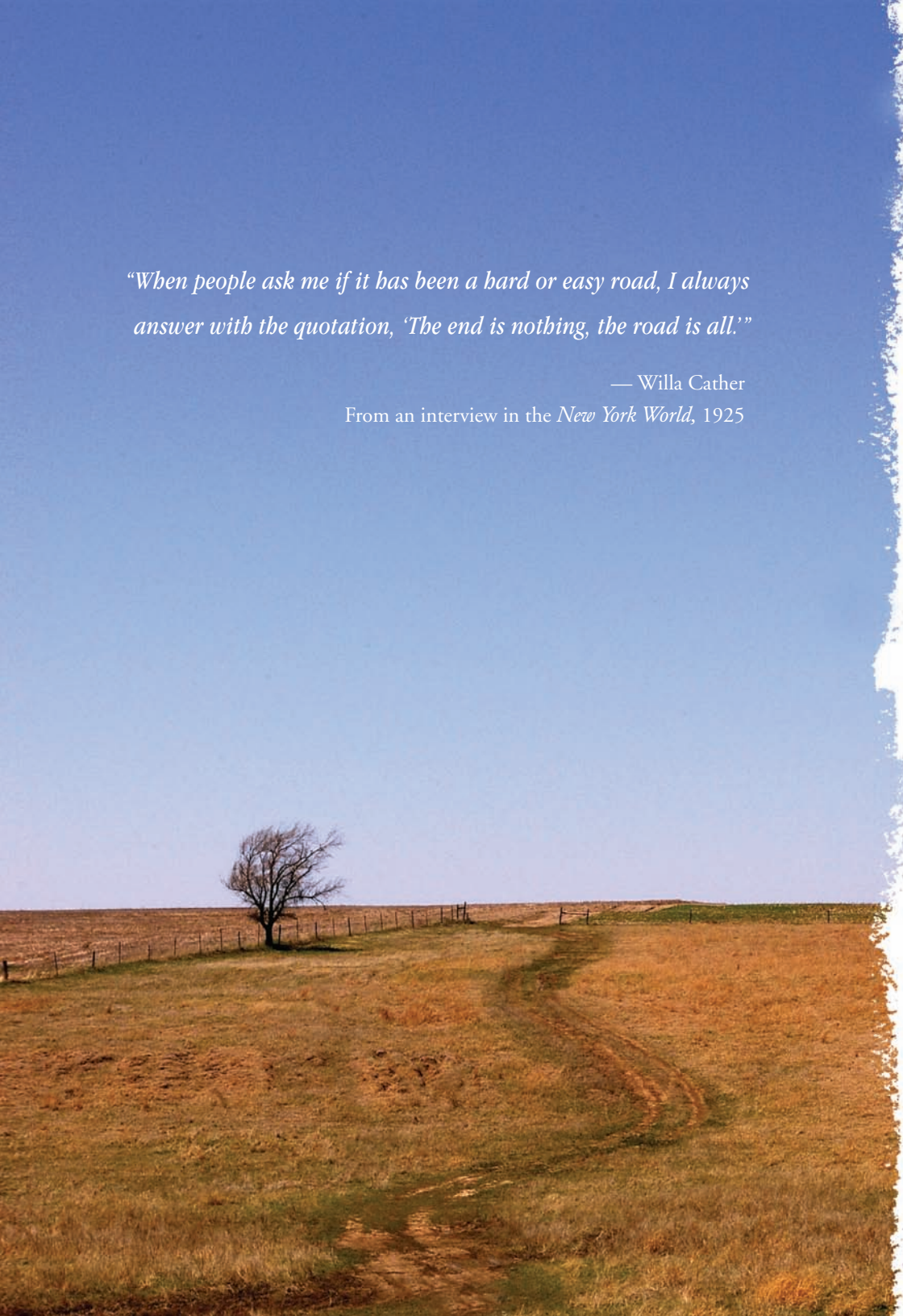




THE WILLA CATHER



FOUNDATION



“When people ask me if it has been a hard or easy road, I always answer with the quotation, ‘The end is nothing, the road is all.’”

— Willa Cather

From an interview in the *New York World*, 1925

The Willa Cather Foundation

*Promoting appreciation and understanding of the life and works of Willa Cather.
Preserving the historical settings and archives associated with her timeless writings.*

To Our Friends and Supporters

Greetings from Red Cloud... (and New York)! As a native of Cather's hometown and now a longtime New York City dweller, I am pleased to welcome you to the Willa Cather Foundation's second annual report. Having my heart in the prairie and my head in the city, I get a unique perspective on the magnitude of the wonderful work that the Foundation does every day to help assure that Nebraska's greatest literary light remains known as one of America's greatest authors. In addition to the splendid offerings described in this report, the Foundation continues to do much more: 2008 marked our 53rd annual Spring Conference in Red Cloud, and in 2009 we'll be hosting our 54th, as well as our 12th biennial International Cather Seminar — this time in Chicago. 2008 also saw us hosting our first Board of Governors' Dinner during Spring Conference (a most enjoyable time was had by all), as well as moving forward on our current historic restoration project: the redevelopment of the Moon Block Building. This undertaking will allow us to expand our work and give us the proper archives we've dreamed of for so long. A revitalized Moon Block, along with the preservation and use of the nine historic properties we manage, is a vital part of our mission in promoting rural community development in one of America's best-known hometowns. Despite the setback our endowment assets have taken, we will soldier on, doing the great work we have done for decades. We thank you for your continuing support and invite you to join us on this fun and edifying journey!



John A (Jay) Yost, President
Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors



When Willa Cather borrowed a quote to remind us that “the end is nothing, the road is all,” she was, as usual, prescient. 2008 was proof that our efforts along the road to fulfill our mission are ever-growing, and successful.

Our mile-markers included a first Elderhostel with a second already in swing; the early phases of prairie restoration with a burn plan set for late April 2009; prestigious guest presenters such as the acclaimed artist Steve Joy and noted author John Price; resumption of a Prairie Writers' Workshop to be held annually; a newly enhanced website drawing substantial numbers of worldwide visitors; increased programming including nationally renowned theatre and Smithsonian exhibits; up-to-date inventory management in the bookstore; and so much more that cannot fit within these pages.

