

# Complex and Brilliant: CATHER AT 150

68th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference  
*June 1–June 3, 2023 | Red Cloud + Virtual Delivery*



# Our special guests include:

**Invited speaker, Dr. Molly Rozum, author of *Grasslands Grown***  
Rozum is associate professor and Ronald M. Nelson Chair of Great Plains and South Dakota history at the University of South Dakota. She earned a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research centers on comparative United States-Canadian northern grasslands, and her book, *Grasslands Grown: Sense of Place and Regional Identity on North America's Canadian Prairies and American Plains, 1870-1950*, was published in 2021.



**Invited speaker, Dr. Shelley Stamp, author of *Movie-Struck Girls***  
Stamp, a professor of Film + Digital Media at UC Santa Cruz, was a finalist for the Theatre Library Association Book Award for *Movie-Struck Girls: Women and Motion Picture Culture after the Nickelodeon*. An expert on women in Hollywood, she curated the 6-disk set *Pioneers: First Women Filmmakers*, and is a Founding Editor of *Feminist Media Histories: An International Journal*.



**Bel Canto**, a classical crossover duo from Omaha, will perform in the Red Cloud Opera House on Saturday, June 3, when they will debut their new multi-movement work commissioned by the National Willa Cather Center. *Cather Tableaux* will feature Darci Griffith Gamerl on oboe/English horn and Grammy-nominated cellist, David Downing.

## Conference Leadership:

**Dr. James Jaap**, Academic Director  
Penn State Allegheny

**Nancy Picchi**, Librarian and  
Independent Researcher

**Ashley Olson**, National Willa Cather Center  
Executive Director

**Rachel Olsen**, National Willa Cather Center  
Director of Education & Engagement

**Tracy Tucker**, National Willa Cather Center  
Director of Collections & Curation

## Our conference is made possible by:



## POTTER BLOCK REHABILITATION INTO HOTEL GARBER

A new hotel in Red Cloud has been a priority of community leaders for many years. A lack of available rooms inhibits our ability to fulfill our mission, as visitors from outside the community are routinely unable to secure lodging for conferences and events. An independent market feasibility study concluded that the Red Cloud market could support an additional 30-room lodging establishment.

To continue our rich tradition of historic preservation and downtown revitalization, the Potter Block was selected as a location for the hotel. The 1901 structure—vacant for over twenty years—will undergo rehabilitation to become an event and lodging facility called Hotel Garber.



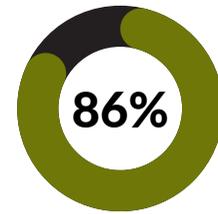
The design will include a 27-room boutique hotel, meeting space, lounge, catering facilities, and a small library. When conjoined to the National Willa Cather Center's Farmers and Merchants Bank next door, the two buildings will share an elevator to provide access to exhibit areas that highlight important milestones in Red Cloud's history and the Garbers' roles as Governor and First Lady, as well as their portrayals in Cather's 1923 novel *A Lost Lady*.

Planning for this rehabilitation effort began as early as 2018. Basement excavation and underpinning was completed in 2020 to support the return of a third floor that was lost to fire in 1961. Construction on the Potter Block building resumed in 2022 and is projected to be complete in 2024.

*Red Cloud leaders have raised more than \$6.3 million to make a decades long dream of building a top-of-the-line hotel a reality. Will you help fulfill the dream?*

Questions? Ready to get involved?

Contact Ashley Olson ([aolson@willacather.org](mailto:aolson@willacather.org)) or Jarrod McCartney ([jmccartney@redcloudnebraska.com](mailto:jmccartney@redcloudnebraska.com)) for information.



**of the \$7.3 million goal has been secured**  
**(\$1.02 million to go)**

# *Visions Seen in the Air: An Invitational Exhibition*

*On exhibit May 17 to July 15, 2023*

As we celebrate Willa Cather's 150th year, we honor her brilliant writing and enduring legacy as one of America's greatest authors. This exhibition's title, *Visions Seen in the Air*, was taken from *A Lost Lady*, which was inspired by Red Cloud and its citizens.

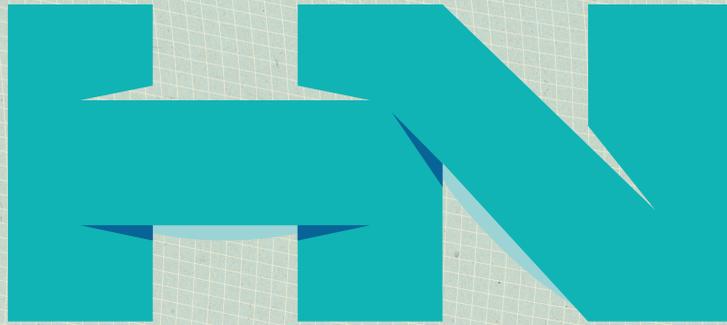
We've asked our contributing artists to contemplate the essence of Cather's hometown and to convey that sense of place and feeling of home that would later inspire not only *A Lost Lady*, but so much of Cather's Nebraska writing.

Conference attendees are invited to a reception on **Friday, June 2** at the Red Cloud Opera House.

*5 Cottonwoods Fall Platte, by Ben Darling (detail)*



PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY



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Where we have been makes us who we are and shapes who we will become. Humanities Nebraska creates and supports thought-provoking opportunities for Nebraskans to learn, think and explore our shared history and culture to inspire a better future.

Ideas in progress.

