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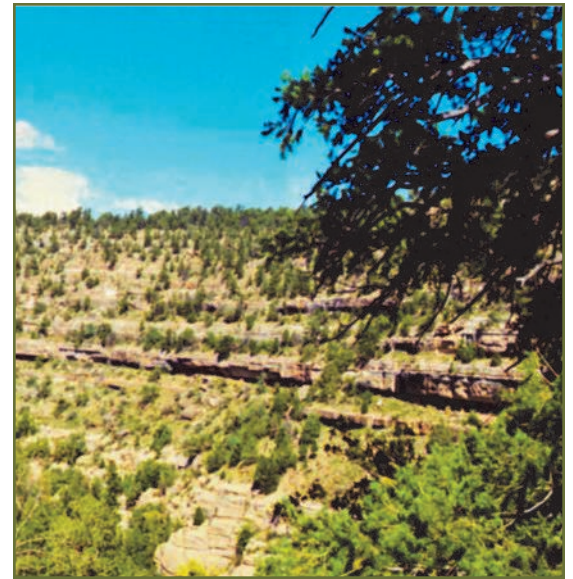
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THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL CATHER SEMINAR

Set in the locale of Willa Cather’s pivotal 1912 visit to the Southwest, the 14th International Willa Cather Seminar will highlight the places that inspired Cather, who, like her singer-artist Thea Kronborg in *The Song of the Lark*, developed a new understanding and expression of her art.

The seminar includes excursions to Walnut Canyon (Panther Canyon in *The Song of the Lark*), the Little Painted Desert (over which Cather rode with her Mexican guide Julio), Winslow (where Cather stayed in 1912 with her brother Douglass and H. L. Tooker, the prototype for Ray Kennedy in *The Song of the Lark*), a luncheon at the “Fred Harvey” La Posada Hotel, and a visit to the Museum of Northern Arizona’s extensive Sinagua and Anasazi pottery collection.

Christian E. Downum, Professor of Anthropology at Northern Arizona University, Walnut Canyon specialist, and author of *Hisat’ sinom: Ancient Peoples in a Land without Water* (2012), is the keynote speaker and will accompany the group to Walnut Canyon. The plenary presenters include editors of the University of Nebraska Press Willa Cather Scholarly Edition and the editors of the forthcoming Knopf edition of Willa Cather’s letters.



Walnut Canyon (Panther Canyon in *The Song of the Lark*)

An evening recital of arias and lieder featured in *The Song of the Lark* will be performed by Sarah Bach, soprano, and Emily Murphy, pianist, and introduced with a plenary by David Porter, Cather scholar and musicologist.

The Seminar is presented by the Willa Cather Foundation, the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies at Northern Arizona University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Visit our website for registration information and call for papers.

O PIONEERS! ESSAY CONTESTS ANNOUNCED

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the publication of Willa Cather’s *O Pioneers!* in 2013, The Willa Cather Foundation is offering students an opportunity to explore their roots from a hundred years ago. In an essay of 750 words, we invite 11th and 12th grade students to describe for us their connection to the land and the people who shaped the history of our land, our pioneers. Student entries are being accepted for

English or Social Studies essays. First-place and Second-place winners (one from each grade level) will have essays featured on the Foundation website and in our newsletter. First-place winners will have the opportunity to present their essays at the 2013 Willa Cather Foundation Spring Conference in Red Cloud, Nebraska. Submission deadline: March 1, 2013. Visit our website to view contest topics and submission guidelines.

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LESLIE C. LEVY

Wonderful people walk through our doors every day, and we would never meet these newfound friends without the Foundation. So far this year, we have met folks from New York to California, North Dakota to Texas, and all points in between. Once inside, visitors see a beehive of activity—volunteers, guests, and staff committed to jobs with purpose and pride. In addition to travelers from all points of the compass, some really terrific Nebraska schools have visited during this beautiful fall. It was wonderful to see the various properties and the prairie through the eyes of eager students experiencing Red Cloud for the first time. Check out our Facebook page to see photos of these tours, and also to see the beautiful sights of Catherland through the lenses of education director, Tracy Tucker, and tour guide, Barb Kudrna.

As we approach 2013, Cather-related events will find us in Washington, D.C., to participate in a Cather panel discussion at the newly formed American Women Writers National Museum; in April we travel to New York to celebrate the publication of Cather's insightful and revealing correspondence. Back in Nebraska, we will continue the tradition of gathering friends and colleagues with our 58th annual Spring Conference, featuring a first-rate line-up of programs and entertainment. Finally, mid-June, we touch down in Flagstaff to share our stories and scholarship at the biannual International Cather Seminar. These travels and special events emerge under the commemorative umbrella of the 100th anniversary of *O Pioneers!* We cannot wait to celebrate this historic Cather achievement, and we hope you will join us along the way!



