

NCB Quarterly

Nebraska Center for the Book

Vol. 1

No. 3



"I like to think with what pleasure, with what a sense of rich discovery, the young student of American literature in far distant years to come will take up this book and say: 'A Masterpiece!' as proudly as if he himself had made it. It will be a message to the future, a message in a universal language, like the tuft of meadow flowers in Robert Frost's fine poem, which the mower abroad in the early morning left standing, just skirted by the scythe, for the mower of the afternoon to gaze upon and wonder at —the one message that even the scythe of Time spares."

-Willa Cather



Board of Directors

The Nebraska Center for the Book is the 23rd state affiliate of the Library of Congress's National Center for the Book. The Center is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The center acts as a catalyst, bringing together individuals and organizations to build the Nebraska community of the book. The Center serves as a partner and supporter of programs, events, and unique projects which celebrate the written word. The current board members are:

Dick Allen, President	Lincoln
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Elaine Booth	Bellevue
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David McCleery—*NCB Quarterly* Editor/Designer

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Nebraska
Humanities
Council

Publication Schedule

NCB Quarterly is published quarterly. Our publication dates are:

May 1
September 1
November 1
February 1

Want to Advertise?

If you have a business or product that you would like to let people know about, *NCB Quarterly* is a great way to get your message out. Our advertising rate per issue is:

—full page	7"x 8 1/2"	\$60.00
—half page	7"x 4 1/4"	\$35.00
—quarter page	3 1/2"x 4 1/4"	\$20.00

NCB Quarterly prefers photo-ready ads. Typesetting and layout services are available to advertisers for a fee of \$20.00.

Advertising and Calendar Deadlines

Deadlines for advertising and Calendar of Events are:

April 15
August 15
October 15
January 15

Send ads or calendar information to:

NCB Quarterly
2746 Everett
Lincoln, NE 68502

Make checks payable to the
Nebraska Center for the Book.

About the cover: Photograph of Willa Cather by Steichen, courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society. The quotation is from "The Best Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett," in *Willa Cather on Writing*. (University of Nebraska Press, Bison Book)

Welcome New Members!

New members as of August 27, 1991

Individual

Polly Abariotes	Omaha
Marlys Bellamy	Arapahoe
Peggy Benjamin	Grand Island
Clay Capek	Lincoln
Jean Cassel	Crete
Mary Beth Dodson	North Platte
Carolyn Feingold	Bellevue
Jane Gehringer	Omaha
Olive Guerard	Burwell
Phebe Keenan	Kearney
Kathryn Kelley	Lincoln
Maxine Kessinger	Elkhorn
Janet Moylan	Omaha
Rita M. Paul	Lincoln
George Peck	Grand Island
Nancy Rips	Omaha
Barbara Rixstine	Lincoln
Joey Sullivan	Primrose
Lynn Wild	Crete

Organizational

Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation
Friends of Loren Eiseley
Friends of Print Handicapped Nebraskans
Lincoln Public Schools
Nebraska Book Arts Center
Nebraska State Historical Society
Scottsbluff Public Library

Wanted: More organizational memberships!

Please encourage your organization (public or private, commercial or non-profit) to demonstrate its support for literacy, reading, books, libraries, and writing in Nebraska by becoming an organizational member of the Nebraska Center for the Book.

**Memberships received now are
good through 1992!**

*See inside of back cover for information on how you
or your organization can become a member!*



First Nebraska Literature Festival Almost Here!

Now's the time to get out your calendar and plan to attend the First Nebraska Literature Festival scheduled for September 27-28 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. A wide variety of writers, performers, scholars, and artists are lined up to make these two days an exciting and informative way to spend the weekend. We've got workshops ranging from storytelling to nature writing, and panel discussions on the life and ideas of Nebraskans as diverse as political activist Malcolm X and mystery writers Jean Potts and Patricia McGerr. There will be time to view video recordings of John G. Neihardt or hear contemporary poets Susan Strayer Deal and Roy Scheele read their work. Festival workshops are free and open to the public.

Two special events will raise funds for the Festival: including—an evening at the Bemis Gallery, Friday, September 27th, featuring art, poetry, and music; and the Festival Dinner on Saturday, September 28th. Dress is informal for this event, featuring John Cole, Director of the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress as guest speaker. And an after-dinner program with William Kloefkorn, Nebraska State Poet, and Betty Jean Steinshouer portraying Willa Cather. The first Mildred R. Bennett Nebraska Literature Award also will be presented.

A new visual image tying together six well-known Nebraska authors has been created for the Festival by UNL Art Professor David Routon. His remarkable drawings of Bess Streeter Aldrich, Willa Cather, Loren Eiseley, Wright Morris, John G. Neihardt and Mari Sandoz will establish the visual image of these authors as a group.