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# Complex *and* Brilliant:

## CATHER AT 150

### 68th annual Willa Cather Spring Conference

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, June 1

- 9:00 AM** **Welcome & Orientation** In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium  
Our Spring Conference will begin with a welcome from the executive director of the National Willa Cather Center, Ashley Olson, and academic director of this year's Spring Conference, Dr. James Jaap.
- 9:30 AM** **Session 1** In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium Live-Streamed  
**A Lost Lady: Publication Histories**  
"A Lady Lost in Translation: León Felipe's Spanish Translation of *A Lost Lady* Banned in Francoist Spain"  
*Juan Carillo del Saz, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*  
"Why not a Second Pulitzer?: *A Lost Lady* Goes Missing"  
*Mary Ruth Ryder, South Dakota State University*
- 11:00 AM** **Session 2** In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium Live-Streamed  
**A Lost Lady: Bodily Motifs**  
"Something Wild and Desperate': Cather, Animal Mutilation, and *A Lost Lady*"  
*Phoenix Fogarty, University of Alabama*  
"Breaking Steel in *A Lost Lady*: Injury, Breakage and Disability"  
*Keegan Hinsley, University of Alabama*  
"Care Communities in *A Lost Lady*"  
*Sarah Wade, University of Alabama*

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### Session & Event Locations

Red Cloud Opera House 411 N. Webster St.  
Auld Public Library 537 N. Webster St.  
Farmers and Merchants Bank 338 N. Webster St.  
Burlington Depot 437 W. Welsch St.  
Mark Dahle Art Gallery 333 N. Webster St.  
Red Cloud Cemetery Cherry St., south of "A" Ave.  
Red Cloud Community Center 142 W. 3rd Ave.  
Grace Episcopal Church 546 N. Cedar St.  
Cather Memorial Prairie Hwy. 281, 5 miles south of Red Cloud



Information

**Questions about accessibility?**  
Contact Nick Powers, Visitor Services  
Coordinator, at [npowers@willacather.org](mailto:npowers@willacather.org)

# Thursday, June 1

- 12:30 PM** **Lunch and *A Lost Lady* Book Talk with Dr. Benjamin Taylor** Live-stream watch at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium Live-Streamed  
As part of National Willa Cather Center's efforts to commemorate acclaimed novelist Willa Cather's 150th year, we are pleased to host this virtual event with writer and biographer Benjamin Taylor! Join us in honoring Cather's prolific writing career and contributions to American letters by attending this study on *A Lost Lady*, a portrait of a troubled woman in changing times that signaled a new phase in Cather's already impressive career. Boxed lunches will be available for in-person attendees to enjoy during this presentation.
- 2:00 PM** **Session 3**  
**April Twilights: Cather as Poet** In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium Live-Streamed  
"Cather Anthologized: *April Twilights* and the New Poetry Movement"  
Mark Robison, Union College  
"The Making of *April Twilights* and Other Poems"  
Robert Thacker, St. Lawrence University  
"100 Years after *April Twilights*: Nebraska Poetry on the Page, 1923-2023"  
Becky Faber
- Film Screening: *O Pioneers!* In-Person at Dahle Art Gallery
- 3:45 PM** **Session 4** Live-stream watch at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium Live-Streamed  
"Around the Archives" with Lonnie Pierson Dunbier & archivist Tracy Tucker  
Lonnie Pierson Dunbier, author of *Lyra and Silas Garber: A First Couple in Frontier History*, joins our archivist Tracy Tucker to discuss Dunbier's research into the lives of the Garber family and the National Willa Cather Center's work to interpret them through Cather's novel *A Lost Lady*. Tucker will share highlights from Dunbier's recent donation of research materials and Garber artifacts, which inform our forthcoming exhibit at the Farmers and Merchants Bank. This talk will enrich any and all future readings of *A Lost Lady*, as well as deepen our collective understanding of Red Cloud during what Cather referred to as Nebraska's "First Cycle."
- 5:15 PM** **Mixer & Preview of *Making a Place: A Long History of Red Cloud* Exhibit** In-Person at Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Join us at the newly restored Farmers and Merchants Bank building to preview our ongoing interpretive work. Once complete, the Farmers and Merchants Bank lower level will be home to a new exhibit that tells the story of how Red Cloud came to be and the people who helped shape its history—and its future! We invite your comments and ideas as we create an exciting new stop in our first museum home!
- 7:00 PM** **Invited Lecture: Dr. Molly Rozum** In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium Live-Streamed  
"The Necessary Vision and the Necessary Skill": Willa Cather, Grasslands Space, and the Cultural Aspirations of Settler Society's First Grasslands Grown Generations  
Drawn from her 2021 history, *Grasslands Grown: Creating Place on the U.S. Northern Plains and Canadian Plains*, published by the University of Nebraska Press and the University of Manitoba Press, Rozum's talk examines the aesthetic, social, and cultural experiences of the first generations of settler society to grow up on the grasslands. Uniquely, these generations grew up experiencing both native grasslands habitat and settler agricultural grainlands and grazelands. Their aesthetic expressions sought to create a sense of place by restorying the northern grasslands with settler society at the center of the narrative. Rozum's book explores the two related concepts of regional identity and sense of place from an interdisciplinary perspective. The two concepts overlap and reinforce each other: place is more local, ecological, and emotional-sensual, and region is more ideational, national, and geographic in tone. This talk explores the literature and art of Nebraskan Willa Cather, South Dakotan Robert McAlmon, Albertan Wilfried Eggleston, Manitoban Laura Goodman Salverson, North Dakota poet Clell Gannon, and Albertan artist Annora Brown.



