



Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes was one of the leading literary lights of the Harlem Renaissance. Born in Missouri, Hughes spent much of his childhood in Lawrence, Kansas. His experiences battling Jim Crow laws and de-facto segregation there helped shape his view of the world. Hughes's writing examined the unique space occupied by African-Americans in the United States and the world, and touches on themes of race, dignity, injustice, humor, and grace—all in a truly original voice. Hughes wrote plays, novels, short stories, poems and newspaper columns. In each form, he successfully spoke out against social inequalities while using rhythms, cadence and language drawn from Black churches, jazz and the blues. One of America's greatest writers, Langston Hughes's work is as relevant today as it was throughout the 20th Century.



Charles Everett Pace, who has performed before a joint session of the Kansas Legislature, is familiar to Kansans from his 2004 appearance with the Bleeding *Kansas Chautauqua*, as well as his sixteen years as a member of the *Great Plains Chautauqua*. This year, he will bring Langston Hughes to life as part of the *Famous Kansans Chautauqua*. Pace has taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Purdue University, and most recently at Centre College in Kentucky. In 2007, Pace will also present composer Scott Joplin at the *Great Basin Chautauqua*, Malcolm X at the *Nebraska Chautauqua*, and Frederick Douglass at the *Prairie Land Chautauqua*.