As I look into our future — and commemorate past partners whom we have lost — I know that we're doing what they'd have wanted most: we're charging ahead on the road that is, as Cather tells us, all.

The deepest thanks to each and every friend who makes this possible.



Cynthia Bruneteau
Executive Director



A Wagner Matinee, based on Willa Cather's short story, was a multimedia dance performance created by Nebraska-born dancer-choreographer Laura Diffenderfer. It premiered during the 2008 Spring Conference.

Creative Life at the Red Cloud Opera House

It was at the Red Cloud Opera House that the young Willa Cather received her early exposure to the fine arts, which would one day figure powerfully in her work. In the Opera House's first years, untold numbers of others — everyday folks who would not go on to become Pulitzer Prize-winning writers of timeless appeal — also had the great good fortune of experiencing the pleasures of Opera House attractions.

It was dark for decades, but today the Opera House facility is alive again, fulfilling the Foundation's goal of bringing to new audiences the same stimulating artistic and cultural experiences that inspired Willa Cather.

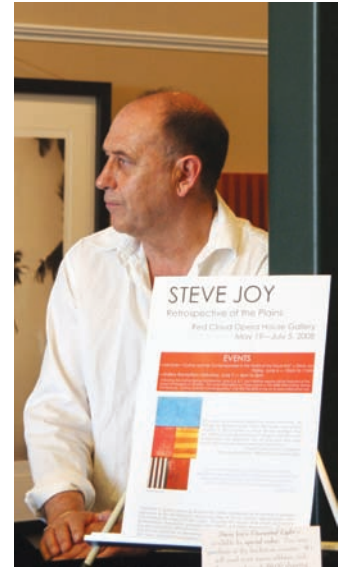
As the centerpiece of our programming in 2008, the Willa Cather Foundation presented *A Kaleidoscope of Worlds*. This season-long series of theatrical productions, films, and musical performances examined the changing nature of rural and urban America from past to present. One memorable event was on Halloween, when the well-known Alloy Orchestra provided live musical accompaniment to a newly minted print of the classic silent film, *The Phantom of the Opera*. This event was made possible in part thanks to a first-time grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In the Art Gallery

The Opera House Gallery's exhibit of British artist Steve Joy's richly constructed abstract paintings provided a stunning visual complement to the events of the 53rd annual Willa Cather Spring Conference, and gave viewers an exclusive preview of *Uncreated Light*, Joy's 2008 retrospective exhibit at Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha.

Joy's work — brilliantly hued, vividly geometric — evokes the spirituality of places, both the exotic and close-to-home. It is highly compatible with the work of Willa Cather, who famously celebrated her home prairies while also nursing a lifelong wanderlust. The Foundation was honored by this association and proud to host this memorable exhibit.

Other memorable Gallery exhibits in 2008 included the premiere showing of "Adventures of Africa," featuring the photographs of acclaimed Nebraska-born nature photographer Bruce Bohlen, and "The Rise of a Landmark: Lewis Hine and the Empire State Building," showcasing the work of American photographer Lewis Hine and developed by George Eastman House.



Artist Steve Joy in the Opera House Gallery.



In 2008 the Foundation welcomed its annual guests, the Missoula Children's Theatre, a theatre-immersion camp helping young people build teamwork skills, express themselves creatively...and put on a show! Here they are in this year's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Strong New Alliances

Under the co-sponsorship of the Service-Learning Academy of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, 26 hard-working students from all over the world spent their fall break repainting the exterior of Willa Cather's childhood home — and, because they were a very dedicated group, the interior of the Opera House Gallery as well. This was the Foundation's first project with the Service-Learning Academy, an organization that fosters mutually beneficial partnerships among community organizations, students, and schools. Spearheaded by Susan Maher, Vice President of the Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors and Chair of the Department of English at UNO, this collaboration with the Service-Learning Academy will lead to additional Foundation projects in 2009 and beyond.



Service-Learning Academy students at Willa Cather's childhood home. Joining them are the Cather Foundation's Executive Director Cynthia Bruneteau (left), Board of Governors Vice President Susan Maber (fourth from left), and Service-Learning Academy Director Paul Sather (far right).



The Prairie Muse

With the Prairie Writers' Workshop held June 23-27, 2008, the Foundation revived an educational tradition originally established by Mildred Bennett, our founder. This year, 14 writers had the unique opportunity to develop and refine their work under the direction of poet and educator Lorraine Duggin. Drawing inspiration from the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie and working in a variety of genres, participants spent their days on the Prairie and convened for working sessions in the evening, under Duggin's guidance. They read from their work at a well-attended public reception at the close of the weeklong course. The workshop will be held again July 13 -17, 2009.



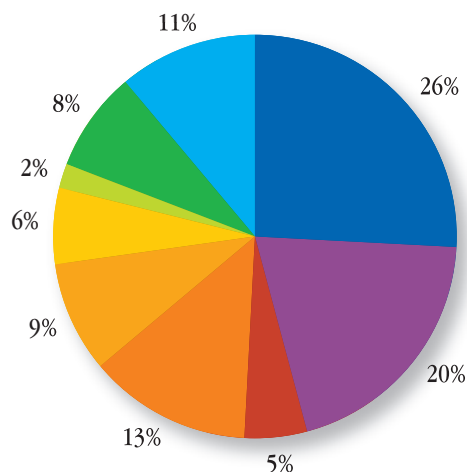
A public reading at the Prairie Writers' Workshop.



A writer at work on the Cather Prairie. 2008 was a busy year for prairie restoration, with the completion of new hiking trails, removal of more than 2,000 non-native trees, control measures against invasive species, and propagation of the rare wildflower, Fremont's clematis, native to Webster County. These are just a few of the active steps being taken year-round under the direction of the Prairie Management Committee of the Willa Cather Foundation.