THE NATIONAL  
**Willa Cather**  
CENTER



## Membership



Join the Willa Cather Foundation

### Your Membership Supports

Preservation of Willa Cather's Childhood Home and eleven Cather historic sites

Conferences and seminars that spur scholarly research into the life and work of Willa Cather

Preservation and display of a growing collection of archival and museum pieces

Publication of the *Willa Cather Review*

Conservation of the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie

Cultural events and exhibits at the National Willa Cather Center and Red Cloud Opera House

### All Members Receive:

One free tour annually of the Cather historic sites

Subscription to the *Willa Cather Review*

10% bookstore discount

Invitations to special events

### Membership Levels

*The following membership levels receive an extra gift in addition to the benefits listed above and at preceding level(s).*

**Journalist (\$125):** A gift from the bookstore.

**Editor (\$250):** Two tickets to a Red Cloud Opera House show.

**Poet (\$500):** 15% discount in the bookstore.

**Novelist (\$1,000):** Guided behind-the-scenes tour of the archive.

**Cather Circle (\$2,500):** One free night of lodging at the Cather Second Home.



413 N. Webster Street, Red Cloud, NE 68970  
(402) 746-2653 | [www.WillaCather.org](http://www.WillaCather.org)

## Friday, June 2

**9:00 AM**    **Scholarship Awards & Essay Presentations**    **In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium**

**10:30 AM**    **Session 5**

**5A: *A Lost Lady*: Readings Reframed**    **In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium**    **Live-Streamed**

“Persona Plagiarism and *A Lost Lady*”

*William Lord, Iowa State University*

“Taking ‘and on up into the Black Hills’ Seriously: Gothic Darkness in *A Lost Lady*?”

*Jon Mikklesen*

“Everything Everywhere All at Once: Beyond Prototypes in Cather’s *A Lost Lady*”

*Daryl Palmer, Regis University*

**5B: Cather and Impositions of Western Progress**    **In-Person at Auld Public Library**    **Recording Available After Session**

“How can anybody like to see time visibly devoured?” Modernist Ennui and the Use of Domestic Time in Willa Cather’s *A Lost Lady*”

*Amrita Bakshi, University of Alabama*

“Cather and Catastrophe”

*William Handley, University of Southern California*

“Post-Colonialism in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*”

*Sneha Chakroborty, University of South Dakota*

**11:45 AM**    **Lunch**

Scholarship Luncheon **or** Newcomers Luncheon **or** Lunch on Your Own

**1:00 PM**    **Session 6**

**6A: Cather and Competing Mythologies**    **In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium**    **Live-Streamed**

“A Gold Slipper and A Pullman Sleeper’: Willa Cather’s Adaptation of a Modern Urban Legend”

*Steve Siporin, Utah State University*

“Cather’s Outsized Role in Canonizing Nebraska Legends and Stories”

*Rachel Terry, Brigham Young University*

“They Go on Repeating Themselves’: The Serialization of *O Pioneers!* in *Wallaces’ Farmer*”

*Nathan Tye, University of Nebraska at Kearney*

**Film Screening: *My Ántonia***    **In-Person at Dahle Art Gallery**

### Land and Labor Acknowledgement

The National Willa Cather Center recognizes that forced servitude and unpaid labor gave rise to the society we know today. Willa Cather’s own ancestors included both those who enslaved people and those who sought to free them. Cather struggled with her family’s role in Virginia’s slaveholding culture during her lifetime, and we continue to wrestle with the ramifications of that injustice today.

We also acknowledge that we occupy the homelands of the Pâri (Pawnee), the Washtáge Mo<sup>n</sup>zhá<sup>n</sup> (Kansa), and the Ocheti Sakowin (Sioux) peoples, territory that was also inhabited by the Oto-Missouria, Osage, and other indigenous peoples following the arrival of American and European settlers.

**We are committed to honoring these people and recognizing their tribulations by providing a space for cultural exchange and learning.**



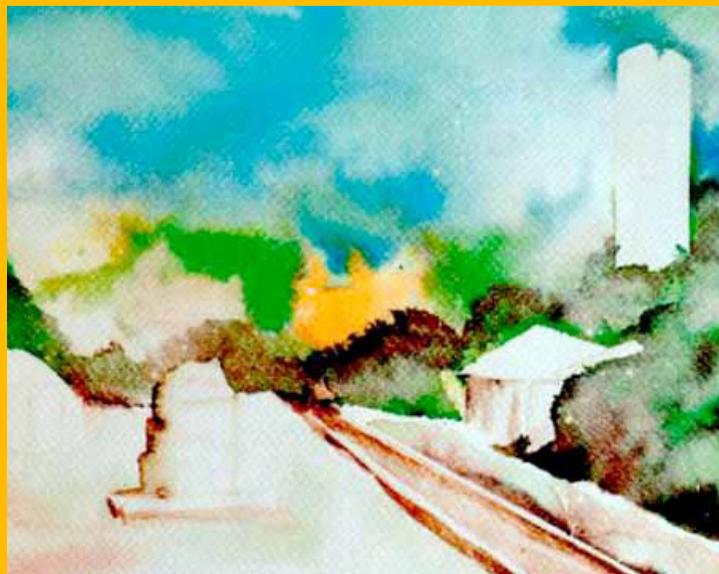
The Ames Writers Collective fosters conversation across cultural divides, building and uplifting communities through the art of storytelling, while advancing the literary arts in Ames, Iowa.

