

“Bright and Beautiful and Alive”

June 21-
23, 2023
NEW YORK CITY'S
GREENWICH
VILLAGE

Willa Cather's
New York
Intersections



“The City from Greenwich Village,” John Sloan, 1922. Public domain.

The program is organized by The New School in collaboration with the Lang literary studies department at The New School.



65 W. 11th Street
 Lang Cafe & Courtyard
 B100, 1st Floor
 Check-in, bookseller,
 coffee service, information

66 W. 12th Street
 Alvin Johnson/J.M. Kaplan Hall
 A404 Johnson/Kaplan, 4th Floor
 Concurrent sessions

65 W. 11th Street
 Wollman Hall
 B500, 5th Floor
 Concurrent sessions,
 invited lectures

Planning Committee

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The New School
- Charmion Gustke**
Belmont University
- Melissa Homestead**
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- Andrew Jewell**
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Margo Jefferson

The winner of a Pulitzer Prize for criticism, Margo Jefferson previously served as book and arts critic for *Newsweek* and the *New York Times*. Her writing has appeared in, among other publications, *Vogue*, *New York Magazine*, *The Nation*, and *Guernica*. Her memoir, *Negroland*, received the National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography. In *Constructing a Nervous System: A Memoir*, Jefferson examines her life through the artists who have influenced her, including Willa Cather. She is a professor of writing at Columbia University School of the Arts.



Elizabeth Kendall

Elizabeth Kendall is a nonfiction writer and the author of *Balanchine and the Lost Muse* and *Where She Danced*, a history of modern dance. She is Associate Professor of Liberal Studies and Literary Studies at the Eugene Lang College of New School in Greenwich Village, teaching classes in memoir, cultural criticism, and race and gender in American culture.



Hugh Ryan

Hugh Ryan is a writer, historian, and curator in New York City. His most recent book, *The Women's House of Detention: A Queer History of a Forgotten Prison*, is a queer history of the Women's House of Detention in Greenwich Village, the people it caged, the neighborhood it changed, and the resistance it inspired. It is the winner of the 2023 Stonewall Book Award/ Israel Fishman Award for Nonfiction from the Publishing Triangle of the American Library Association, as well as the 2022 Warren Johansson Award from the W.A. Percy Foundation.

**Seminar check-in is at the Lang Café building, located at 65 W. 11th on the first floor.
Please check in before attending any seminar events!**

Wednesday, June 21

9:00-10:15am | Opening Plenary | B500 Wollman

Welcome, and opening remarks -- Andy Jewell, Charmion Gustke, Ashley Olson

Julia Foulkes, New York is the Place: The New School, Greenwich Village, and Cather

10:30am-12:00pm | Session 1

1A New York's Artistic Worlds | A404 Johnson/Kaplan

Chair: Susan Naramore Maher

Steven Shively, Cather and the Church of the Ascension: Religion, Art, and Public Discourse

Robert Thacker, Recognizing Cather at Cos Cob

1B Connections to Harlem Renaissance Writers | B500 Wollman

Chair: Tracyann Williams

Molly Metherd, On Tour in America: Willa Cather, James Weldon Johnson, and the Performance of National Identity

Ariel Silver, From Gotham to the Geographies of Childhood: The Anthropological Turn in the Work of Willa Cather and Zora Neale Hurston

12:00pm-1:30pm | Lunch Break - On your own

1:30pm-3:00pm | Session 2

2A Diverse New York Contexts | A404 Johnson/Kaplan

Chair: Kelsey Squire

John Murphy, Worldly and Diverse and Free: Willa Cather's New York Context

Susan Naramore Maher, From the Concrete to the Cosmic: Mapping New York in Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" and Willa Cather's "Coming, Aphrodite!"

Mark Madigan, Willa Cather, Movie Star?