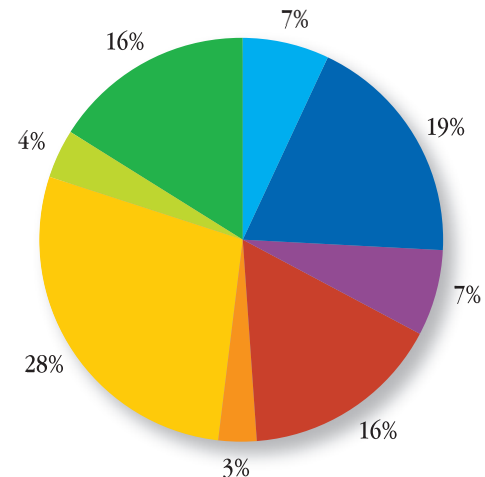
Financial Summary 2008

Support and Revenue



■ Contributions	\$142,207
■ Grants	107,615
■ Prairie Contributions, Grants, and Rent	25,993
■ Nebraska State Historical Society Contract	68,430
■ Membership Fees	47,720
■ Bookstore Sales	33,236
■ Tours	8,423
■ Conferences, Seminars, and Other	40,169
■ Opera House Admissions, Donations, and Grants	55,643
Total Support and Revenue	\$529,436

Use of Funds



Program Services

■ Bookstore, Publications, Conferences, and Seminars	\$ 37,716
■ Nebraska State Historical Society Operations and Maintenance	106,031
■ Opera House Programming	37,080
■ Operations and Maintenance	86,504
■ Cather Prairie Operations and Maintenance	16,429

Supporting Services

■ Management and General Expenses	160,255
■ Development	21,031
■ Depreciation	88,285

Total Expenditures

\$553,331

For the Willa Cather Foundation, as with most nonprofit organizations, 2008 was a financially challenging year. As a result of market turmoil, net investment losses in our endowment and other interests amounted to \$332,668 by year's end — a 28% decrease that, proportionally, was better than the results of many nonprofit organizations nationwide.

While this setback did not prevent us from creating a rich program of activities, it does aggravate a perennial problem of structural deficits in our operating income. We earnestly look to our generous donors for help in closing the gap between income and expenditures.

The figures on this page are based on final year-end audited information compiled by an independent accounting firm.

Support

The following individuals and organizations were donors to the Willa Cather Foundation in 2008. Some donations may include payment on a pledge or grant; gifts including such a payment are denoted by an asterisk. Space does not permit us to list donations under \$50.00, but we are grateful for these contributions as every gift is important to us.

\$15,000 to \$24,999

Don E. Connors Estate – Huntington Beach, CA
Lucia Woods Lindley – Evanston, IL
United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development* – Kearney, NE

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Garnet Lewis – Red Cloud, NE
Nebraska Arts Council*/Nebraska Cultural Endowment – Omaha, NE
Nebraska Humanities Council* – Lincoln, NE
Jim & Angela Southwick – Heber City, UT
John A. (Jay) Yost & G. Wade Leak – New York, NY

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Bob & Joanne Berkshire – Omaha, NE
Thomas Reese Gallagher – New York, NY
Reese Gates – Red Cloud, NE
Nebraska Environmental Trust* – Lincoln, NE

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Nebraska Travel & Tourism* – Lincoln, NE
Kenneth T. Olson – Chicago, IL
Jim & Trish Schreiber – Meadow Vista, CA
R.T. Vanderbilt Trust – Norwalk, CT

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Richard (Dick) Amack – Lac Du Flambeau, WI
Jo Bass – Omaha, NE
Dr. William G. Bennett – Vancouver, WA
Joel & Chris Geyer – Lincoln, NE
Hansen-Wulf, Inc.* – Red Cloud, NE
James W. Johnson & Michael L. Connell – New York, NY
Kinder Porter Scott Family Foundation – Lincoln, NE
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Lainson – Hastings, NE
Geraldine L. Lewis – Red Cloud, NE
Charles & Nancy Peek – Grand Island, NE
Peoples-Webster County Bank – Red Cloud, NE
David H. & Helen Porter – Saratoga Springs, NY
Red Cloud Community Foundation* – Red Cloud, NE
Frank & Shirley Sibert – Kearney, NE
LeRoy & Jean Thom – Hastings, NE
Gary & Marcia Thompson – Red Cloud, NE
Joseph & Lesley Urgo – Clinton, NY
Dayre & Lu Williams – Red Cloud, NE
Yost/Leak Historic Preservation Fund* – Red Cloud, NE

\$500 to \$999

Virgil & Dolores Albertini – Kansas City, MO
Bruce & Karen Baker – Omaha, NE
Erma B. Bennett – Indianapolis, IN
Dr. Fred & Mary Bliss – Davis, CA
Marilyn B. Callander, Ph.D. – Lebanon, NJ
Nancy Chinn – Waco, TX
Roy & Gloria Dinsdale – Palmer, NE
Elise R. Donohue – Clyde Park, MT
Gary Thompson Agency, Inc. – Red Cloud, NE
Richard C. Harris – Sea Cliff, NY
Historic Preservation Fund of Red Cloud Community Foundation* – Red Cloud, NE
Judy Morhart Hudson – Santa Rosa, CA
John Cather Ickis – Alajuela, Costa Rica
Julie Morsman Schroeder Foundation – Omaha, NE
Fred & Diane Kaufman – Hays, KS
Mary M. Liebmann – Red Cloud, NE
Charles W. & Mary Mignon – Lincoln, NE
Natural Resources Conservation Service* – Red Cloud, NE

James R. & Janet M. O’Keeffe* – Hastings, NE
David & Susan Parry – Washington, DC
Wendy K. Perriman – Mooresville, NC
Bernard J. & Nancy S. Picchi – New York, NY
Red Cloud Women’s Chamber – Red Cloud, NE
Republican Valley Arts Council – Red Cloud, NE
Kathryne E. Shannon – Castle Rock, CO
Brad & Nancy Sherwood – Red Cloud, NE
Merrill Skaggs – Madison, NJ
Barbara Sprague – Red Cloud, NE
C. Kay Stahly – Kearney, NE
Robert Thacker – Canton, NY
Curtis & Margaret A. Watson – Red Cloud, NE
Cynthia Griffin Wolff – Green Valley, AZ