Our annual visitors, Sylvan-Lucas Unified School

## THE MEMBERS WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

The Willa Cather Foundation is unbelievably fortunate to be supported by hundreds of people from across the country. This year, we are incredibly excited to have welcomed over 115 new members thus far. In this issue, we thought it might be fun to share the inspirational words of one of our newest members with you. When asked why she decided to become a member of the Willa Cather Foundation, Janice Brazil, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, wrote, “I joined the Foundation after attending the Road Scholar seminar in June. I was incredibly impressed with the effort that the Foundation staff put into the seminar, as well as the personal warmth with which they greeted us. It appears to be an extremely well-run organization. I love Cather's writings and think every effort should be made to encourage future generations to read her.

I first read Cather in the 1980s (*My Ántonia*), I think, on the recommendation of my sister. I was hooked and quickly read two to three more books. This long-dormant interest was reawakened by attending the seminar. Now I regularly reread Cather. She spoils most other writers for me. I first heard about the Foundation when my sisters and I visited Red Cloud in August, 2011. However, it took the in-depth exposure of the Road Scholar trip to fully engage my commitment. I think that the work the Foundation is doing is very important. Cather, in my opinion, is not as highly valued as she should be in American literature.”

We sincerely thank Janice and each of our members, new and old, for providing the support that makes our work possible.



## ANTONETTE WILLA TURNER SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

The Willa Cather Foundation is pleased to announce that a permanent endowment for a new scholarship program has been established as a result of the generosity of Antonette Willa Turner. The Antonette Willa Turner Scholarship, as it will be called, is named after the granddaughter of John and Annie Sadilek Pavelka, prototypes for both Anton and Antonia Shimerda in Cather's novel *My Antonia* and Anton and Mary Rosicky

in Cather's short story "Neighbour Rosicky." The scholarship will provide financial assistance to a graduate of a Nebraska high school who is planning to enroll as an English or history major at an accredited college or university. Applicants will be asked to write an essay on Cather's novel *My Antonia* or her short story "Neighbour Rosicky." The first scholarship will be awarded in 2013. Applications will be available online by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## O PIONEERS! IS CHOSEN AS 2013 ONE BOOK, ONE NEBRASKA

The Willa Cather Foundation staff was thrilled to be in attendance at the Celebration of Nebraska Books in Lincoln when *O Pioneers!* was announced as the One Book, One Nebraska selection for 2013! This honor coincides with many events commemorating the novel's 100th anniversary of publication, including our annual Spring Conference in Red Cloud with a special emphasis on

*O Pioneers!*, an art exhibit entitled, *Inspired by O Pioneers!*, our essay contest for high school juniors and seniors, and educational materials and discussion questions specifically geared toward the book for both school children and book clubs. We look forward to sharing one of Cather's best-loved works with everyone in Nebraska!

## JOIN US IN HOSTING A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR WILLA CATHER

Please join the Willa Cather Foundation for an

*Afternoon Tea*

as we celebrate

*Willa Cather's  
Birthday!*

WHERE: Cather Second Home  
541 N. Seward Street  
Red Cloud

WHEN: *your choice of*  
Saturday, December 8, 2012  
or  
Sunday, December 9, 2012

TIME: 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

COST: \$20.00 per person

Proceeds to benefit the  
Willa Cather Foundation educational programs.

*Limited seating is available, so please RSVP by Nov. 28  
to: aolson@willacather.org or 402-746-2653*

Willa Cather's birthday is celebrated on December 7<sup>th</sup>. As a way of celebrating Cather and raising some financial support for the Foundation, many of our board and advisory board members will be hosting birthday parties for Willa Cather. *Won't you join us?* You choose the date during the two week period of her birthday. You choose the kind of party, the number of guests and the amount charged. A morning coffee with some Cather-related readings and food might be worth encouraging a minimum donation of \$10 to \$20, while a full-scale dinner might require a minimum donation of \$50 to \$100. In-kind contributions toward party-related expenses are tax-deductible, with proceeds from the parties benefiting the Willa Cather Foundation. Just imagine how exciting it will be to know there are thirty to fifty parties happening around the U.S. and beyond. We hope to make this an annual event, much as the birthdays of Shakespeare, Robert Burns, and Jane Austen are every year. You can register to host a party by contacting Sharon Jensen at [sjensen@willacather.org](mailto:sjensen@willacather.org) or 402-639-1983.

### HONOR US WITH YOUR GRACIOUS GIFT...

Open your hearts and think of us—not only as you make your year-end gifts, but also in your estate planning. You have the power to leave a legacy as timeless and influential as Cather's prose.

## THE WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION

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Red Cloud, Nebraska 68970  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thalken, Tesdall & Thalken Concert

A holiday concert featuring a mix of jazz and pop tunes

Saturday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.—\$10

Red Cloud Opera House, Red Cloud, Nebraska

*Sponsored by Casey's General Stores, Inc.*

### Afternoon Tea to Celebrate Cather's Birthday

Proceeds to benefit the Willa Cather Foundation's educational programs

Saturday, December 8, or Sunday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m.—\$20

Cather Second Home, Red Cloud, Nebraska

### 58th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the publication of *O Pioneers!*

May 31—June 1, 2013

Red Cloud, Nebraska

### 14th International Willa Cather Seminar

Set in the locale of Willa Cather's pivotal 1912 visit to the Southwest

June 16—22, 2013

Flagstaff, Arizona



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