2B The Politics of Labor | B500 Wollman

Chair: Charmion Gustke

LaVona Reeves, Cather, Immigrant Lives, and the Factory Fire in the Village

Sarah Clere, Ethnic Identity and the Precarious Professional Class in "Behind the Singer Tower"

3:00pm-3:30pm | Break

3:30pm-5:00pm | Session 3

3A Episodes in Cather's New York Life | A404 Johnson/Kaplan

Chair: Diane Prenatt

Mark A. Robison, Behind, Beneath, and Beyond the "Singer Tower"

JoAnne Katzmarek, Against a Sharp White Background

Kelsey Squire, Escape from New York: The Writing and Reception of *Shadows on the Rock*

3B Spirituality and Cognition | B500 Wollman

Chair: Mark Madigan

Joshua Doležal, Neurotheology in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*

Timothy W. Bintrim, "Her Boss," "The Death of Ivan Ilyich," and Questions of Being Mortal

Alex Gergely, Can We Post-critique Cather? Investigating Hope, Christian Community, and Resonance

7:00pm-8:30pm | Featured Speakers | B500 Wollman

Introduction: Carolyn Vellenga Berman, The New School

Margo Jefferson and **Elizabeth Kendall**, "Raw and relentless /gaudy and extravagant": Willa Cather's New York
Learn more about the Featured Speakers on the previous page.

Thursday, June 22

9:00-10:15am | Session 4

Editorial Interventions | Plenary Session A | B500 Wollman

Chair: Andy Jewell

Matt Lavin, *Toil, Twilight, and Trapeze Work: Imagined Time in Cather's Correspondence*

Alec Pollak, *The Mark of Her Estate: Intergenerational Rights Management and the Evolution of an American Icon*

10:30am-12:00pm | Plenary Panel | B500 Wollman

Chair: Rachel Olsen

Creative Responses to the Work of Willa Cather

Susan Meyer, **Ladette Randolph**, and **Chris Miller**

12:00pm-1:30pm | Lunch Break - On your own

1:30pm-3:00pm | Session 5

5A Cultural Identity and Representation | A404 Johnson/Kaplan

Chair: Bob Thacker

Xianjing Gong, *Cather's Oriental Imagination: Chinese Immigrants and China*

Andrew Wu, "Her Speech I Counted Against Her": Language Diversity and Language Socialization in *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*

Elizabeth Wells, *The Ugly Laws' (and Cather's) Path to New York*

5B Artists in the City | B500 Wollman

Chair: Tracy Tucker

Shellie Sclan, *Going On Becoming: Willa Cather's Artists in New York*

Diane Prenatt, "Not Like the New Republicans": Willa Cather Among the Radicals

Richard Harris, *Ferris Greenslet and John Buchan: Cather's New York and Scottish Connections*

3:00pm-3:30pm | Break

3:30pm-5:00pm | Featured Speaker | B500 Wollman

Introduction: Melissa Homestead

Hugh Ryan, *The Two Greenwich Villages: Willa Cather's New York City in a Time of Transition*

Learn more about this Featured Speaker on page 2.

The Willa Cather Childhood Home

Will You Help Us Restore a National Historic Landmark?

For information about how you can help save Willa Cather's wallpaper and other priceless artifacts in our collections that tell Cather's story, contact development associate, Jeniffer Beahm at jbeahm@willacather.org, or (402) 746-2653



Save the dates!

How will you mark
Willa Cather's
150th birthday?

Celebrate with us!

WillaCather.org/150



Friday, June 23

9:00-10:15am | Session 6

6A Theater and My Mortal Enemy | A404 Johnson/Kaplan

Chair: Mark Robison

Mary Chinery, Nellie Birdseye, Sarah Bernhardt's *Hamlet*, and the Theatrical Context of Willa Cather's *My Mortal Enemy*

Joseph C. Murphy, "The Magical City" in *My Mortal Enemy*: Willa Cather and Zoë Akins on the Modernist Stage

6B America East and West | B500 Wollman

Chair: Emily Rau

Tom Knoblauch, "It's a Haunt": Doubles, the East-West Gap, and American Hauntology in Willa Cather's "Consequences" and "A Death in the Desert"

Matthew Evertson and **Shannon Smith**, The Other Nebraska New Yorker: Mari Sandoz and Her Urban "Outpost" Compared to Willa Cather's Metropolitan Scene

10:30am-12:00pm | Session 7

7A Textual Histories | A404 Johnson/Kaplan

Chair: Richard Harris

Clare Charlesworth, Revising "The Diamond Mine": a Study of the Reworkings Made to Space, Portrayals of Foreignness, and Antisemitism Across Published Versions of the Story

Melissa J. Homestead, Willa Cather's Literary Manuscripts: Retrospect and Prospect

Sarah Gleeson-White, *A Lost Lady*, Photoplay Editions, and the New York Publishing Scene

