

THE

NEWS FROM CATHERLAND

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Donation allows the Foundation to acquire Cather Second Home 2

A Virtual Cather World made possible by the Sherwood family 2

Dorothy Mattison retires after 53 years of service 2

Photos from our spring events 3

25th anniversary of the Norma Ross Walter Scholarship program 3

Join us for our upcoming events 4

FOUNDATION APPOINTS LESLIE LEVY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Leslie Levy, Lincoln, Nebraska, has been appointed Executive Director of the Foundation and will assume her new duties August 1.

“I am exceedingly hopeful that someone as bright, sophisticated and organized as Leslie will serve us well in so many ways, building on our successes arm-in-arm with the strong staff we have in place in Red Cloud,” said Jay Yost, President Emeritus.

Leslie is originally from Grand Island, has her law degree from the University of Nebraska,



and is currently employed in the Nebraska Attorney General's Office in Lincoln. In that capacity, she has worked with a diverse constituency, including nonprofit organizations.

The Board of Governors is confident her skills and experience will enrich the Foundation's efforts to promote and preserve Cather's legacy.

INTERNATIONAL CATHER SEMINAR HOSTS 115 PARTICIPANTS

Smith College, in Northampton, Massachusetts, was a wonderful setting for 115 Cather scholars and devotees to address the theme “Willa Cather and the 19th Century.” In addition to plenary addresses by eminent Cather scholars, acclaimed novelist Sue Miller and distinguished

scholar Nina Baym discussed their personal encounters with Cather's fiction. Also among Seminar activities was an exhibition of Cather materials from Smith College's Mortimer Rare Book Room; a trip to Cather's gravesite in Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire; and a closing banquet, with a performance of Aaron

Copland's setting of *12 Poems of Emily Dickinson*, by Sarah Bach and Emily Murphy.

The next International Seminar, “Willa Cather: Canyon, Rock, & Mesa Country” will be held on June 16-22, 2013 at Flagstaff, Arizona. For more information, visit our website at www.WillaCather.org.

DONATION ALLOWS THE FOUNDATION TO ACQUIRE CATHER SECOND HOME

Thanks to a generous gift from Jim and Angela Southwick, the Willa Cather Foundation recently purchased the Cather Second Home. According to Jim Southwick, the home held wonderful memories for his mother, Helen Louise Cather Southwick. "Even in her final years, when very few other memories remained to her, she delighted in the recollection of

helping her cousin Mary Virginia Auld serve tea to their Aunt Willa during her visits to Red Cloud."

Willa Cather's parents purchased this home in 1903 and left their little rented home at Third and Cedar where Cather had spent her formative years. She was 30 at the time. Over the next 28 years, Cather often visited her family in this house during summers and occasionally for Christmas. It has been reported that she used to put up a tent-like awning on the upper front porch and spent a great deal of time there. Cather's last visit to Red Cloud was for a family reunion at Christmas in 1931. She described this house as the

Fergusson family home in one of her short stories, "The Best Years."

The Cather Second Home was purchased by Doug and Charlene Hoschouer in 1998. They restored the home based on information given to them by Helen Louise Cather Southwick, which is described in the book *The House According to Helen*. The Hoschouers operated the home as a bed and breakfast. It was later purchased and operated by Dee McCurdy and closed its doors in 2010.

A virtual housewarming party is planned for later this year in order to supply the home with linens, china, and period-appropriate furnishings. Anyone wishing to make an in-kind gift can contact the Foundation toll-free at 866-731-7304



Cather Second Home at 541 North Seward Street in Red Cloud

A VIRTUAL CATHER WORLD MADE POSSIBLE BY THE JOHN SHERWOOD FAMILY

Thanks to a generous grant from the John Sherwood family of Red Cloud, Nebraska, the Willa Cather Foundation is developing a virtual tour of Willa Cather's life and work, centering on her childhood home of Red Cloud and surrounding sites in Webster County. Funding from the Sherwood family supports the creation of a self-guided web-

based tour, which is not currently part of the Foundation's educational programming.

A virtual tour of Cather's Red Cloud will allow those who cannot visit the town in south central Nebraska to learn more about Cather's life there and about the area itself. Those who do make the pilgrimage to Red Cloud can have a richer educational ex-

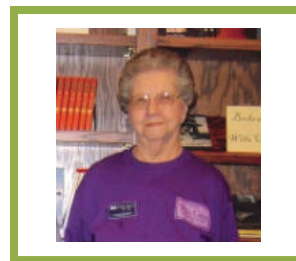
perience by pre-exploring the site online. Board of Governors' members Joel Geyer, former Senior Producer for Nebraska Public Television, and Tom Gallagher, a writer and communications consultant, will serve as project managers; they hope to have the tour available on the Foundation website by early 2012.