Ana McCracken, founder & president  
www.ameswriterscollective.org | ana@ameswriterscollective.org | (515) 708-4694

Follow us on social media for the latest news from the National Willa Cather Center!



@WillaCatherFdn



## The Ties That Bind

by Betty Kort

*Kort draws on her generational ties to the land—a story that is nearly universal on the Plains—in this special exhibit.*

You can view this special exhibit at the historic Burlington Depot during our regular tours and select events, including an Artist’s Reception

**Friday, June 2, at 4:30 p.m.**

## The Willa Cather Childhood Home Will You Help Us Restore a National Historic Landmark?

The Willa Cather Childhood Home is the most iconic historic structure associated with Cather’s life and career. Described in her novel *The Song of the Lark*, and short stories “Old Mrs. Harris” and “The Best Years,” the house has served as a literary shrine for nearly sixty years. It is recognized as a National Historic Landmark, representing an outstanding aspect of American history and culture.

A transformative restoration and rehabilitation that is currently underway will ensure the home is preserved for the learning and enjoyment of future generations. Cather’s attic bedroom, still adorned in **its original paper with pink roses**, is a centerpiece of the rehabilitation. The delicate wallpaper will be cleaned and treated by expert paper conservators.

To date, \$905,000 of our \$1.1 million goal has been secured for this project thanks to donors to our Campaign for the Future and a Save America’s Treasures grant from the National Park Service. While the project is now 80% funded, \$233,000 is needed to complete the building renovations and the conservation of Cather’s wallpaper.



**80%**  
of the \$1.1 million goal has been secured



**Will you help us reach our goal for this transformative project?** With your help, the site will reopen this year as an immersive destination for visitors to explore the lived world of the Cather family. Pledges to this project are payable over a five-year period.

For more information, please contact Jeniffer Beahm at [jbeahm@willacather.org](mailto:jbeahm@willacather.org) or 402-746-2653.

Friday, June 2

2:45 PM

Session 7

7A: *A Lost Lady*: Ecocritical Perspectives

In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium

Live-Streamed

“An Old Tree Walking’: Trees and Birds in *A Lost Lady*”

Hirofumi Ariyoshi, University of Alabama

“A Lost Wetland ”

Patti Burris, Northeast Community College

“Land, Labor, and Capital in *O Pioneers!* and *My Ántonia*: Willa Cather’s Ambivalence toward Nature and Economy”

Jun Young Lee, Yeungnam University, South Korea

7B: *A Lost Lady*: Socioeconomics and Material Culture

In-Person at Auld Public Library

Recording Available After Session

“*My Ántonia* and *A Lost Lady*: Cather’s Critical Examination of Capitalism in Two Parts”

Allan Benn, East Stroudsburg University

“A Peephole Into That World’: Photoplay Editions, Visual Modernity, and *A Lost Lady*”

Sarah Gleeson-White, University of Sydney

“As They Used to Tell Us’: Social Mobility and Sublation in *A Lost Lady*”

Kenneth Michael, University of Nebraska at Omaha

4:30 PM

Artists Reception: *Visions Seen in the Air* Invitational

In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Gallery

7:00 PM

Invited Lecture: Dr. Shelley Stamp

In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium

Live-Streamed

Willa Cather and Company: Female Filmmakers, Female Screenwriters, and Female Authors in Early Hollywood

Dr. Shelley Stamp is the UC Santa Cruz Presidential Chair and the author of *Movie-Struck Girls: Women and Motion Picture Culture after the Nickelodeon* (a finalist for the Theatre Library Association Book Award) and *Lois Weber in Early Hollywood*, winner of the Michael Nelson Prize from the International Association for Media and History and the Richard Wall Special Jury Prize from the Theatre Library Association. Her research has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and a University of California President’s Fellowship. Dr. Stamp’s talk will position Cather’s writing and career within the wider context of women’s work in the early American film industry, as well as consider the production and reception of *A Lost Lady* within the context of female authors, screenwriters and directors working in early Hollywood.

Dr. Stamp’s presentation will be followed by a moderated Q&A session.

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*Save the Dates!*  
**How will you mark Willa Cather’s 150th birthday?**  
*Celebrate with us! [www.WillaCather.org/150](http://www.WillaCather.org/150)*

# Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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*Humanities Nebraska*

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*University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cather Project*

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*Garwood and McCracken Law Office, Red Cloud*

*Chuck and Nancy Peek*

## Saturday, June 3

**9:00 AM**    **Service at Grace Episcopal Church**    **In-Person at Grace Episcopal Church**    **Recording Available Online**

**10:00 AM**    **What is the Passing Show?**    **Recording Available Online**

**Prairie Walk with Readings**    **In-Person at Cather Memorial Prairie**  
*Meet at the Cather Memorial Prairie historic marker*

**Film Screening: *A Lost Lady***    **In-Person at Dahle Art Gallery**

**11:45 AM**    **Lunch on Your Own**

**1:00 PM**    **The Passing Show: Ending the “First Cycle”: Cather’s Changing Frontier**

**In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium**    **Live-Streamed**

Join panelists Molly Rozum (University of South Dakota), Richard Millington (Smith College), Charmion Gustke (Belmont University), and Matthew Cella (Shippensburg University) as they explore our Spring Conference topic. Moderated by Dr. James Jaap of Penn State Greater Allegheny, our Spring Conference Academic Director, this traditionally unstructured panel allows for significant exchange and inquiry into the larger questions surrounding our conference:

- Why do Cather’s words matter?
- How does her work shape our understanding of the American Frontier?
- What can she tell us about our experiences today?