7B Introducing Cather Through Teaching and Translation | B500 Wollman

Chair: Elizabeth Wells

Agnes Krup, How to Climb an "Enchanted Bluff": An Attempt to (Re-)Introduce Willa Cather to a 21st Century German Audience

Elisabeth Bayley, Using Narrative Medicine to Teach Willa Cather's "The Sculptor's Funeral"

Kristine Leibhart, Teaching Willa Cather in Nebraska: From Red Cloud Rogue to New York Socialite

12:00pm-1:30pm | Lunch Break - On your own

1:30pm-3:00pm | Session 8

8A Spatial Geographies | B500 Wollman

Chair: Tim Bintrim

Terese Svoboda, Happy Birthday Lola Ridge and Willa Cather (presented virtually)

Kimberly M. Vanderlaan, Cather's Domiciles of Consciousness

Matthias Schubnell, From Ischia to Manhattan: Caesarino's Journey in Willa Cather's Critique of the City in "Behind the Singer Tower"

3:00pm-6:00pm | Break

6:00pm | Cather Soirée | Sony Music Rooftop
25 Madison Avenue (Sony entrance at 25th Street)



There is no better way to conclude the bright, beautiful, and lively 18th International Seminar than with a summer evening celebration against the stunning backdrop of the New York City skyline! Join us for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a special live musical performance. You will not want to miss this party as we bid farewell to the city Willa Cather called home and where she produced some of her greatest literary works.

Selections from *Revival*, a new musical based on "Eric Hermannson's Soul," by Willa Cather
Music & Book by Chris Miller, Lyrics & Book by Nathan Tysen
Performed by Jackie Burns and Lauren Jeanne Thomas

Elisabeth Bayley | Loyola University Chicago (Session 7B) Bayley is currently a Senior Lecturer in the English Department at Loyola University Chicago. She is part of the *Steinbeck Review* Editorial Board and the board of the Gerber Hart Library and Archive. Her favorite class to teach is Nature and Literature.

Timothy W. Bintrim | Saint Francis University (Session 3B) Bintrim is a Professor of English at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania, where he teaches a sophomore-level course titled “Medicine in Literature.” He has published widely on Cather’s writings about Pittsburgh, co-directed the International Cather Seminar there in 2017, and co-edited *Cather Studies 13: Willa Cather’s Pittsburgh* (2021). Currently he is production assistant on a film, *This Collapse of All Things*, documenting the short life of Frederick A. Demmler, a painter of great promise who had studied English under Cather at Allegheny High School and was a partial prototype of Tom Outland.

Clare Charlesworth | University of Adelaide (Session 7A) Charlesworth is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Adelaide, Australia, where she is examining the revisions made to Willa Cather’s works across publications. She is a tutor at the University of Adelaide and an editor at the *Saltbush Review*.

Mary Chinery | Georgian Court University (Session 6A) Chinery, Ph.D., is Professor of English and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Georgian Court University, Lakewood, New Jersey, where she teaches American literature, drama, and interdisciplinary studies. Her published works include *Willa Cather and the Santos Tradition* in *Willa Cather and the Southwest*, and *Wartime Fictions: Willa Cather, the Armed Services Editions and the Unspeakable Second World War*, in *Cather Studies 6*. She recently published with Laura Rattray, *The Shadow of a Doubt: Discovering a New Work by Edith Wharton* and co-edited the play, *The Shadow of a Doubt*, both in the *Edith Wharton Review*.

Sarah Clere | Independent Scholar (Session 2B) Clere is on the Publications Committee of the Willa Cather Foundation. Her work on Cather and other American writers has appeared in various publications and is forthcoming in *Cather Studies 14*.

Joshua Doležal | Central College (Session 3B) Doležal is professor emeritus and the author of a memoir, *Down from the Mountaintop: From Belief to Belonging*, which was shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize. His work has appeared in more than twenty journals, including *Hudson Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Missouri Review*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He also produces a Substack newsletter, *The Recovering Academic*.

Dr. Matthew Evertson | Chadron State College (Session 6B) Evertson is a professor at Chadron State College in the English and Humanities program focusing on literature of the American West, Native American Literature, Great Plains/Regional Studies and Environmental Humanities. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Mari Sandoz Society.