LONG-TIME TOUR GUIDE RETIRES

The Willa Cather Foundation was proud to honor Dorothy Mattison for her 53 years of service with an open house retirement party on Friday, July 8. Dorothy began her career in the late 1950's when she was recruited by the Foundation's founder, Mildred Bennett. Over the

years, she has given thousands of tours of the Cather historic sites in Red Cloud, Nebraska, and has assisted hundreds of Cather scholars who have researched the Foundation's

archives. Help us continue to celebrate Dorothy's retirement by sending a card to the Willa Cather Foundation, Attn: Dorothy Mattison, 413 North Webster Street, Red Cloud, Nebraska 68970.



Dorothy Mattison



*"We have four nice bedrooms upstairs to make them comfortable, should they all come home at once."
- "The Best Years" by Willa Cather*

PHOTOS FROM OUR SPRING EVENTS

This year's spring events, including: the 56th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference themed "Willa Cather and Her Popular Culture;" the 4th annual Prairie Writers'

Workshop themed "Place-Based Identity;" and the inaugural "Music on the Prairie" were enjoyed by all who visited Red Cloud to take part in the festivities. Save the date for the

next Spring Conference, scheduled for May 31 – June 2, 2012. Visit www.WillaCather.org for more information about our upcoming events.



Prairie exploration at the 4th annual Prairie Writers' Workshop



Rin Tin Tin XI performs at the 56th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference



Pilgrim Classic Country performance at "Music on the Cather Prairie"

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORMA ROSS WALTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Since 1987, the Willa Cather Foundation has awarded 29 scholarships totaling more than \$140,000 through the Norma Ross Walter Scholarship program. 2011 marked the 25th anniversary of the Foundation's effort to provide scholarship support to female Nebraska high school graduates who continue their higher education as English majors in accredited colleges or universities.

This year's Scholarship award-presentation--held on April 29th at the 56th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference--had special guests in attendance. Virgil Albertini, Chairman of the Scholarship program, had been in contact with past scholarship recipients and several attended the anniversary celebration. "It's thrilling to hear their stories," Albertini stated, and "we enjoyed seeing them back

to help us celebrate this milestone year." He added that "among those who returned were the first and third honorees. Cather would be extremely proud of all of them and delighted with their many accomplishments."

At the Norma Ross Walter Scholarship award-presentation, three young women officially joined the family of others who had received this prestigious honor. This year's three finalists, who graduated from their respective high schools in May, gave their original essays on Cather, which is a part of the Scholarship's extensive application process. This event is a time-honored tradition

and always appreciated by the Conference attendees. Jamie DeTour of Hastings High School has the distinction of being the twenty-fifth first place scholarship recipient and received \$1,000.



Virgil Albertini presents Jamie DeTour with the 25th NRW Scholarship

Emily Burns of Blair High School was awarded the \$750 prize for first runner-up. And the \$500 scholarship for second runner-up was presented to Laura Sunderman of Hastings High School.

The Scholarship fund was established through a generous bequest from Norma Ross Walter. She was an avid reader of Willa Cather's works and frequently visited Red Cloud and Catherland.



"Cather would be extremely proud of all of them and delighted with their many accomplishments"

Willa Cather Foundation

413 North Webster Street
Red Cloud, Nebraska 68970
Phone: 402.746.2653
Toll-Free: 866-731-7304
Fax: 402-746-2652
info@willacather.org
www.WillaCather.org

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President:
Susan Maher, Duluth, MN
Vice President:
Thomas Reese Gallagher, New York, NY
Secretary:
Glenda J. Pierce, Lincoln, NE
Treasurer:
David H. Porter, Saratoga Springs, NY
President Emeritus:
John A. (Jay) Yost, New York, NY
Virgil Albertini, Kansas City, MO
Sara Corless, Mission Hills, KS
David B. Garwood, Red Cloud, NE
Joel Geyer, Lincoln, NE
Andrew Jewell, Lincoln, NE
Ruth H. Keene, Omaha, NE
Lynette Krieger, Hastings, NE
Fritz Mountford, Hastings, NE
John J. Murphy, Santa Fe, NM
Charles A. Peek, Grand Island, NE
Guy Reynolds, Lincoln, NE
Ann Romines, Alexandria, VA
Nancy Sherwood, Red Cloud, NE
Steve Shively, Logan, UT
James P. Southwick, Heber City, UT
C. Kay Stahly, Kearney, NE
Robert Thacker, Canton, NY
Steven Trout, Hays, KS
Joseph R. Urgo, St. Mary's City, MD
Lu Williams, Red Cloud, NE

