the project. It has been well received, and 58 percent of the total funding has been rounded up (well, if we actually rounded up it would be 60 percent!).

Creating awareness of projects that highlight and preserve our state’s treasures—physical and intellectual—is an invaluable contribution our trustees provide. Thanks to Joan, Diane, and Joanne for providing occasions to share the history of Nebraska and the fascinating ways the Nebraska State Historical Society is capturing and preserving that history for future generations.

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**Yes, You Can Make a Charitable Contribution from Your IRA**

If you are at least seventy-and-one-half years old the Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed by President Bush in August 2006, makes it possible for you to transfer distributions directly from your Individual Retirement Accounts to the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. By doing so you avoid receiving—and paying income taxes on—the required minimum distribution. Donated distributions up to $100,000 per year from your IRAs are tax-free and are not subject to early-withdrawal penalties.

Britt Miller, a registered investment advisor with Smith Hayes, pointed out that distributions from an IRA to the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation could make it possible to do even more to support Nebraska history when the distribution is used by the Foundation to pay the premium of a life insurance policy on that donor.

“If you are forced to take the minimum distribution from your IRA and you don’t need the income, there is a way to use that distribution and magnify your gift for a long term impact with the Foundation,” said Miller.

“By designating the distribution to the Foundation, the donor avoids paying income taxes on the distribution. The Foundation purchases a life insurance policy on the donor naming the Foundation as its beneficiary. The future endowment created by that life insurance policy’s proceeds will eventually be worth many times the value of the IRA gifts,” Miller explained.

As with all financial planning, please talk with your investment or tax advisor to learn more about which options are best suited to your plans and goals.

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Chief Conservator Julie Reilly cleans a painting. The Foundation is working to raise money to endow a paintings laboratory for the Ford Center.

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Jackie McCullough
Executive Director
Because of the Nebraska State Historical Society’s need for private funding, The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation was incorporated in 1942 as a public, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization to serve as a vehicle to receive private funds donated to assist the Nebraska State Historical Society and its activities. Although the NSHS is a state agency, it relies on gifts from its members and friends to make certain that the physical manifestations of our heritage are preserved, interpreted, and remembered for the inspiration of future generations.

The Foundation leadership is provided by its board of trustees—individuals from across the country who play a role in assuring Nebraska’s history will be accessible to future generations by carefully managing the assets of the Foundation to provide support for the Historical Society’s activities.

How can you make a gift in support of Nebraska history? Gifts to the Foundation can be made in several ways—

- Cash or credit card gifts
- Appreciated securities
- Current value of buildings or land donated
- Life insurance
- Gift by bequest
- Charitable gift trusts and annuities
- Permanent endowments

Examples of projects already made possible with private support—

- “An Evening with Ken Burns, America’s Greatest Storyteller”
- The Bostock Studio photographs
- Lincoln’s History Mystery
- Patriot truck purchased
- Civil War records microfilmed
- Buffalo Soldiers historical marker erected
- Books published
- Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center built