\$250 to \$499

Colleen & Dr. George Adam – Hastings, NE
Harold & Marian Andersen – Omaha, NE
Anonymous
Larry Apolzon & Jim Stanton – New York, NY
Jeffrey J. Cataudella – Deep River, CT
Virginia Christopher – Bucklin, KS
Jeanne C. Collins – Denver, CO
John Conley – Omaha, NE
Linda High Daniel – Culpepper, VA
Mary M. Dixon – Hastings, NE
James L. Farmer – Red Cloud, NE
Farmers Co-op Association – Red Cloud, NE
Larry & Lyn Fenwick – Fort Worth, TX

Dr. & Mrs. William L. Fowles – Grand Island, NE
Ideal & Sonya Gamera – San Rafael, CA
Dave & Marietta Garwood – Red Cloud, NE
Eugene Gauger – Lambertville, MI
Great Plains Communications – Blair, NE
Stacey Guill – Boise, ID
Harry Hall – Omaha, NE
Dennis & Sally Hansen – Red Cloud, NE
Jon & Christine Hoek – Gansevoort, NY
Jane Renner Hood – Lincoln, NE
Ron & Naomi Hull – Lincoln, NE
Andrew & Becca Jewell – Lincoln, NE
Ruth & Jim Keene III – Omaha, NE
Thomas Kelley – Santa Ana, CA
Betty & Ron Kort – Hastings, NE
Pam Lay – Hastings, NE
Cheryl Livingston – Golden, CO
Susan Maher & Al Kammerer – Omaha, NE
Dr. Mark & Bonnie Gill Manhart – Omaha, NE
Susan D. McClanahan – New York, NY
John D. & Deborah Ann Mercer – Oak Park, IL
Mid America Arts Alliance* – Kansas City, MO
Dan & Kathryn Moore – Raleigh, NC
Bill & Louise Mountford – Lincoln, NE
Elsa Nettels – Williamsburg, VA
Glenda J. Pierce – Lincoln, NE
Ramona Proctor – Sterling, CO
Ann Romines – Alexandria, VA
Steve Shively – Logan, UT
Art & Linda Staubit – Tucson, AZ
Sylvia A. Stevens & Dawn A. Nehls – Mesa, AZ
Sidney Wade – Gainesville, FL
Dan Yost – Hastings, NE
John & Ardis Yost – Red Cloud, NE
Josh Yost & Amy Skalka – Hastings, NE

\$100 to \$249

Martha Ackmann – Leverett, MA
Alan & Sharon Amack – Red Cloud, NE
Antje Anderson – Hastings, NE
Helen L. Anderson – Seward, NE
Sylvia L. Antholz – Denver, CO
Ken & Keron Bailey – Guide Rock, NE
Ellen Baldwin – Lincoln, NE
Michele A. Barale – Amherst, MA
Carol Barnes – Colby, KS
Mary Jane Barnes – Baldwin Park, CA
Roger & Joan Bassett – Fullerton, NE
Duane & Clare Baylor – Ralston, NE
Wally & Barb Bean – Hastings, NE
Bill & Elaine Beezley – Red Cloud, NE
Duane & Ardyce Biede – Hastings, NE
Timothy W. Bintrim – Johnstown, PA
Connie Bostock – Red Cloud, NE
Mark W. & Ashley Bostock – Greeley, CO
Roger Bradford – Lexington, MA
Mary J. Brumbaugh – Red Cloud, NE
Jim & Patricia Burdyny – Omaha, NE
Laurie Smith Camp – Omaha, NE
John R. Campbell – Omaha, NE
Senator Tom & Margo Carlson – Holdrege, NE
Barb Clark – Perry, IA
Jack L. & Tia Clarke – Newbury Park, CA
Robert & Carolyn Cohen – Boulder, CO
Beverly J. Cooper – Hastings, NE
James G. Croghan – New York, NY
William M. Curtin – Storrs Mansfield, CT
Nancy B. Dadey – Grand Island, NE
Patrick & Kelli Daly – Lenexa, KS
Alice Dittman – Lincoln, NE
Josh Dolezal – Pella, IA
Dr. Jerry Dollar – Poestenkill, NY
Frank Dowding – Saint Paul, MN
Jane K. Dressler – Kent, OH
Anna Dunbar – Denver, CO
Dave & Linda Eckhoff – Red Lodge, MT
Becky Faber – Lincoln, NE
William S.J. Fraenkel – Mamaroneck, NY
Abe & Pauline Fratts – Santa Ana, CA
Elisabeth R. French – Washington, DC
Pamela L. Gallagher & Dean B. Ott – Grand Island, NE
Gil & Susan Garcia – Loveland, CO
Frank & Wanda Garro – Costa Mesa, CA
Sarah Glickenhau – Scarsdale, NY
Mark D. Greenberg – Denver, CO
Frank Griswold – Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Mark & Laurie Guy – Grand Forks, ND
George & Judith Haecker – Omaha, NE
Dr. Evelyn Haller – Lincoln, NE
Lizabeth & David Halsted – Hastings, NE
John & Sandra Hanna – Omaha, NE
Henry & Shirley Hansen – Phoenix, AZ
Wayne M. & Velma Hansen – Dorchester, NE
Dee & Jerri Haussler – Hastings, NE
Jeffrey Hayden & Eva Marie Saint – Los Angeles, CA
Linda Healy – South Sioux City, NE
Terry Heller – Cedar Rapids, IA
Charles & Margaret Hermes – Hastings, NE
Dawson C. Heron – Concord, MA
Edward A. Hinz, Jr. – Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Priscilla Hollingshead – Inavale, NE
Melissa J. Homestead – Lincoln, NE
Clara G. Hoover – Omaha, NE
Neil R. Hoover – Sioux City, IA
Steven S. & Annette Huff – Omaha, NE
Lewis & Pamela Hunter – Superior, NE
Barbara E. Hustwit – Wooster, OH
Janis Isenberger – Los Alamitos, CA
Carol A. Jacobs – Woodland Park, CO
Beth Jensen – Duluth, GA
Dr. Barbara Johnson – Aberdeen, SD
Elaine D. Johnson – Oak Park, IL
Robert & Harriett Johnson – Hastings, NE
William & Annamary Jordan – Newport Beach, CA
Tom & Eleanor Jorgenson – Hastings, NE
Dale & Jan Juranek – Blue Hill, NE
Diane Karr – Blue Hill, NE
David Katz – New York, NY
Doris J. Kim – Whittier, CA
Sarajejan King – Golden, CO
Don & Patricia Anne Kingsley – Hastings, NE
Phyllis Klein – Boulder, CO
Robert & Virginia Knoll – Lincoln, NE
David L. & Amy Komblau – Manhasset, NY
Paul R. & Lynette R. Krieger – Hastings, NE
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Kurtz, Jr. – Clearfield, PA
Mellanee Kvasnicka – La Vista, NE
Sean E. Lake – Warrington, PA
Geneva Lewis – Bladen, NE
Trudy Lieberman – New York, NY
Kathryn K. Lilley – Fredericksburg, VA
Abigail A. Loomis – Madison, WI
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Loutzenheiser – Hastings, NE
Ann Mactier – Omaha, NE
Frank R. Markley – Ashland, OH
Dr. Elizabeth H. Marsh – Morrystown, NJ
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Mastin – Hastings, NE
Dee Ann McCurdy – Red Cloud, NE
David & Carla McGill – Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Therese J. McGuire – Evanston, IL
John & Nadine McHenry – Lincoln, NE
Andrew & E. Laura McLaughlin – El Cajon, CA
Morris B. Mellion, M.D. & Irene C. Mellion – Teton Village, WY
James R. Messenger – Marietta, GA
Gary & Beverly Meyer – Red Cloud, NE
Jane Miller – Cincinnati, OH
Maria Isabel Morales – Kenosha, WI
Jack D. & Mary Ellen White Morton – Palo Alto, CA
Fred & Ann Moseley – Cumby, TX