Alex Gergely | University of Kentucky (Session 3B) Gergely is an English Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kentucky where he studies modernist American literature. Typically coming from a post-critical angle, his work explores the intersection of affect, philosophy, and aesthetics as they come into play with literary concepts of death and suicide. He has published in *Early American Literature* and *Mississippi Quarterly*.

Sarah Gleeson-White | University of Sydney (Session 7A) Gleeson-White is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Sydney. She has published on early twentieth-century U.S. literature and film in *PMLA*, *Modernism/modernity*, *African American Review* and elsewhere, and her books include *William Faulkner at Twentieth Century-Fox: The Annotated Screenplays* (Oxford UP 2017), *Strange Bodies: Gender and Identity in the Novels of Carson McCullers* (Alabama UP 2003) and, as co-editor with Pardis Dabashi, *The New William Faulkner Studies* (Cambridge UP 2022). Her new book project, *Literature in Motion: Silent Film and the Formations of U.S. Literary Culture*, is due out with Oxford UP in 2024, and she is currently working on an article about Willa Cather and mass circulation.

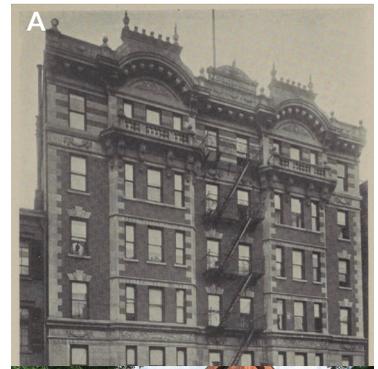
Xianjing Gong | Huazhong Agricultural University (Session 5A) Gong is a professor of translation and comparative literature in the Foreign language school at Huazhong Agricultural University. She holds an M.A. from Central Normal University and Ph.D. from the Huazhong University of Science and Technology. Her research interests are American studies, translation studies, multilingualism. Her M.A. thesis is *A Study of Male Characters in Edith Wharton’s Novels* and in 2021-2022 she supervised a M.A. thesis *A Study of Community in Willa Cather’s Historical Fictions*.

Richard Harris | Webb Institute (Session 8B) Harris, John J. McMullen Professor of Humanities and Assistant Dean at Webb Institute, has published extensively on Willa Cather in a number of journals, including the *Willa Cather Review*, *Cather Studies*, *Studies in American Fiction*, and *The Journal of Narrative Theory*. He was volume editor for the Scholarly Edition *One of Ours* (U of Nebraska P, 2006). His particular interest has been influences and sources for Cather’s fiction.

An Abbreviated Walking Tour of Cather's Greenwich Village

A 82 Washington Place

Cather's 2nd apartment in New York City and the first one she shared with Edith Lewis, located in Greenwich Village. Cather wrote her friend and mentor Sarah Orne Jewett about the new apartment shortly after moving in in the fall of 1908, noting that she and Lewis were not living "dreamy, idle lives," but were industriously taking care of themselves, cooking their own food for most meals and only having "a maid come in to clean two days a week." The cooking, Cather wrote, helped both of them take their minds off "office troubles" at *McClure's Magazine*, where they both worked. Lewis wrote that it was "one of the most charming places in New York" and had a "youthful, lighthearted, and rather poetic mood [in] those days before the automobile, the radio, the moving picture—and before two wars." They lived here from 1908 to 1911.



B 60 Washington Square South

The address of Cather's 1st rented room in New York from 1906 to 1908. Located on the south side of Washington Square Park, Edith Lewis lived in the same building and was there when Cather visited her in 1904 and 1905. The building was in a cluster later called "Genius Row" due to the large number of writers and artists that lived there. Cather briefly returned to the address in the spring of 1912 before moving to 5 Bank Street that fall. (The building no longer stands; nearby is 70 Washington Square South, part of NYU's library system.)