**2:30 PM**    **Artist Talk: Bel Canto Duo**    **In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium**    **Live-Streamed**

Darci Griffith Gamerl and David Downing of Bel Canto Duo will discuss their work composing original music based on four excerpts of Cather’s writing from “Nebraska: The End of the First Cycle,” *A Lost Lady*, “Prairie Spring,” and *One of Ours*.

**4:00 PM**    **Session 8**

**8A: Cemetery Tour**    **In-Person at Red Cloud Cemetery**

Barb Hustwit, Suzi Schulz, and Pam Livingston will lead a tour of the Red Cloud Cemetery for those who would like to know more about Red Cloud residents that inspired characters in *A Lost Lady*, as well as friends and family of Willa Cather.

**8B: “Writers Meet Willa—Engaging Writers with the Work of Willa Cather”**    **In-Person at Burlington Depot**

Join us at the historic Burlington Depot for an hour of writing inspired by an excerpt from *A Lost Lady* that we will select together. From Cather’s evocative prose, we will write whatever comes to mind—be it fiction, poetry, or nonfiction. After we write, everyone will be invited to read their piece out loud. This type of writing in community is based upon the Amherst Writers & Artists Method—a philosophy that believes that everyone is a writer. Bring your preferred writing tools, but pen and paper will be provided, too.

This session is led by Ana McCracken, founder of the Ames Writers Collective based in Ames, Iowa. She received her MFA in Creative Writing and Environment at Iowa State University, and her published writing can be found in various anthologies. She is a member of the Willa Cather Board of Governors.

**Saturday, June 3**

**6:00 PM Spring Conference Banquet**

**In-Person at Red Cloud Community Center**

*Please note: A separate ticket is required for banquet and Bel Canto performance.*

**7:30 PM Banquet Performance: The Bel Canto Duo**

**In-Person at Red Cloud Opera House Auditorium**

The Bel Canto Duo's Saturday evening performance will include original compositions inspired by *A Lost Lady*, "Nebraska: The End of the First Cycle," *April Twilights*, and *One of Ours*, publications that defined Willa Cather's 50th year and also shaped the latter half of a literary career that we are still celebrating 100 years later.

*Please note: A separate ticket is required for banquet and Bel Canto performance.*

**9:00 PM Conference concludes**

We hope to see you next year!

*Save the Date!*  
**June 6-8, 2024 | Red Cloud, Nebraska**  
**69th Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference**

**The Cather Project**



The Cather Project promotes teaching and research about American novelist and University of Nebraska graduate Willa Cather at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and beyond.

Designated a Program of Excellence by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents in 2002, the Cather Project produces the Willa Cather Scholarly Edition and *Cather Studies*, supports research by UNL English department faculty and students on Cather, brings scholars from outside of UNL to present on Cather and conduct research in UNL Special Collections, and organizes conferences and other events.

<https://www.unl.edu/english/cather-project>



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It isn't  
every year  
you turn 150.

*The National Willa Cather Center, History Nebraska, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee hope you join us as we gather for the unveiling of Willa Cather's statue in the National Statuary Hall at the U. S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.*

*Watch parties will be held in Lincoln and Red Cloud! Look for details on our website!*

**Own a piece of history!**

**Contact development associate Jeniffer Beahm to support the NWCC through the purchase of a 12 inch copy of Littleton Alston's bronze!**

## The celebrations continue!

Know of another event for our list? Let us know!

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| July 19–Sept 9<br>Aug 11 | <i>Cather and Material Culture</i> , photos by Betty Kort, at the National Willa Cather Center<br>Amos Fortune Forum Lecture, “Willa Cather as Creator: Breaking the Mold and Carving a Place in History,” with Littleton Alston and Ashley Olson, Jaffrey, NH                  |
| Oct 14-15                | Celebrate Willa Cather’s 150th birthday at Old Time Autumn, Brownville Historical Society, Brownville, NE   |
| Oct 15–29                | Inaugural Willa Cather Writer’s Residency in Red Cloud, NE  |
| Oct 21                   | Cather children’s event and Cather talk with readings at Tufts Library, Weymouth, MA  |
| Oct 25                   | Cather readings, New York Society Library, New York City  |
| Nov 9–12                 | Willa Cather and the Counterculture: An Immersive Weekend in Taos, NM<br>Back by popular demand and hosted by the National Willa Cather Center  |
| Nov 26                   | <i>A Pittsburgh Playlist: Celebrating Willa Cather at 150</i> , Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, PA.<br>7:00-8:30 p.m. Scholars will read selections from her fiction, journalism, and letters written or set in Pittsburgh. Birthday cookies will be served at this free event! |
| Dec 7                    | Virtual Book Launch for Benjamin Taylor’s <i>Chasing Bright Medusas: A Life of Willa Cather</i> , hosted by the National Willa Cather Center  |

[www.WillaCather.org/150](http://www.WillaCather.org/150)

# Speakers and Panelists

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## **Dr. Molly Rozum, University of South Dakota (Invited Lecture, June 1)**