Fritz Mountford – Hastings, NE
Mary Ellen Mulcahy – Omaha, NE
Maric Munn – San Francisco, CA
Anne Myers – Red Cloud, NE
Katsuya Naito – Claremont, CA
Margaret O'Connor – Pomona, CA
Stan & Phyllis Offner – Red Cloud, NE
Julie Olin-Ammentorp – Manlius, NY
Jack & Pamela Osborne – Hastings, NE
Sabine Oswald – Frankfurt, Germany
Norma June Peterson – Red Cloud, NE
Katherine Pettersen – Red Cloud, NE
Joan S. Petty – Corona del Mar, CA
Gary F. & Jean F. Pokorny – El Cerrito, CA
Gene & Margaret Pokorny – Jaffrey, NH
Noel Polk – Starkville, MS
Arthur & Janice Post – Saunderstown, RI
Diane L. Prenatt – Indianapolis, IN
John & Deb Quirk – Hastings, NE
Karma Ragland – Red Cloud, NE
Jane Rainis – Palm City, FL
Andrew H. & Ruth Raun – Hastings, NE
Elaine Rayman – Calabasas, CA
Guy Reynolds – Lincoln, NE
Leslie Riasanovsky – Huntington Beach, CA
Ky & Jane Rohman – Lincoln, NE
Sheri Rose – Springfield, OR
Dr. Elizabeth Sabiston – Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Martha J. Sallet – Bowie, MD
Betty Sayers – Holdrege, NE
Gabriel Scala – Lebanon, PA
Marilyn K. Schroeder – Topeka, KS
Jim Severance – Loganville, WI
John Sherwood – Red Cloud, NE
D. Charles Shoemaker & Lynne A. Friedewald – Hastings, NE
Edward & Jeri Shute – Red Cloud, NE
Margie Silberstein & Lenny Bloom – Potomac, MD
Dr. Marjorie S. Sirtidge – Kansas City, MO
Paul G. & Annette L. Smith – Omaha, NE
Marcus J. & Pamela H. Snow – Ashland, NE
Jonathan & Sandra Sparks – Greenwich, CT
State of Nebraska Tourism-Sarah Baker – Lincoln, NE
Delia Stephens – Leawood, KS
Dr. David & Kathleen Stoddard – Grand Island, NE
Richard G. Stratton – Buffalo, NY
Roy M. Sullivan – Indiana, PA
Terese Svoboda – New York, NY
Sandra Swan – Weston, CT
Dwight E. Theobald – Red Cloud, NE
Bette Tien – Prairie View, KS
Alexandra Truitt – South Salem, NY
Antoinette Turner – Bladen, NE
Richard & Karen Vierk – Lincoln, NE
Margaret D. Vogel & Marvin I. Friedman – Potomac, MD
Joel D. Wagoner – Blue Hill, NE
Katherine L. Walter – Lincoln, NE

John Wallace & Nancy Clay Webster – Omaha, NE
Shirley Wenzel – Elmwood, NE
William A. West – Denver, CO
Bruce Whitacre & Pierce McCormack – New York, NY
Rev. Thomas C. Widner S.J. – Indianapolis, IN
Barbara Wiselogel – Red Cloud, NE
Dr. James Woodress – Claremont, CA
Jerry & Vicki Yost – Hastings, NE
Harriett & Virgil Zade – Red Cloud, NE

\$50 to \$99

Allegheny College of Maryland Library – Cumberland, MD
James & Harriett Allen – Fort Collins, CO
Henry Altchek – New York, NY
Florence Amamoto – St. Peter, MN
Kari Anderson – Kearney, NE
Cheryl Arends – Omaha, NE
Pamela Baker – Lincoln, NE
Laura Barlament – Staten Island, NY
Gary W. Barth – Hastings, NE
Elizabeth M. Beasley – Kansas City, MO
Mary Beezley – Red Cloud, NE
Judith A. Beine – Franklin, WI
Susan Belasco – Lincoln, NE
Douglas & Louise Bereuter – Alamo, CA
Berggren Architects – Lincoln, NE
Ann Billesbach & John Carter – Lincoln, NE
Charles & Kay Blackstone – Red Cloud, NE
Terry & Susanne Bloomfield – Holdrege, NE
Susannah Bohlke – Brooklyn, NY
Russ & Tonia Bomhoff – Bainbridge Island, WA
Jack & Sandra Bowen – Little Rock, AR
M.B. Bradley – Denver, CO
Modere & Kathy Bruneteau – Omaha, NE
Bryn Mawr College Library – Bryn Mawr, PA
Ken Burns – Walpole, NH
LoAnn Campbell – Hendersonville, NC
Sandra Carlson – Grand Island, NE
Pam & Jim Carrier – Lincoln, NE
Dr. Isabella Caruso – Brooklyn, NY
Ruth Challburg – Red Cloud, NE
Mary Chinery – Lakewood, NJ
Cloyd Clark – McCook, NE
Edith Cleaves – Jarrettsville, MD
Roy Ellen Connelly – Sioux Falls, SD
Roy E. Cook – East Granby, CT
Evelyn M. Copeland – Southbury, CT
Barbara Jean Cortesio – Des Moines, IA
Marjorie A. Creamer – Hays, KS
Roger & Pat Crook – Red Cloud, NE
Peter & Jill Crooker – Pittsford, NY
Kassui Daigaku – Nagasaki, Japan
Mary Ann Daily – Cambridge, MA
Alex & Patricia DeGiovanni – Lilliwaup, WA
F. Delbanco Journals – Lueneburg, Germany
Bill Demke – Omaha, NE