The Festival poster, the first item to feature Routon's drawings, was designed by Dika Eckersley of the University of Nebraska Press. This beautiful green and white poster features a map of Nebraska showing locations associated with the authors, and may be purchased from the Heritage Room of the Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. Please make checks payable to: LCLF/Heritage Room. Cost per poster is \$7.75, which includes tax and shipping/handling. Sales of the poster will provide on-going support for the Nebraska Literature Festival.

The Routon drawings also will appear on the cover of a *Resource Guide to Six Nebraska Authors* (see article on page 11) and on soon-to-be produced T-shirts.

Attention: Nebraska Center for the Book Members!

As a member of the Center you are entitled to free table space in the Bookfair and Exhibit area at the First Nebraska Literature Festival. For further information, contact:

University of Nebraska At Omaha
C/O Art Homer
UNO Writer's Workshop, Ash212
Omaha, NE 68182-0324

Nominations for Board Memberships Sought

The 1991 Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Center for the Book will take place at 3:15 p.m., November 13, at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont. In addition to reports to the membership, there will be an election of four board members to the 15-member board of the Nebraska Center for the Book. Three of the four positions are expiring terms. Several of the incumbents of these may choose to run again. Suggested qualifications for Board Membership are:

1. *A strong interest in the mission of the Nebraska Center for the Book: the state-wide promotion of literacy, reading, books, libraries, and writing in Nebraska.*
2. *Willingness to serve for three years. Normally there will be five board meetings each year—January, March, May, July and September—plus the annual meeting in November. Traditionally, four of the five board meetings have been held in Lincoln, the fifth either in Omaha or the Kearney area. The location of the annual meeting will alternate between the Lincoln, Omaha, and Kearney areas. Board meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. and generally run for two hours. Board members also will be expected to serve as committee chairs or as committee members. Committees have been meeting either prior to or after the board meeting on the same day, although they may need to meet at other times. Membership on the Board is a volunteer commitment. There is no compensation and no mileage allowance.*
3. *Interest in working on the special, on-going initiatives of the Nebraska Center for the Book. These include promotion of the National Center for the Book theme, "1992: Explore New Worlds—Read!," promotion of literacy awareness, promotion of reading for all ages, promotion of books (including their printing, publishing, and selling), promotion of libraries, and promotion of Nebraska writing and writing in Nebraska. Current Committees are: Book Discussion Promotion, Directory of the Nebraska Community of the Book, Funding and Governance, Literacy Promotion, Membership, Nebraska Authors, Nebraska Literature Festival, Newsletter, and Publicity.*

If you are interested in being nominated for a Nebraska Center for the Book Board position, please send your name, address, telephone number, and a brief statement of interests (and/or ideas) to the 1991 Nominating Committee Chair (below). The election of board members will take place at the 1991 Annual meeting. Each member present, individual or organizational representative, will be able to cast one vote for each of the four board positions.

Please send in your nomination by October 15, 1991 to:
Golda Bockbrader, Nominating Committee Chair
Nebraska Center for the Book
3005 North Webb
Grand Island, NE 68803

Questions about Board Membership may be addressed to Dick Allen, Nebraska Library Commission, 1420 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, telephone (402) 471-2045.



President's Column

The program part of our November 13th annual meeting in Fremont will be on the Chautauqua in Nebraska. Jane Hood, Executive Director of the Nebraska Humanities Council, will be the principal speaker for the occasion. Let's hope that many of you can be there.

In some ways our Nebraska Center for the Book is a kind of "Chautauqua of the community of the book"—persons, organizations, and programs coming together with a common interest in our cultural heritage as reflected in the written word. (Note that the "written word" even takes in the electronic word, as it appears on the computer screen or print-out!) Chautauquas—then and now—were and are designed to be both "uplifting," educating, and entertaining. Maybe the common denominator here is "stimulating." Rather than sitting on the front porch then, rather than sitting before the TV screen now, the Chautauqua attendee went out to the tent to listen, to speak, to sing, and to laugh.

We are hoping to bring into "our tent" all of you in Nebraska that have "dealings with" and "interest in" the written word. Originally, as we first planned the Nebraska Center for the Book, we thought that the members of the Center would primarily be organizations. Well, as of this writing, individual membership far outweighs the organizational category. (See table on page 7) Does this suggest that we Nebraskans are primarily and basically individualists? Be that as it may, we continue to seek new individuals and organizations to join our fold. And we are hoping to get more programs going for all of you. Our Membership Committee has divided the membership into three sectors, Kearney, Lincoln, and Omaha. The theory is

that eventually we can develop programs for each sector, in addition to our programs for all of our membership (e.g., our annual meeting, the Nebraska Literature Festival, the meetings this past April on book discussion groups and Nebraska booksellers, book buyers, and book collectors).