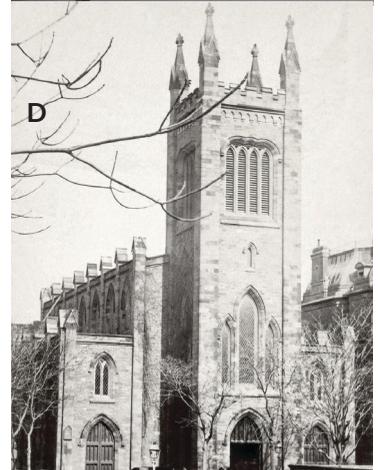


C Grosvenor Hotel at 35 Fifth Avenue

When Cather and Edith Lewis lost their 5 Bank Street apartment in 1927, they moved to the Grosvenor Hotel, intending to stay a short time. They ended up staying until 1932, though Cather spent much time away from New York and many of their possessions were kept in storage. Cather's parents died during that time, but she also researched and wrote *Shadows on the Rock*. While working on the historical novel at the Grosvenor, Cather hung a full-size replica of the "Lady and Unicorn" tapestries at the foot of her bed to imaginatively live in the 17th-century French colony. The Grosvenor was originally built in 1872 as a 6 story hotel by Detlef Lienau; in 1925 the new Grosvenor was constructed by Schwarz & Gross.



D Church of the Ascension at Fifth Ave and 10th St. Across the street is the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. Built in 1840 and designed by Richard Upjohn, it was remodeled in the 1880s by Stanford White. Lewis wrote that this church was Cather's "favourite church in New York; she loved the beautiful altar, with John La Farge's great fresco above; and for years went regularly to the vesper services where the organist, Miss Jessie Craig Adam, a Scotswoman, conducted one of the best-trained small choirs in New York." LaFarge also created several of the church's windows. Stanford White also designed the Washington Square Arch, first in wood and then in marble. He was murdered in 1906, and the "Trial of the Century" that followed resulted in White's "social dissolution."



E Brevoort Hotel, Fifth Avenue at 8th Street

Once a gathering place for New Yorkers of an artistic bent who frequented its basement "Parisian" cafe, Eden Bower and Don Hedger eat there in "Coming, Aphrodite." In that story, Cather wrote, "Looking up the Avenue through the Arch, one could see the poplars with their bright, sticky leaves, and the Brevoort [Hotel] glistening in its spring coat of paint, and shining horses and carriages, - occasionally an automobile."



F 5 Bank Street

The apartment Cather shared with Edith Lewis beginning in 1912, located in Greenwich Village. Cather wrote a friend in 1912, "Since I wrote you I've been in New York twice--have leased and moved my effects into the ideal, the perfect apartment, large old-fashioned, roomy, one flight up; good fireplace, good windows, good woodwork, wide stairs up, and, if you please, number 5 Bank Street, off Greenwich Ave., two blocks from Jefferson Market." Lewis had found the apartment while Cather was traveling, and they paid \$42 a month for it. Cather and Lewis had many happy, productive years in the apartment, but subway construction forced them to relocate in 1927. The building was torn down in 1927, but the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial created a marker, placed on the Waverly Place building, to note the location of Cather's and Lewis's apartment.



Not really Greenwich Village

G Church of the Transfiguration at One East 29th St (the "Little Church Around the Corner") Willa Cather's niece Mary Virginia Auld married Richard Mellen at this church in 1935, and Cather told her brother Roscoe that the ceremony was in a "very little chapel where Father used to sit down and rest during his short visit" in New York. Actors, viewed by some as social outcasts, and "theater people" had a long association with this church. Author P.G. Wodehouse, and actors Joseph Jefferson, Basil Rathbone, Tallulah Bankhead, Joan Fontaine, and Rex Harrison have all been affiliated with the Little Church.



Melissa J. Homestead | University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Session 7B) Homestead is Professor of English, Program Faculty in Women's & Gender Studies, and Director of the Cather Project at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She served as co-editor of *The Complete Letters of Willa Cather* and is director of the NEH Institute for Higher Education Faculty "Willa Cather: Place and Archive" and co-director of the new NEH-funded *Digital Library of Willa Cather's Literary Manuscripts*. She has published widely on women's authorship from the late 1700s to the early 1900s, including *American Women Authors and Literary Property, 1822-1869* (Cambridge 2005) and *The Only Wonderful Things: The Creative Partnership of Willa Cather and Edith Lewis* (Oxford 2021).

JoAnne Katzmarek, Ph.D. | University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (Session 3A) Katzmarek is professor emeritus in the School of Education at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. She has more than twenty years of experience teaching English and Language Arts.

Tom Knoblauch | University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Session 6B) Knoblauch started the Omaha-based Aksarben Creative to contribute to the Midwest's film culture. He hosts the public radio show *Riverside Chats* and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has recently published in the *Berliner Gazette* and *Film and History*.

