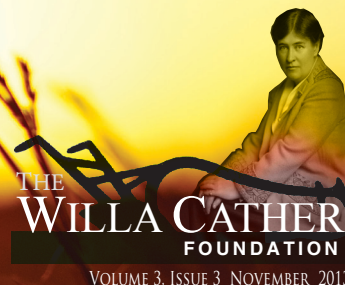


NEWS FROM CATHERLAND



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 59TH ANNUAL WILLA CATHER SPRING CONFERENCE

The 59th annual Spring Conference and Symposium, June 5-7, 2014, will focus on the complex impact of the natural environment on Cather and her contemporaries, and on the writers and artists of the generations that have followed. Drawing upon recent scholarly analyses focused on Cather's "ecological imagination," this conference seeks to broaden and extend these ideas, both within Cather studies and beyond.

From her earliest fiction, Cather was closely attuned to the world around her, and her beautifully limned landscapes are integral to her characters, defining them and their situations. In *O Pioneers!* and *My Ántonia*, Cather was the first American novelist to treat the Plains of Nebraska as setting; as such, she taught her readers how to read that landscape, how to integrate with it.

Beyond grasslands, Cather mapped many other literary landscapes: the Southwest in three novels, colonial Quebec in *Shadows on the Rock*, the New York streetscape in "Coming, Aphrodite!" —Throughout, we experience the reverse of what Cather says of Clement Sebastian in *Lucy Gayheart*: he "had missed the deepest of all companionships, a relation with the earth itself, with a countryside and a people." Her characters possess—and are possessed by—landscapes, formidable and formative environments, that shape and color Cather's work. While acknowledging connections to Cather and to her far-seeing art, we encourage analyses drawing from similar concerns and sharing a similar ecological imagination while focusing elsewhere.

A unique and popular feature of the Willa Cather Spring Conference is that all are welcome to participate. The Willa Cather Foundation encourages anyone who might be interested in Cather's life or works to attend, including recreational readers, history enthusiasts, students, teachers, and professional scholars.

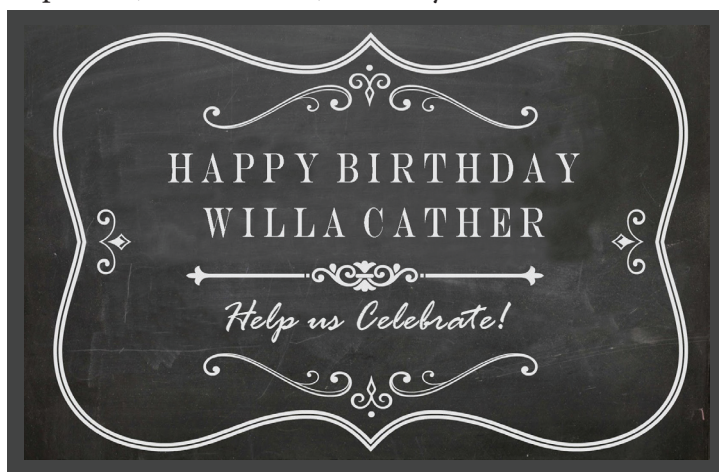
CATHER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Willa Cather's 140th birthday is Saturday, December 7th. As a way of celebrating her place in American culture and financially supporting her Foundation, would you consider hosting a party in Willa's honor?

You choose the date—preferably within a month of her birthday—and you choose the kind of party, the number of guests, and the amount of donation. For example, a morning coffee with some Cather-related readings and food might be \$10-\$20, while a plated dinner might be \$100. Our office has created a party invitation for you to complete and send to your guests. All donations support the Willa Cather Foundation's educational programming, and the Foundation will provide a charitable donation receipt for the expense of hosting the party. We also have a wonderful selection of Cather items from our bookstore if you are interested in offering those at your event.

The WCF website and Facebook page will be used to publicize your event. Last year, celebrations took place in Omaha, Lincoln, Red Cloud, and Hastings, Nebraska, as well as New York City and Logan, Utah. We hope for even more in 2014, to create an annual tradition much like the birthday celebrations of Shakespeare, Robert Burns, and Jane Austen.

We hope you will join us for the party in Red Cloud or consider hosting a party in your area. You can register to host a party by email (llevy@willacather.org) or phone (402-746-2653). Thank you!



BRAZILIAN EDUCATORS EXPERIENCE RED CLOUD

In July, 40 high school English teachers from Brazil took a break from their professional development course at the University of Nebraska at Omaha to spend a weekend in Red Cloud. Sponsored by UNO's International Professional Development department and its "Nebraska Neighbors" program, the visit gave them the chance to taste life in a small Midwestern community, improve their skills in English, and also learn more about the life and work of Willa Cather. The Foundation welcomed them to Red Cloud with a community dinner, followed by town and country tours, a visit to the Cather Prairie, and local attractions—yes, including the bowling alley! Bringing these kinds of cultural experiences and an understanding of Cather's work to a growing international community is an important facet of our work and our mission.



WCF tour guide Carol Duncan explains the history of the Garber Bank building to a group of Brazilian teachers visiting Nebraska through UNO's "Nebraska Neighbors" program.