The historian Molly P. Rozum is the author of *Grasslands Grown: Creating Place on the U.S. Northern Plains and Canadian Plains*, published in the U.S. by the University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, 2021) and in Canada, the University of Manitoba Press (Winnipeg, 2021). Rozum is co-editor (with Lori Ann Lahlum) of *Equality at the Ballot Box: Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains*, published by South Dakota Historical Society Press (2019); the collection includes Rozum's article, "Citizenship, Civilization, and Property: The 1890 South Dakota Vote on Woman Suffrage and 'Indian' Suffrage." The new collection *The Greater Plains: Rethinking a Region's Environmental Histories*, edited by Brian Frehner and Kathleen A. Brosnan and published by the University of Nebraska Press (2021), includes Rozum's "'Nature Rarely Establishes Sharp Boundaries': Settler Society Agricultural Adaptation in the Great Plains Northwest." Rozum won the 2021 Blair and Linda Tremere Faculty Public Service Award at the University of South Dakota for her commitment to presenting history to local audiences. She is Associate Professor and Ronald R. Nelson Chair of Great Plains and South Dakota History at the University of South Dakota. Rozum earned a B.A. in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame and an M.A. in American Folklore and Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Rozum grew up in Mitchell, South Dakota.

## **Dr. Shelley Stamp, University of California Santa Cruz (Invited Lecture, June 2)**

Dr. Shelley Stamp is the UC Santa Cruz Presidential Chair and the author of *Movie-Struck Girls: Women and Motion Picture Culture after the Nickelodeon* (a finalist for the Theatre Library Association Book Award) and *Lois Weber in Early Hollywood*, winner of the Michael Nelson Prize from the International Association for Media and History and the Richard Wall Special Jury Prize from the Theatre Library Association. She curated the 6-disk set *Pioneers: First Women Filmmakers*, honored with a Special Award from the New York Film Critics Circle. She is also Founding Editor of *Feminist Media Histories: An International Journal*, published quarterly by the University of California Press, and an accompanying book series also published by UC Press. Her research has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and a University of California President's Fellowship. Stamp is Professor of Film + Digital Media at UC Santa Cruz, where she won the Excellence in Teaching Award.

## **Bel Canto Duo (Invited Lecture, June 3)**

The Bel Canto Duo was founded in 2016 by Darci Griffith Gamerl (oboe/English horn) and Grammy-nominated cellist, David Downing. The duo provides a rich tapestry of sound, with a variety of selections that feature us as soloist artists, and as a duo. Their music features a wide variety of selections from original works, to arrangements of classical compositions and selections from film, Broadway and opera.

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## **Hirofumi Ariyoshi, University of Alabama (Session 7A, June 2)**

Hirofumi Ariyoshi is a Ph.D. student at the University of Alabama. After earning BA and MA in Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan, he came to the United States to study 20th-century American literature. His research interest is in Southern literature, ecocriticism, and translation studies. He is working as a translator of American literature into Japanese.

## **Amrita Bakshi, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa (Session 5B, June 2)**

Amrita Bakshi is a second-year Ph.D. student at The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. She is interested in the intersections of avant-garde musical aesthetics and modernist literature, especially modernist poetry. Other than being an aspiring scholar, she likes to think of herself as a closet poet.

## **Allan Benn, East Stroudsburg University (Session 7B, June 2)**

In his 35 years at East Stroudsburg University, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of English Dr. Allan Benn primarily taught writing and American literature. He served as Chair of the ESU English Department for six years and in various leadership positions in the statewide faculty union (APSCUF) for twenty-five years. He also taught at Ithaca College and, most recently, at Bryn Mawr College. He has presented several times on Willa Cather at various conferences.

## **Patti Burris, Northeast Community College (Session 7A, June 2)**

Patti Burris's paternal great-great grandparents (the August Westerhaus family) lived in Webster County near Blue Hill from 1894 to 1895. They left because of the drought and hard times. Cather mentions the exodus of settlers from the area during that time in "Nebraska: The End of the First Cycle." Burris's maternal grandfather came to Nebraska from Virginia in 1916. Both connections increase her interest in the work of Willa Cather. Burris teaches Foundational English at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE.

## **Juan Carrillo del Saz, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Session 1, June 1)**

Juan Carrillo del Saz is a La Caixa InPhinit predoctoral fellow, English Studies Department at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Carrillo del Saz has a BA in Translation and Interpreting, an MA in Translation Studies, and a BA and MA in Architecture. His research interests lie in the fields of literary translation and reception. He is a member of the research groups Cos and Textualitat and Trilcat. He is writing a thesis on the early translations and receptions of Willa Cather, Kate Chopin, and Edith Wharton in Spain.

**Matthew Cella, Shippensburg University (The Passing Show, June 3)**

Matthew Cella is associate professor of English at Shippensburg University. Cella's research interests include American literature, literary ecology, and disability studies. His book *Bad Land Pastoralism in Great Plains Fiction*, features an examination of Willa Cather's shifting perspectives on Nebraska in *O Pioneers!* and *A Lost Lady*.

**Sneha Chakraborty, University of South Dakota (Session 5B, June 2)**

Sneha Chakraborty currently studies Masters of Arts in the University of South Dakota in the Department of English. She is interested in Critical Feminist and Racial studies, especially to understand the interjection of race and gender in creating caste and gender based hierarchical oppressions, and Marxist theories.

**Lonnie Pierson Dunbier (Session 4, June 1)**

Lonnie Pierson Dunbier is the author of *Lyra and Silas Garber: A First Couple in Frontier History*. Her research of the Garber family provides a vital record tied to the larger history of Red Cloud, Nebraska. A historian with a special interest in Willa Cather, Dunbier's career later evolved to that of art gallery owner and research director of a website devoted to North American Artists.