Agnes Krup | Independent Scholar (Session 7B) Krup holds an M.A. in German literature from Hamburg University, Germany. She has spent more than 30 years in the book publishing industry—mostly in New York—as editor, rights director, literary agent, and book scout. Now a freelance writer and translator, she has published three novels in the German language. A main character in her novel *Sommergäste/Summer Guests* (2020) bears strong resemblance to Willa Cather.

Matthew Lavin | Denison University (Session 4A) Lavin is an Assistant Professor of Data Analytics at Denison University. His publications have appeared in *Auto|Biography Studies*, *Cather Studies*, *CA: The Journal of Cultural Analytics*, *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, *The Programming Historian*, and *Studies in the Novel*.

Kristine Leibhart | North Platte Community College (Session 7B) Leibhart teaches English at North Platte Community College in North Platte, Nebraska. After graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1994 with a degree in English, she attended Texas A&M University and received her master's degree in English in 1996. Leibhart counts Dr. Susan Rosowski (University of Nebraska) and Janis Stout (Texas A&M) among her most esteemed professors. Teaching high school English for 15 years before moving to the community college, Leibhart took groups of high school juniors to Red Cloud each spring for Cather tours. Kristine and her husband, Mike, are parents to three sons and a chocolate Labrador.

Mark Madigan | Nazareth College (Session 2A) Madigan is professor of English at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, and the historical editor of the Willa Cather Scholarly Edition of *Youth* and the *Bright Medusa*. He has published many articles on Cather and other American writers. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Slovenia and a Fulbright Specialist in Croatia.

Molly Metherd | Saint Mary's College of California (Session 1B) Metherd is a Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies at Saint Mary's College of California. Her teaching and research areas are 19th and 20th Century American literature and U.S. Latinx Literatures. She has a recent publication in *Western American Literature* (55.4) on *Death Comes for the Archbishop* and a forthcoming article in *Cather Studies* 14 on *The Song of the Lark*. She is currently serving as the Associate Dean in the School of Liberal Arts.

Susan Lynn Meyer (Session 4 Plenary Panel) Meyer is the author of two previous middle-grade historical novels—*Black Radishes*, a Sydney Taylor Honor Award winner, and *Skating with the Statue of Liberty*—as well as three picture books. Her works have won the Jane Addams Peace Association Children's Book Award and the New York State Charlotte Award, as well as many other honors. Her novels have been chosen as Junior Library Guild and PJ Our Way selections, included among Bank Street College of Education's Best Children's Books of the Year, and translated into German and Chinese. She is Professor of English and Creative Writing at Wellesley College and lives outside Boston.

Chris Miller (Session 4 Plenary Panel) Miller is a composer whose work includes *Prairie Songs & April Twilights*, a song cycle and orchestra setting the poetry of Willa Cather. He has also worked on stage productions of *Tuck Everlasting*, *The Burnt Part Boys*, and *Fugitive Songs*. Miller recently co-arranged and co-orchestrated *Swept Away*, a musical that also features a score by the Avett Brothers. With fellow performer Nathan Tysen, Miller has collaborated on *Blown Sideways Through Life* and *Dreamland* for the Educational Theater Association and Concord Theatricals.

John Murphy | Brigham Young University (Session 2A) Murphy, professor emeritus, Brigham Young University, senior Cather scholar, directed the first Cather Seminar in 1981, and co-directed the 2007 Seminar in France, and the 2013 seminar in Arizona. He is editor and co-editor, respectively, of the Cather Scholarly Editions of *Death Comes for the Archbishop* and *Shadows on the Rock*, editor of Penguin's *My Antonia*, and author of *My Antonia: The Road Home* and dozens of articles on Cather's fiction. He has lectured and taught graduate seminars on Cather internationally. John and his wife, Sally, are at home in the Boston area.

Joseph C. Murphy | Fu Jen Catholic University (Session 6A) Murphy is associate professor in the English Department at Fu Jen Catholic University. His essays on Cather and other American writers have appeared in *Cather Studies*, *Willa Cather Review*, *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, *American Literary Scholarship*, *Modern Language Studies*, *Mickle Street Review*, and other journals and collections, including *Willa Cather and Aestheticism and Violence, the Arts, and Willa Cather*. His book project, *Willa Cather and the Spectacle of Modernity*, situates Cather in relation to emerging modern cultures of spectacle and performance.