FROM OUR COLLECTION

If you've looked at the cover of our 2014 calendar, "A Year with Willa Cather," then you've noticed two of our favorite pieces from our archives here in Red Cloud: Willa Cather's own steamer trunk and her passport. Both items were donated to the WCF Archive by Jim and Angela Southwick—the trunk in 2004, and the passport in 2006. The trunk is stenciled with "Miss Cather" and "New York" and bears a number of shipping stickers, attesting to Willa's love of travel. The WCF boasts an impressive collection of Willa Cather and Cather family objects and documents related to her life and works, and we're proud to have them here in Red Cloud! If you have questions about the collection or wish to see an item, please contact Education Director, Tracy Tucker at tucker@willacather.org.

WILLA CATHER BOOK CLUB RESUMES WITH *O PIONEERS!*

The Willa Cather Book Club has begun meeting again! Beginning with *O Pioneers!* (2013's One Book One Nebraska selection), the group plans to read a variety of Cather material, including Willa Cather's letters, selections of her nonfiction, and historical fiction — a murder mystery by author Sue Hallgarth, based on Cather's time in Grand Manan. This year, we're also hosting a virtual book club on Facebook, so

even if you're not in Red Cloud, you can join in the fun!

We're also pleased to provide book club discussion questions and discussion leaders' enrichment materials as part of our educational mission, developed for the celebration of *O Pioneers!* 100th publication anniversary and with One Book One Nebraska readers in mind.

2014 OPERA HOUSE SEASON

To meet the WCF's arts-based mission, the Foundation provides regular programming in our restored 1885 Red Cloud Opera House and Art Gallery, which played a huge role in developing Willa Cather's own interest in the arts. In 2014, the Opera House will be entering its 12th season of events, and we are thrilled to be hosting many wonderful programs, including music, exhibits, and theatre.

Patrons of the Opera House will have the opportunity to attend several live shows, including a production of Cather's *My Antonia* by Illusion Theatre; *Completely Hollywood* by the Beatrice Community Players; and a show starring local youth directed by the Missoula Children's Theatre.

Concerts will include local musicians Lester Junction and Lukas Rupprecht; a musical journey through the pop scene of the 1960s and 1970s; a cabaret show by Mary Carrick; the hot cover band Taxi Driver; the Wes Hird Trio featuring jazz vocalist Vickie Nielsen; tribute shows featuring the music of Patsy

Cline and Johnny Cash; and Joseph Hall's Elvis Rock 'N Remember Tribute.

The exhibit *Grand Ole Opry Classics*, a program from ExhibitsUSA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance with the Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Cultural Endowment, will be shown April 6 through May 25, 2014.

Planning for additional art exhibits and humanities programs is also underway. For more information on upcoming events or gallery exhibits, visit us online at www.willacather.org/opera-house. The Foundation's Opera House programs are made possible with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, Nebraska Arts Council, and Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

CATHER BOOKS AND GIFTS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

<http://www.WillaCather.org/booksandgifts>



ENSURE THE FUTURE OF THE WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION

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, beyond your lifetime and far into the future.

The Foundation offers diverse avenues for furthering Cather's legacy. We promote Cather and her work through her interests: writing and education (scholarships, educational conferences, programming, the bookstore), theatre and the performing arts (Opera House), family and place (historic preservation and prairie restoration). Respecting the donor's intent is crucial to us. Rest assured, one hundred percent of the your gift will be designated and used to further our work in the areas that most interest you and that you've chosen to support. For more information about planned giving, contact Leslie Levy, Executive Director, at 402-746-2653



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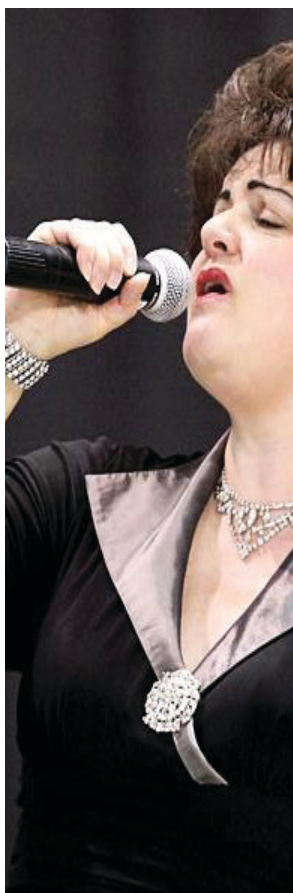
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COMING UP:

The Nelsons: Home for the Holidays

Saturday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. | \$25

Willa Cather Birthday Tea

Sunday, December 15, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cather Second Home

Melinda Ferree's Patsy Cline Tribute

Saturday, February 15, at 7:30 pm | \$12 (advance) or \$15 (day of show)

California Dreaming: A Musical Journey
through the 1960s and 1970s

Thursday, March 20, at 7:00 pm | \$15 (advance) or \$20 (day of show)

59th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference

Thursday, June 5, through Saturday, June 7

Willa Cather Symposium in Rome, Italy

Thursday, June 12, through Saturday, June 14



Arts programming presented with the support of the
Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

