Join us for a brown-bag lunch and a fascinating historical program by some of Lincoln's favorite historians. Lunch is served at 12:15 and the program begins at 12:30. Reservations and payments due by noon the Monday before the event. *Reservations are required even if you are not having lunch.*

This season, the series will spotlight Nebraska government. First, we'll explore the history of the Capitol buildings. Yes, there was more than one! Then, we'll take a tour of the current building. Next, we'll look at what goes on inside the building that houses the legislature. After that, we’ll examine one specific issue, the death penalty, that highlights how our government works on controversial issues. Finally, if government is of the people, who are the people who live in Nebraska? To answer that, we’ll focus on the history of the census in Nebraska, and our state’s changing demographics.

- **Nebraska's Early Capitol Buildings—Jim McKee**  
  Wednesday, April 20  
  It’s said the third time is a charm. In the case of the Nebraska State Capitol, the fifth time was the charm since the first four were flops. Jim will discuss the first four Nebraska State Capitols and why they failed spectacularly.

- **Nebraska's Capitol Environs—Ed Zimmer**  
  Wednesday, May 18  
  The Nebraska State Capitol has been a centerpiece of Lincoln's urban design since the community's founding in 1867. Ed will describe how the Capitol's environs have been protected and enhanced since that time.

- **History of the Present Capitol—Matt Hansen**  
  Wednesday, June 15  
  This presentation will explore the history, design, and construction of our present Nebraska State Capitol.
• **Capitol Tour—Bob Ripley** (Special event: maximum 20 participants)  
  Wednesday, June 22  
  *(Must attend June 15 presentation to attend tour)*  
  Bob will guide a lucky few on a tour of the State Capitol, focusing on some of its major renovation projects, followed by lunch in the Capitol cafeteria.

• **History of the Nebraska Legislature—Kate Heltzel**  
  Wednesday, July 20  
  Kate’s presentation will provide an overview of the forces at work in the creation of the Nebraska Unicameral. It also will explore the evolution of the nation’s only one-house legislature.

• **History of Nebraska's Death Penalty—Bill Kelly**  
  Wednesday, Aug. 17  
  The 2012 documentary “Until He Is Dead: A History of Nebraska's Death Penalty,” was praised for its balanced treatment of this controversial topic. In his presentation, Bill will discuss how he made that documentary and the history of how this controversial law was passed.

• **History of the Nebraska Census—Mary Sauers**  
  Wednesday, Sept. 21  
  From pioneer times to the present, Nebraska’s demographics have changed significantly. Mary will explain those changes according to the 2020 Census.