



WALK IN CATHER'S FOOTSTEPS,  
STAY IN HER ROOM

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The Willa Cather Foundation is pleased to announce that the Cather Second Home is now available for lodging. In addition to touring the Cather historic sites, taking in a performance in the 1885 Opera House, and exploring the native 608-acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie, overnight visitors may now rent a room at the Cather Second Home.

Willa Cather's parents bought the house that has long been known as the Cather Second Home in 1903, leaving behind the small rented home they had occupied when Cather was young. Cather was a frequent guest and had her own room in the spacious Victorian home, which figures as the Ferguesson family



Cather's bedroom, now called "Frankfort" after the fictional village in Cather's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *One of Ours*.

residence in Cather's touching late story, "The Best Years."

The home, that provided Willa Cather with a nurturing and encouraging atmosphere in which to work, is now a retreat for guests as it was for Cather. Visitors may choose to rent the room that was Cather's, or the rooms of her parents and siblings. The entire home may also be rented for family retreats, meetings, and special occasions.

Please visit our website at [www.WillaCather.org](http://www.WillaCather.org) to view additional interior photographs or call 866-731-7304 to plan your visit to Red Cloud and book your stay with us.



When the Cather family lived in the house, this room was Virginia Cather's (Willa's mother). It is now called "Sweet Water" for the town in *A Lost Lady*.

SAVE THE DATE: 2013 WILLA CATHER  
SPRING CONFERENCE

The Willa Cather Foundation is excited to announce that the 2013 Spring Conference will be May 31-June 1, 2013, and will explore *O Pioneers!* in celebration

and recognition of the novel's 100-year anniversary. We have some fabulous plans already in the making so mark your calendars and tell your friends!

## SPRING EVENTS ARE DEEMED A SUCCESS

The Willa Cather Foundation kicked off a busy spring event season with the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Prairie Writers' Workshop from May 17-20. This 4-day event brought 23 writers to Red Cloud for 12 hours of poetry-writing classes under the instruction of artist-in-residence, Mary K. Stillwell. Participants took part in tours of the Cather historic sites and visited the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie to glean inspiration for on-site nature writing. The event concluded with a reading and reception where writers had the

opportunity to share their work with the public. Workshop participants came from Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and Mexico.

The 57<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Conference, "Willa Cather, Poet: Making Herself Born" took place from May 31-June 2. This year, we hosted many long-time Cather enthusiasts and loyal members, and had the distinct pleasure of welcoming new friends who traveled to Red Cloud for the first time to take in all the Conference had to offer. In total, we hosted 108 attendees from 20 states and Japan, and 21 scholars, all from different institutions, participated in the scholarly symposium.

Last, but not least, our 4<sup>th</sup> Road Scholar Program was held from June 4-8. Our 15 participants hailed from eight states and the District of Columbia. The group spent their time exploring historic sites in Red Cloud and the surrounding countryside and analyzing the literature of Willa Cather under the instruction of Board of Governors member, Steve Shively, who is an Associate Professor of English at Utah State University.



Steve Shively leads the program "Looking Back Home: Cather's Family Poetry" at Spring Conference.

## ENSURE THE FUTURE OF THE WCF

It is never too early to think about planning your future gift to the Willa Cather Foundation. Many of the gifting options available can benefit you in your lifetime, as well as provide future gifts to the Foundation. Moreover, planned giving has a meaningful impact on our mission, furthering Cather's legacy. We promote Cather and her work through her interests: writing and education (scholarships, educational conferences, diverse bookstore), theatre and the performing arts, family and place (programming, historic preservation, prairie restoration). There are a variety of ways you can fulfill your philanthropic desires including bequest, charitable remainder trusts, retirement plans, or life insurance. No matter how you choose to give, our financial staff can assist you through the process and help you fulfill your philanthropic needs.

**THINK OF YOUR GIFT TO THE  
WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION  
AS AN INVESTMENT.**

**HERE IS ONE OF THE DIVIDENDS...**



Please support our work with a bequest in your Will, or by naming The Willa Cather Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement asset.

For more information, please contact Leslie Levy, Executive Director, 402.746.2653 or [llevy@willacather.org](mailto:llevy@willacather.org).