Susan Naramore Maher | University of Minnesota Duluth (Session 2A) Maher is author of *Deep Map Country: Literary Cartography of the Great Plains* and has co-edited critical collections and published numerous articles in journals and book collections. She has served as President of the Western Literature Association (twice) and President of the Willa Cather Foundation. Dr. Maher is a member of the WCF advisory council and a member of the Editorial Board of the *Willa Cather Review*.

Alec Pollak | Cornell University (Session 4A) Pollak is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Literatures in English at Cornell University. Her dissertation examines how the decisions of literary heirs and estates, the management of archives, and the mechanics of intellectual property law have influenced the legacies of early- and mid-twentieth century authors. She is the winner of the 2018 Ursula Le Guin Feminist Science Fiction Fellowship for her work on a biography of Joanna Russ, and appears in *Feminist Theory* and *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*.

Diane Prenatt | Marian University (Session 5B) Prenatt is a professor of English emerita at Marian University and faculty mentor in the medical humanities scholarly concentration at Indiana University School of Medicine. She has published on Cather's fiction in *Cather Studies* and the *Willa Cather Review*. She is currently working on a biography of Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant.

Ladette Randolph (Session 4 Plenary Panel) Randolph is the author of five books: three novels: *Private Way*, *Haven's Wake* and *A Sandhills Ballad*, a short story collection, *This is Not the Tropics*, and a memoir, *Leaving the Pink House*. The recipient of four Nebraska Book Awards, a Rona Jaffe grant, a Pushcart Prize, a Virginia Faulkner award, and a citation from Best New American Voices, she is editor-in-chief of the literary journal *Ploughshares* at Emerson College and co-owner of the manuscript consulting firm Randolph Lundine. A long-time Nebraskan, she spent her childhood in the same part of west-central Nebraska where her family lived for five generations. She now lives in Boston with her husband Noel.

LaVona Reeves | Eastern Washington University (Session 2B) Reeves is Professor of English & Women's Studies at Eastern Washington University. A poet and linguist, she has presented at the National Women's Studies Association Conventions, at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, at the Center for Great Plains Studies, and at the Willa Cather Foundation conferences. She is currently writing an oral history of her mother, who built bombs during wartime. A UNL alumna, she has taught in Japan, at Harvard, and in the NYC public schools while earning a graduate degree at Columbia University.

Mark A. Robison | Union College (Session 3A) Robison retired in June 2021 from 25 years of teaching at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. He recently contributed a chapter in *Willa Cather to Chicago: A Literary History* (2021, Cambridge University Press).

Matthias Schubnell | University of the Incarnate Word (Session 8A) Schubnell is a professor emeritus of English who taught at Bucknell University, Texas Tech, and the University of the Incarnate in San Antonio. He is the author of a critical biography of N. Scott Momaday and numerous articles on the writings of Willa Cather. He now resides in Sarasota, Florida.

Shellie Sclan | Independent Scholar (Session 5B) Sclan has lived in New York City since the fall of 1977 and has attended many Willa Cather conferences beginning in 2003. Shellie taught English at the Professional Children's School for many years, retiring in 2021.

Steven Shively | Utah State University (Session 1A) Shively taught high school and university English for 44 years before retiring to Nebraska. He has been an issue editor of the *Willa Cather Review* and co-edited *Teaching Cather* and *Teaching the Works of Willa Cather*. He has published essays on Cather and religion, popular culture, and the Menuhins. He recently completed 21 years of service on the board of the Willa Cather Foundation.

Ariel Silver | Southern Virginia University (Session 1B) Silver is an Assistant Professor of English at Southern Virginia University. She is the author of *The Book of Esther and the Typology of Female Transfiguration in American Literature* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018) and a contributor to *Esther in America* (Maggid, 2020) and *The Forgotten Alcott* (Routledge, 2022). She has been an NEH Fellow and a Fellow at the Center for Mark Twain Studies. Her work has appeared in the *Leviathan*, the *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, *RFEA*, and *EJAS*. She presented at the Willa Cather International Symposium in Limavady, Ireland, and currently serves as President-elect of the Hawthorne Society.

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

Shannon Smith | Mari Sandoz Society (Session 6B) Smith, former Executive Director and CEO of Wyoming Humanities, the state's affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a former faculty member at Oglala Lakota College. Her company, Smithsonian Consulting, LLC supports public humanities and cultural projects focusing on American Indian education and heritage preservation. She is the President of the Board of Directors of the Mari Sandoz Society.