Cat DeRose – Denver, CO
Rodney Deuel – Superior, NE
Sally J. Dickman – Phoenix, AZ
Louise C. Drapek – South Bend, IN
Robbie Dunlap – Longmont, CO
Linda M. Dyer – Amherst, NH
East Tennessee State University Library – Johnson City, TN
Jim & Terri Eberly – Red Cloud, NE
Richard & Carolyn Edwards – Lincoln, NE
David & Connie Eldred – Plano, TX
Rebecca L. Evers – Kearney, NE
Willia G. Ferebee – Red Cloud, NE
Gertrude E. Ferguson – Shawnee Mission, KS
Paul Finney – Humboldt, KS
William Fitts – Lincoln, NE
James L. & Marianne Fitzgibbon – Red Cloud, NE
Ellen Foster – Grove City, PA
David Fulmer – Ann Arbor, MI
Evelyn Funda – Logan, UT
Henry H. & Josephine G. Gardiner – Greenwood Village, CO
Mary Ida Garrard – Sherman, TX
Steve & Lisa Bouma Garvelink – Grand Rapids, MI
Don R. Gerlach – Akron, OH
Barbara Gilpin – Omaha, NE
Carol Goering – Platte Center, NE
Jane Goldman & Joel Konigsberg – New York, NY
Barry J. & Marlea Gruver – Cherry Hill, NJ
Neil Gustafson – La Grande, OR
Dr. Natalie D. Hahn – New York, NY
Susan A. Hallgarth – Corrales, NM
Ellen Halmes – Elwood, NE
Ibby Hancock – Omaha, NE
Sherrill Harbison – Amherst, MA
David Harrell – Santa Fe, NM
Leroy & Una Hartman – Red Cloud, NE
Anthony Haswell – Tucson, AZ
Joanne Hively – Mill Valley, CA
Marlin & Marie Hoffman – Red Cloud, NE
Matthew Hokom – Fairmont, WV
Reverend Nancy D. Hooper Horvath – Sardinia, OH
Kathy Hromadka – Hastings, NE
Wilbur Huck – Bend, OR
Lucy Hulme – St. Paul, MN
Dean Hunter – Guide Rock, NE
Dr. Arthur Husboe – Sioux Falls, SD
Tom Isem – West Fargo, ND
Reverend William A. Johnson – Scarsdale, NY
Shirley M. Johnson – Lincoln, NE
Dr. William & Beverly A. Karrer – Omaha, NE
Angela Keane – Denver, CO
Helen W. Kenefick – Omaha, NE
Walker & Dianne Kennedy – Lincoln, NE
Robert & Michelle Kerr – Hastings, NE
Marcy Kister – Hastings, NE
Dr. Mary Emily Kitterman – Overland Park, KS
Ramona Kluth – Columbus, NE

Gene & Connie Koepke – Kearney, NE
Erika Koss – Washington, DC
Ruby Krueger – Blue Hill, NE
Marie Kugler – Red Cloud, NE
Ashley Larsen – Lexington, NE
Theresa C. Levy – Somerville, MA
Darrel & Roberta Lloyd – Hastings, NE
Jennifer Luongo – Massapequa, NY
Daniel M. Lygrisse – Red Cloud, NE
Carol Maddux – Wauneta, NE
Mark J. Madigan – Rochester, NY
Harold E. Magill – Omaha, NE
Mary Ann & Gene Marko – Sioux Falls, SD
Martin & Ruth Messengale – Lincoln, NE
Helen Mathew – Red Cloud, NE
Dorothy Mattison – Red Cloud, NE
Melissa Mbride – Oklahoma City, OK
Mary Lynne McDermott – Boonton Manor, NJ
Ron McKee – Bethesda, MD
Jane Meehan – Omaha, NE
Patricia Meisinger – Plattsburgh, NE
Sue Meline – Red Cloud, NE
Jean Mercer – Akron, OH
Marian Meyer – Council Bluffs, IA
Anthony Millsbaugh – Chicago, IL
Carol J. Moen – Anoka, MN
Elizabeth Munson – Glen Head, NY
John J. & Sally Murphy – Santa Fe, NM
Pat Needham – Kansas City, MO
Elizabeth O'Brien – Santa Fe, NM
Ruth R. Olivera – New Orleans, LA
Alison Orton – Chicago, IL
Theresa J. Osborne – Forest Hills, NY
Nicholas Page – York, Yorkshire, United Kingdom
Francoise Palleau – Paris, France
Daryl Palmer – Denver, CO
Dick Patterson – Lincoln, NE
Phyllis T. Pearson – Seattle, WA
Charles Peterson – Olympia, WA
James & Geraldine Peterson – Costa Mesa, CA
Mary Louise Peterson – Columbus, NE
Cindy Pickel – Elm Creek, NE
Harold D. Pierce – Tucson, AZ
Ernest M. & Barbara J. Plummer – Scottsdale, AZ
Helen Porter – Atlanta, GA
John F. Preis – Richmond, VA
Fay M. Purcell – Decatur, GA
Diane & Bruce Quantic – Derby, KS
Dr. Jessica Rabin – Curtis Bay, MD
Father Mel Rempe – Red Cloud, NE
Rose Mary Robb – Omaha, NE
Jim Rosowski – Garland, NE
Linda H. Ross – Buffalo, WY
Robert & Laura Roybal – Red Cloud, NE
Reverend Steven P. Ryan – Columbia, MO
Dr. Mary Ruth Ryder – Normal, IL