ADVISORY BOARD

Bruce P. Baker II, Omaha, NE
Laurie Smith Camp, Omaha, NE
† Charles Cather, Long Beach, CA
Carol Cope, Kearney, NE
James Fitzgibbon, Red Cloud, NE
Jane Renner Hood, Lincoln, NE
Ron Hull, Lincoln, NE
Betty Kort, Hastings, NE
Mellanee Kvasnicka, Omaha, NE
Lucia Woods Lindley, Evanston, IL & New York, NY
Dale McDole, Overland Park, KS
Gary L. Meyer, Red Cloud, NE
Nancy S. Picchi, New York, NY
Rhonda Seacrest, Lincoln, NE
John N. Swift, Whittier, CA
Gary W. Thompson, Red Cloud, NE

STAFF

Ashley Olson, *Associate Executive Director*
Stephany Thompson, *Director of Programming*
Jennifer Pankoke, *Office Manager*
Cheryl Wilson, *Buildings and Sites Curator*
Karin Prellwitz, *Maintenance*
Dorothy Mattison, *Senior Tour Guide*
Priscilla Hollingshead, *Tour Guide*
Angela Duca, *Office Assistant/Tour Guide*
Barb Kudrna, *Tour Guide*
Sylvia Andersen, *Tour Guide*
Kay Blackstone, *Tour Guide*



Become a Facebook "fan" of the Willa Cather Foundation! Visit www.facebook.com and search for the Willa Cather Foundation.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Red Cloud, NE
Permit No. 10

Visit us online at www.WillaCather.org to browse our bookstore or sign up for our e-Newsletter.

The Willa Cather Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation made possible by generous grants, sponsorships, and individual donations. Each year, the Foundation works to provide quality conferences, performances, and exhibits for our audience members. We are honored to accept donations and sponsorships via mail or through our website at www.WillaCather.org. Your support is greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 22, 23, at 7:30 pm & July 24 at 3:30 pm: ***Burning Barn***—\$12
Set amidst the volatile, mood-altering, ever-changing backdrop of the rural Nebraska countryside, the play "Burning Barn" is a study of family, boredom, adultery, repressed anger, young love, hope, and of ties that bind.

Sunday, July 24, at 1:30 pm: **"50 Years of Faces and Places"**—Free
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications legend Ron Hull explores 50 years of Nebraska history, told through his experiences with Mari Sandoz, John Neihardt, Sandy Dennis, Frank Morrison, Terry Carpenter, Johnny Rodgers, and more. You'll find this program and Ron's anecdotes funny, poignant, and inspiring.

August 5 at 7:00 pm & August 6 at 4:00 pm: ***The Pied Piper***—\$10
Presented by Missoula Children's Theatre and sponsored by the Kinder Porter Scott Family Foundation, Red Cloud Women's Chamber, and the Republican Valley Arts Council.
Auditions for grades 1-12 will be held August 1 at 10:00 am.

August 15-September 10: ***Social Networking 1890: Nebraska Opera Houses in their Heyday***—Free
Organized by Jay Yost, this exhibit contains over 150 enlarged images and an assortment of memorabilia associated with 60 opera houses from around the state.

September 19-25: ***Remembering Our Fallen***—Free
This traveling memorial from the Strategic Air and Space Museum is a photo exhibit of 98 soldiers from Nebraska and western Iowa. It is a profoundly meaningful reminder of the preciousness of life and liberty, and the honor and sacrifice of those, our own friends and neighbors, who have given their lives to protect ours.

October 15-December 15: ***Portraits of the Prairie*** by Richard Schilling—Free
This traveling show of original artwork from Schillings book, *Portraits of the Prairie—The Land That Inspired Willa Cather*, features one-hundred-ten watercolor paintings and ink drawings.
Reception on October 15 at 5:30 pm and book signing on October 17 from 1:00-3:00 pm.