Kelsey Squire | Ohio Dominican University (Session 2A) Squire is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Core Program at Ohio Dominican University. She recently published *Willa Cather: The Critical Conversation* (2020, Camden House). Her work on Cather has appeared in *Great Plains Quarterly*, *Cather Studies*, and the *Willa Cather Review*. She is currently working on a project on escapism and the reception of twentieth-century U.S. women writers. She also serves as the President of the Reception Study Society.

Terese Svoboda | Independent Scholar (Session 8A) A Guggenheim fellow and the author of twenty-one books of poetry and prose including a memoir, a biography of Lola Ridge, and a book of translation from the Nuer, Svoboda has won the Bobst Prize in fiction, the Iowa Poetry Prize, an NEH translation grant, the Graywolf Nonfiction Prize, a Jerome Foundation and NEA media grants, the O. Henry Award for the short story, and a Pushcart Prize for the essay. Three-time winner of the NYFA fellowship, she has been awarded Headlands, James Merrill, Yaddo, MacDowell, Bogliasco, Hermitage, Hawthorden, and Bellagio residencies. Her opera *WET* premiered in L.A.'s Disney Hall.

Robert Thacker | St. Lawrence University (Session 1A) Thacker is Charles A. Dana Professor of Canadian Studies and English Emeritus, St. Lawrence University. The author of over eighty academic articles on Alice Munro, Willa Cather, the North American West, and Canadian Literature in English, his books include *The Great Prairie Fact and Literary Imagination* (1989), *Alice Munro: Writing Her Lives: A Biography* (2005, updated 2011), *Reading Alice Munro, 1973-2013* (2016), and *Alice Munro's Late Style: Writing is the Final Thing* (forthcoming 2023). He is the historical editor of Cather's *Collected Poems* in the Willa Cather Scholarly Edition, has co-directed three International Cather Seminars, and is current President of the Board of Governors of the Willa Cather Foundation.

Kimberly M. Vanderlaan | Independent Scholar (Session 8A) Vanderlaan has published in *American Literary Realism*, *Cather Studies*, *Western American Literature*, *Journal of American Culture*, *The Willa Cather Newsletter* and *Journal of American Studies* on a variety of authors. She splits her time between California, Pennsylvania, and Robbinston, Maine, and lives with her husband (Brett), son (Kai) and dog (George).

Elizabeth Wells | SUNY Cortland (Session 5A) Wells currently teaches literature and composition as an adjunct professor at SUNY Cortland. She has contributed articles on Willa Cather's works to *Modern Fiction Studies* and the *Willa Cather Review*, and she has an article forthcoming in *Cather Studies*. She is now at work on a book on disability theory in Cather's works, entitled *Unfit: Disability and Willa Cather's Works*.

Andrew Wu | University of Pennsylvania (Session 5A) Wu is completing his dual-Ph.D. in Educational Linguistics and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on language diversity and canonical issues in language education, with a focus on language/education policy in East Asia. Prior to doctoral studies in the U.S., Andrew studied Clinical Psychology and English Literature at Fu Jen Catholic University (Taiwan) and the University of Bayreuth (Germany), where he completed his master's thesis on Cather's *The Song of the Lark* and *The Wagnerian Sublime*.



June 23rd | 6:00pm | Sony Music Rooftop

Selections from *Revival*, a new musical based on "Eric Hermanson's Soul," by Willa Cather

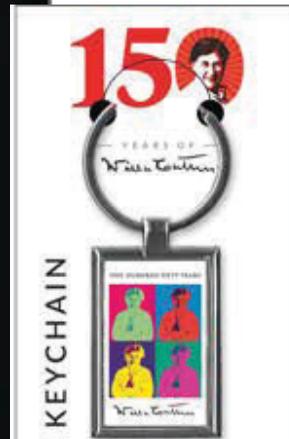
Music & Book by Chris Miller, Lyrics & Book by Nathan Tysen
Performed by Jackie Burns and Lauren Jeanne Thomas

When first workshoping Revival at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2018, Miller said, "It's just like Willa Cather's spirit is all around us. It's really sort of the perfect place to hear this particular work for the first time." We're excited to welcome you to hear these selections in Cather's chosen home—New York City!



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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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