**Becky Faber (Session 3, June 1)**

Aside from her extensive work as a creative writer, editor, and manuscript reader, Becky Faber is a board member for Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association. She has published extensively on Cather, including in the *Willa Cather Review* and *Teaching Cather*, and her dissertation, *All the World Seemed Touched with Gold*, explored the George Cather family as source material for *One of Ours*.

**Phoenix Fogarty, University of Alabama (Session 2, June 1)**

Phoenix Fogarty is currently a Master's student in the English Department at the University of Alabama. Through her coursework and research, Phoenix studies configurations of gender identity and sexuality in late American literature.

**Sarah Gleeson-White, University of Sydney (Session 7B, June 2)**

Sarah Gleeson-White is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Sydney. She has published widely on early 20th century U.S. literature and film. Her new book, *Literature in Motion: Silent Film and the Formations of U.S. Literary Culture*, is due in 2024, and she is working on an article about Willa Cather and mass circulation. She will take up a Willa Cather Scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in June 2023.

**Charmion Gustke, Belmont University (The Passing Show, June 3)**

Charmion Gustke is associate professor of English and Director of the First Year Seminar program at Belmont University. Her published work focuses on transatlantic literary studies, Henry David Thoreau, and Willa Cather. She is a member of the Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors and is currently working on a project examining Cather and the history of whiteness.

**William R. Handley, University of Southern California (Session 5B, June 2)**

William R. Handley teaches at the University of Southern California. He is Past President of the Western Literature Association and is working on a book about representations of catastrophe in western U.S. literature, film, and photography. He is also General Editor of the University of Nebraska Press's *Postwestern Horizons* series.

**Keegan Hinsley, University of Alabama (Session 2, June 1)**

Keegan Hinsley is a graduate student in literature at the University of Alabama.

**James Jaap, Penn State Greater Allegheny (The Passing Show, June 3)**

James Jaap is a Teaching Professor of English at Penn State Greater Allegheny, where his primary focus is teaching writing, composition, and literature courses. He is a member of the Willa Cather Foundation Board of Governors and is developing the Western Pennsylvania Art, Literature, and Culture Project, a center devoted to the study of art and literature in Western Pennsylvania.

**Jun Young Lee, Yeungnam University, South Korea (Session 7A, June 2)**

Jun Young Lee is a professor of English Education at Yeungnam University, South Korea. He received his Ph. D. in English literature from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His published book and articles are *History and Utopian Disillusion: The Dialectical Politics in the Novels of John Dos Passos*, "The Narrative Force and Limit of R. Wright's Native Son and the Dialectics of Necessity and Accident," and "A Dialectical Reflection on the Practical Materialism: Beyond the Dualism of Idealism and Materialism."

**Bill Lord, Iowa State University (Session 5A, June 2)**

Bill Lord retired from Iowa State University in 2002 as Distinguished Professor of Engineering emeritus. He has been a regular reviewer for the National Science Foundation since 2002, and his current interests relate to the Institute for Senior Professionals program at the Northwest Florida State College and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, in Destin, Florida. He is currently active as a member of both the Willa Cather Foundation and the Robert Henri Museum.

**Kenneth Michael, University of Nebraska at Omaha (Session 7B, June 2)**

Kenneth Michael holds degrees in Philosophy and English from the University of Iowa and is currently a graduate teaching assistant in the English Department at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. From 2013 to 2015, he lived in New York City. He then attended the writing workshop at Naropa's Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics in Boulder, where he was a student of Samuel R. Delany, Thomas Sayers Ellis, and Anne Waldman among others. He lives in Omaha with his family.

**Jon Mikkelsen (Session 5A, June 2)**

Jon Mikkelsen is Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO. He was born in McCook, NE and grew up in Imperial, Gordon, Aurora, and Gothenburg before undergraduate study at Nebraska Wesleyan, Vanderbilt, and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (BA 1975). He earned his doctorate from the University of Kansas in 1987 with a dissertation on Kant's *Critique of Judgement*. He is the translator and editor of *Kant and the Concept of Race* (SUNY Press, 2013).

**Richard Millington, Smith College (The Passing Show, June 3)**

Richard Millington is the Helen and Laura Shedd Professor of English Language and Literature at Smith College. He is the author of *Practicing Romance: Narrative Form and Cultural Engagement in Hawthorne's Fiction*; he is also the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Nathaniel Hawthorne* and the Norton Critical Edition of Hawthorne's *The Blithedale Romance*. He is the author of several articles on Willa Cather, each exploring an aspect of her distinctive American modernism.

**Daryl W. Palmer, Regis University (Session 5A, June 2)**

Daryl W. Palmer is professor of English at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. His most recent book is *Becoming Willa Cather: Creation and Career* (2019). His articles on Willa Cather and the American West have appeared in journals such as *American Literary Realism*, *Great Plains Quarterly*, *Kansas History, Theory & Event*, and *Willa Cather Review*.

**Mark Robison, Union College (Session 3, June 1)**

Mark Robison is a retired professor of English and the former Chair of Humanities at Union College. He is a Cather scholar with numerous publications and presentations to his credit, particularly related to Cather's portrayals of the arts and recreation.

**Mary Ruth Ryder, South Dakota State University (Session 1, June 1)**

Mary Ruth Ryder is distinguished professor emerita from South Dakota State University and author of *Willa Cather and Classical Myth*, as well as of numerous articles on Cather in the *Willa Cather Review*, collections of essays on Cather, and a variety of professional journals. Her recent essay "Growing Pains: The City Behind Cather's Pittsburgh Classroom" was published in *Cather Studies* 13.