Dr. & Mrs. Edwin C. Salter – Lake Forest, IL
Susan J. Schenk – Lincoln, NE
Susan Schiller – Mt. Pleasant, MI
Richard Schilling – Loveland, CO
Ms. Otis Rhea Schmidt – Austin, TX
Bob & Suzi Schulz – Red Cloud, NE
Ellen Wheeler Scott – Omaha, NE
Dr. Jerry & Mary Seiler – Hastings, NE
Richard W. Sellars – Santa Fe, NM
Leona Sevick – Keymar, MD
Robert W. & Nancy J. Shively – Ft. Collins, CO
Christine H. Smith – Carbondale, CO
Doris Mae Smith – Santa Fe, NM
Chris & Vicki Sommerich – Lincoln, NE
Robert & Nancy Sorensen – Lincoln, NE
Dr. Amy Springer – Red Cloud, NE
Donna B. Stedje – Buffalo, MN
Roger & Liana Steele – Grand Island, NE
Carol Steinhagen – Marietta, OH
Christopher Sten – Washington, DC
David Stouck – West Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada
Janis P. Stout – Glen Rose, TX
Mitsuharu Suzuki – Tokyo, Japan
Dan Switky – San Mateo, CA
Merridee Taylor – Palo Alto, CA
Susan J. Thomas – Omaha, NE
John & Tiffany Thompson – Lincoln, NE
Barbara Raess Thomsen – Madison, WI
Sylvia W. Thorpe – Huntington Beach, CA
Steven Trout – Hays, KS
Ann Tschetter – Omaha, NE
Don & Caroline Underwood – Pleasant Hill, CA
University of Nebraska at Kearney-Sr. Vice Chancellor –
Kearney, NE
Alfred D. Van Buren – East Setauket, NY
Dan Vasgird – Lincoln, NE
Andrea Vlahakis – Woodbury, CT
Lynne M. Waldeland – Sycamore, IL
Linda Warren – Moab, UT
Sarah Cheney Watson – Longview, TX
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Webster – Red Bluff, CA
Dr. James E. Weesner – Lincoln, NE
Richard A. Weil – Oak Park, IL
Diana Wendt – Omaha, NE
David C. & Mary Ellen Caldwell White – Nashville, TN
Claudia M. Whittah – Martinez, CA
Jackie Wiegand – Chatham, NJ
Carol Williams – Sidney, NE
Clara V. Williams – Maitland, FL
Laura Winters – Morristown, NJ
George E. Wolf – Lincoln, NE
Robert Xidis – Lenexa, KS
Birgit Young – Lincoln, NE
John S. Zeigel – Santa Fe, NM
Zentralbibliothek Zurich Library – Zurich, Switzerland

Support — *Continued*

The following individuals and organizations made in-kind donations of documented value during 2008. We appreciate these donations, which represent another means through which donors can support the work of the Foundation.

Helen L. Anderson – Seward, NE
Don E. Connors Estate – Huntington Beach, CA
Steve Joy – Omaha, NE
John A (Jay) Yost & G. Wade Leak – New York, NY

A number of donors made contributions in 2008 in honor or in memory of certain individuals. These amounts are credited in the donor list above. They are repeated below in recognition of the individuals honored.

\$10,000 to \$14,999

In Recognition of Incoming Executive Director
In Honor of Betty Kort

\$2,500 to \$4,999

In Memory of Doris L. Olson

\$1,000 to \$2,499

In Memory of Don Connors
In Memory of Merrill Skaggs
In Honor of John A Yost
In Recognition of Dayre & Lu Williams

\$500 to \$999

In Memory of Sue Rosowski

\$250 to \$499

In Memory of John Mercer
In Honor of David Porter

\$100 to \$249

In Memory of Barb Anders
In Memory of Janet Clarke
On Behalf of Isabella Ruth Daly
In Memory of Catherine Cather Lowell
On Behalf of Chuck Peek
In Memory of Pat Poese

\$50 to \$99

In Memory of Shirley Messelhisser Dame
In Recognition of Tom Gallagher
In Memory of Edsel Pope

Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors

Officers

John A (Jay) Yost, President
New York, New York

Susan Maher, Vice President
Omaha, Nebraska

Glenda Pierce, Secretary
Lincoln, Nebraska

David Porter, Treasurer
Saratoga Springs, New York

Board Members

Virgil Albertini
Kansas City, Missouri

Bruce P. Baker II
Omaha, Nebraska

Charles Cather
Long Beach, California

Thomas Reese Gallagher
New York, New York

David B. Garwood
Red Cloud, Nebraska

Joel Geyer
Lincoln, Nebraska

Ron Hull
Lincoln, Nebraska

Andrew Jewell
Lincoln, Nebraska

Ruth H. Keene
Omaha, Nebraska

Lynette Krieger
Hastings, Nebraska

Gary L. Meyer
Red Cloud, Nebraska

Dr. Fritz Mountford
Hastings, Nebraska

John J. Murphy
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Rev. Dr. Charles A. Peek
Kearney, Nebraska