*W*

*"July came on with that breathless, brilliant heat which makes the plains of Kansas and Nebraska the best corn country in the world. It seemed as if we could hear the corn growing in the night; under the stars one caught a faint crackling in the dewy, heavy-odoured corn fields where the feathered stalks stood so juicy and green."*

*—My Ántonia*

## A FRESH LOOK FOR THE DEPOT APARTMENT

It may be a little known fact that there is a cozy two-bedroom apartment above the historic Burlington Depot in Red Cloud. Historically, the second story was used to house railroad agents and workers when they had a turnaround. This spring, the apartment received a facelift with new flooring, fresh paint, furnishings, and décor.

The project was completed in cooperation with the Nebraska State Historical Society, who owns the historic site, and with funding support from the BNSF Railway Foundation. The refurbished space will be utilized to house conference presenters, visiting scholars, artists-in-residence, and performers.



Before



After

## 26TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

On June 1, the Willa Cather Foundation had the pleasure of awarding four Norma Ross Walter Scholarships to female graduates of Nebraska high schools who intend to major in English in college. The recipients were Emily Simmons of Valentine High School, who received \$2,000 as 1<sup>st</sup> place recipient; Anna Stokely of Papillion LaVista South High School, who received \$1,000 as 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up; and Hailey Hemenway and Emily Zysset, both of Hastings High School,

received \$500 each in a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up.

The award-presentation took place as part of the Willa Cather Spring Conference. This year's four 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.

Since 1987, the Foundation has awarded 33 scholarships totaling more than \$144,000 through the NRW Scholarship program. The Scholarship fund was established through a generous bequest from Norma Ross Walter. A lifelong fan of Cather's work and frequent visitor to Red Cloud, Norma Ross Walter was a firm believer in education for young women.

The Foundation's scholarship efforts, directed by Board of Governors member Virgil Albertini, are a fundamental part of our educational mission.



Virgil Albertini, Emily Simmons, Hailey Hemenway, Emily Zysset, and Anna Stokely.

## OUR WISH LIST

The Willa Cather Foundation greatly appreciates donations of in-kind items. In-kind donations make a tremendous impact on our work and are tax deductible. Here are just a few of the items on our wish list: table

linens; silverware; water, wine, and cocktail glasses; white sheet sets (3 queen, 1 full, 2 twin); 8' ladder; level; stud finder; staple gun; bit set; cats paw; hose reel carts; 2 laptop computers; and a conference phone.



*“Every fine story must leave in the mind of the sensitive reader an intangible residuum of pleasure, a cadence, a quality of voice that is exclusively the writer’s own, individual, unique.”*

—Not Under Forty

## WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION

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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](http://www.WillaCather.org). Your support is greatly appreciated.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Inspired by April Twilights Exhibit: Showing through July 6—Free**

Artwork by many Nebraska artists inspired by poems from Cather's *April Twilights!*



**Julie Gribble Concert: Thursday, July 5 at 7 p.m.—\$10**

Traditional Americana & Country music, as seen in movies!

**CLUE: Thursday, July 19 at 7 p.m.—\$10**

A play featuring characters & plots from your favorite murder mystery game!

**Hansel & Gretel by Missoula Children's Theatre—\$10**

Auditions for grades 1st through 12th: Monday, July 30 at 10 a.m.

Performances: Friday, August 3 at 7 p.m. & Saturday, August 4 at 4 p.m.

Sponsored by The Red Cloud Women's Chamber & Republican Valley Arts Council.



**Anne of Green Gables: August 18 at 7 p.m. & August 19 at 2 p.m.—\$10**

A play based on the bestselling novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery performed by Boxcar Youth Theatre Company.

**Sarah Arneson Concert: Saturday, September 2 at 2 p.m.—\$15**

Red Cloud native and world class opera singer, Sarah Arneson, will perform with her husband, pianist George Kern. Sponsored by Aleck and Frances Arneson Family Farms.



**Rat Pack Jazz: Saturday, September 22 at 7 p.m.—\$10**

Music from "The Golden Age of Song."

**Taxi Driver Band: Saturday, October 13 at 7 p.m.—\$15**

Music from the '50s to today including Oldies, Motown, Classic Rock, Country, Dance & New Hits!  
Sponsored by the John & Dorothy Sherwood Fund & Peoples-Webster County Bank.



...all events are made possible with the support of the  
Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.