**Steve Siporin, Utah State University (Session 6A, June 2)**

Steve Siporin is Professor Emeritus of Folklore at Utah State University, where he taught for thirty years. His book *The Befana is Returning: The Story of a Tuscan Festival*, was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 2022. He has published translations from the Italian of Augusto Segre's memoirs—*Stories of Jewish Life: Casale Monferrato-Rome-Jerusalem, 1876-1985*, and *Memories of Jewish Life: From Italy to Jerusalem, 1918-1960*. His book *American Folk Masters: The National Heritage Fellows* received an honorable mention in the Giuseppe Pitre International Folklore Prize competition in 1993.

**Rachel Terry, Brigham Young University (Session 6A, June 2)**

Rachel Terry is a post-graduate student at Brigham Young University and presented "Along the Sunflower Trail: Etiological Wildflower Legends Referencing Mormon Pioneers, Forty-niners, and Other Westward Trekkers" at the Folklore Society of Utah Conference in November 2022.

**Robert Thacker, St. Lawrence University (Session 3, June 1)**

Robert Thacker is the current president of the Board of Governors of the Willa Cather Foundation and a co-editor of the *Willa Cather Review*. He is also professor emeritus of Canadian Studies and English at St. Lawrence University. His latest book, *Alice Munro's Late Style: "Writing is the Final Thing,"* will be published by Bloomsbury Academic in 2023.

**Nathan Tye, University of Nebraska at Kearney (Session 6A, June 2)**

Nathan Tye is assistant professor of History at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. A historian of labor, gender, and mobility on the Great Plains, his essays on hobo labor have appeared in *Nebraska History* and *The Annals of Iowa*. His previous work on Cather appeared in the Fall 2022 issue of the *Willa Cather Review*.

**Sarah Wade, University of Alabama (Session 2, June 1)**

Sarah Wade is a graduate student at the University of Alabama currently enrolled in a course on Willa Cather's fiction. She mostly studies Victorian women novelists and has also presented a paper on "Feminist Ethics in Middlemarch" at the ACETA conference.

# *The Kaley House*



Charles and Cyrelia (Whidney) Kaley finished their home in 1886.  
Jay Yost and Wade Leak restored it over seventeen years.

This fully restored and modernized 1886 Queen Anne sets in the neighborhood that Willa Cather called “Quality Street.” The beautifully refurbished original features of the home are showcased in three lovely sitting rooms, a dining room, a new kitchen, and three beautiful bedrooms with private baths. The house features heated marble and tile floors, central air and heat, a remote-control gas fireplace, all-house Wi-Fi and sound system, a wrap-around porch with rocking chairs, two patios, an ornamental garden fountain, and much more.

The Kaley House was lovingly restored by John A (Jay) Yost and his husband, Wade Leak, as their second home. They enjoy the quiet surroundings of south-central Nebraska whether they’re in town for a few days of vacation or taking a break from New York during the pandemic. No matter the reason for their stay, Red Cloud always feels like home.

Red Cloud offers a number of properties that are ready for a new lease on life. Interested in making Red Cloud home? Jay and Wade can tell you how.



And while you’re in town (...or not), take yourself on a virtual tour of downtown Red Cloud’s wonderful past at [www.walkredcloud.com](http://www.walkredcloud.com). Compiled by Suzi Yost Schulz, you can explore more than fifty buildings and sites with descriptions, photos and quotes describing how each piece of the downtown’s physical history played a part in the town’s history. Why wait? Visit Red Cloud virtually!

THE CATHER LEGACY SOCIETY

# What Experiences Will Your Legacy Inspire?

*"... that is happiness; to be dissolved  
into something complete and great."*

*—My Ántonia*



*Extend Your Impact, Inspire Others*

THE CATHER LEGACY SOCIETY

*"There are always dreamers on the frontier."*

*—O Pioneers!*

Membership in the Cather Legacy Society is open to those who share the desire to ensure that their support of the Willa Cather Foundation continues beyond their lifetimes.

The generosity of Cather Legacy Society members will enable the Willa Cather Foundation to make a lasting impact. Your personal legacy will benefit generations to come, inspire others, and provide financial security while allowing the Willa Cather Foundation to engage in long-range planning.

Gifts will ensure that we fulfill our mission, and build upon our distinctiveness as an organization that fosters scholarship, preserves treasured sites and collections, and presents valuable educational and cultural programs.



**Our Mission:** To enrich lives by advancing Willa Cather's legacy locally and beyond through education, preservation, and the arts.

**Our Vision:** People everywhere will find meaning and inspiration in Cather's writing, life, times, and places.

**For more information:**

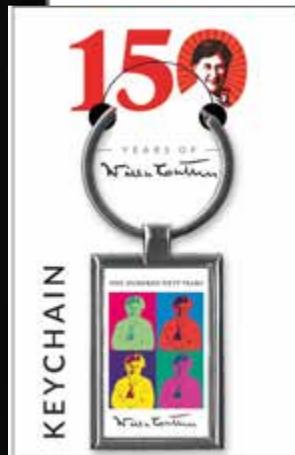
Ashley Olson, Executive Director  
The Willa Cather Foundation

(402) 746-2653 or [aolson@willacather.org](mailto:aolson@willacather.org)



It isn't every year you turn 150.

Limited edition Cather 150 t-shirts are only available at the National Willa Cather Center bookstore, while supplies last.



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