Guy Reynolds
Lincoln, Nebraska

Ann Romines
Alexandria, Virginia

Nancy Sherwood
Red Cloud, Nebraska

Steve Shively
Logan, Utah

Merrill M. Skaggs★
Madison, New Jersey

James P. Southwick
Heber City, Utah

C. Kay Stahly
Kearney, Nebraska

Robert Thacker
Canton, New York

Gary W. Thompson
Red Cloud, Nebraska

Steven Trout
Hays, Kansas

Joseph R. Urgo
Clinton, New York

Lu Williams
Red Cloud, Nebraska

Advisory Members

Laurie Smith Camp
Omaha, Nebraska

Carol Cope
Kearney, Nebraska

Jim Fitzgibbon
Red Cloud, Nebraska

Jane Renner Hood
Lincoln, Nebraska

Robert M. Knoll★
Lincoln, Nebraska

Mellanee Kvasnicka
Omaha, Nebraska

Dale McDole
Overland Park, Kansas

Nancy S. Picchi
New York, New York

John N. Swift
Whittier, California

★ *Deceased*

Staff

Cynthia Bruneteau
Executive Director
Education/Archives Director

Jan Offner
Sites Manager

Stephany Thompson
Opera House Programming
Coordinator
Bookstore Manager

Ashley Nolan
Accounting

Jennifer Pankoke
Receptionist

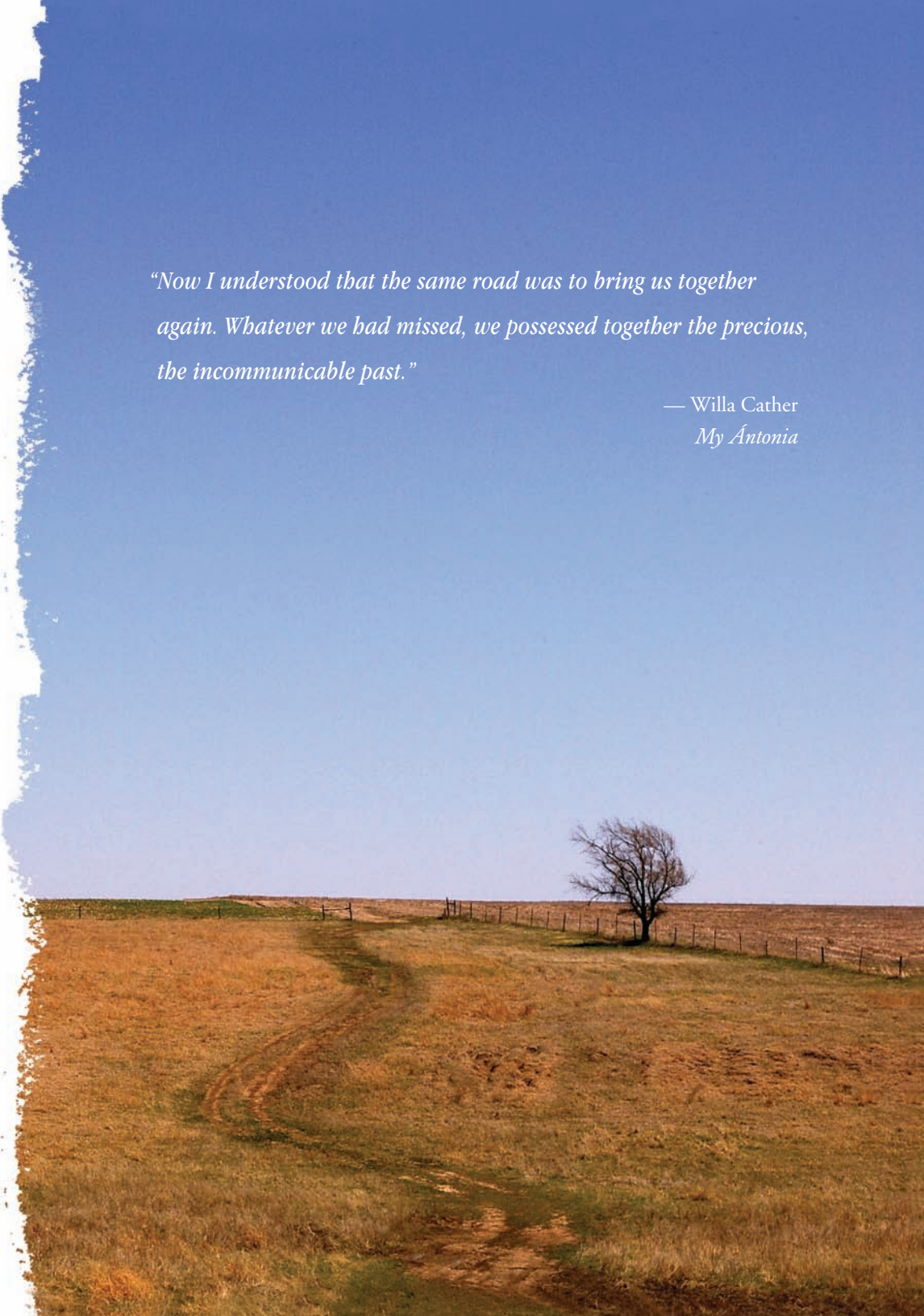
Karin Prellwitz
Maintenance

Dorothy Mattison
Senior Tour Guide

Priscilla Hollingshead
Tour Guide

Cheryl Wilson
Tour Guide

Sylvia Anderson
Office Assistant

A landscape photograph showing a dirt road winding through a field of dry, golden-brown grass. In the distance, a single, bare tree stands on the right side of the road, next to a fence line. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The left side of the image is a solid white vertical band.

*“Now I understood that the same road was to bring us together
again. Whatever we had missed, we possessed together the precious,
the incommunicable past.”*

— Willa Cather
My Ántonia



The Willa Cather Foundation

413 North Webster Street
Red Cloud, NE 68970

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.

Phone: 1-402-746-2653

Toll-free: 1-866-731-7304

Fax: 1-402-746-2652

email: info@willacather.org

www.WillaCather.org

Photographs from the Heritage Highway Association Photo Exhibit

Three of the images used in this Annual Report were entrants in the photography contest organized by the Heritage Highway Association and exhibited in February 2009 at the Red Cloud Opera House Gallery.

Cover: Barbara Wiselogel

Back cover: Ruth Ann Behlmann

Inside covers: Jerri Haussler

The Willa Cather Foundation is grateful to the photographers and to the Heritage Highway Association for permission to use these beautiful images in this publication. The entire exhibit can be seen online at www.WillaCather.org.

For more information about the Heritage Highway Association, of which the Willa Cather Foundation is proud to be a member, visit www.HeritageHighway136.com.

Cover photograph of Willa Cather: The Photo Archives of the Durham Museum

Photograph of Jay Yost on page 1: Barbara Bordnick

Photograph of *A Wagner Matinee* on page 2: Terri Diffenderfer

Other photographs, pages 2-4: Barb Kudrna

Word cloud on page 3: Created by the www.Wordle.net application by Jonathan Feinberg, used under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 U.S. license

Editorial and Creative Direction: Thomas Reese Gallagher
On behalf of the Board of Governors

Design: Bunny Zaruba Design, Sausalito, CA

Printing: Cornhusker Press, Hastings, NE