Some of our special initiatives for 1992 that have been mentioned are:

- Promoting literacy awareness and literacy through a demonstration program in Grand Island;
- Bringing together Nebraska booksellers for "economic development" and compiling a list of them along with their respective specialities;
- Cosponsoring a public program featuring a prominent Nebraska book collector;
- Continuing to add to our directory of Nebraska book discussion groups and getting out a brochure on organizing a book discussion group; and
- Continuing to promote Nebraska writers.

Comments and suggestions from the membership are always welcome! We are one body, after all, and want to make what goes on in the 1992 Nebraska Center for the Book "tent" s t i m u l a t i n g !

-Dick Allen

NCB Membership

NCB Individual Members 112

NCB Organizational Members 39

Total Kearney Sector Members 33

Total Lincoln Sector Members 58

Total Omaha Sector Members 60

Kearney Sector Individual Member 25

Lincoln Sector Individual Members 39

Omaha Sector Individual Members 48

Kearney Sector Organizational Members 8

Lincoln Sector Organizational Members 19

Omaha Sector Organizational Members 12

Kearney Sector:	33	Individual:	25	Organizational:	8
Lincoln Sector:	58	Individual:	39	Organizational:	19
Omaha Sector:	60	Individual:	48	Organizational:	12
Totals:	151	Individual:	112	Organizational:	39

As of late-August, 1991



11th Annual Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival— Something for Everyone



Ruth Anderson from Stanton, left, confers with Betty Wilken, fiction consultant, about her (Ruth's) novel at the 11th Annual Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, June 1, in Hastings.

A variety of topics highlighted the 1991 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival (NWSTF). Storyteller Matthew "Sitting Bear" Jones (Lincoln) was the keynote speaker at the luncheon of the day-long festival on June 1, at Hastings College. Jones' mesmerizing presentation at the luncheon was only a part of his participation. He also led a workshop on the techniques of storytelling, captivating that audience as well by involving participants in their own tellings.

Oral presentation of stories was also the topic of noted storyteller James Kruse from Fremont, who explored story origins with participants in his session. Written storytelling was the focus of Muffy Vrana's (Lincoln) session "Writing Life Stories," and Lorraine Duggin's (Omaha) session on fiction writing.

Joyce Ore, feature writer for the Hastings Tribune and director of public relations for Hastings College, led a session on feature writing. Other presenters from Hastings were Dwight Marsh (Hastings College) who lead a session on poetry, and Juanice Myers, playwright and producer, who presented a session on playwriting. Adding wonderful amounts of levity was humorist Joan Burney, the nation's newest National Mother of the Year, who lead a session on, of course, humor.

Variety also typified the participants who ranged in age from under 25 to 84, coming from as close as the neighborhood of the Hastings College campus to a distance of 1,100 miles round trip. The Festival as divided equally between first-time and past partici-

pants. Those who responded to an inquiry on the length of years they had been writing spanned from three to over sixty years, and attendees found out about the conference in eleven different ways: some from the flyer sent to past participants, some from local writer's groups, friends, newspapers, bookstores, senior centers, historical societies, libraries, Festival committee members, and from the Nebraska Center for the Book.

The writings of those submitting manuscripts for the annual anthology also can be labeled as variant—wonderfully so. The book, which will be mailed to those who attended the Festival, is expected to be ready in the fall and can also be purchased for eight dollars from: NWSTF, Central Community College, Box 1027, Columbus, NE, 68602.

The Festival was partially funded by the Nebraska Humanities Council and co-sponsored by Hastings College and Central Community College—Platte Campus. Co-Chairs for 1991 were Dick Allen of the Nebraska Library Commission and Mel Krutz, English Department, Central Community College—Platte Campus. Site committee members were Jane March, Chair; Nancy Goodrich and Jane Tishaus all of Hastings.

Next year's Festival is planned for May 30 at Central Community College in Columbus. Pending funding, the 1992 Festival will be repeated in North Platte on June 6.

-Mel Krutz
Co-Chair NWSTF

Keillor to Broadcast Live from Red Cloud

This December 7, humorist Garrison Keillor plans to broadcast his live, two-hour radio program, "Garrison Keillor's American Radio Company" from Red Cloud.

Red Cloud is the area where Willa Cather spent her childhood and from which she drew inspiration for such books as *My Antonia*, *O Pioneers!*, and *Song of the Lark*. December 7 was chosen because it is Cather's birth date. Keillor suggested the broadcast after doing a successful program this spring from Mark Twain's house in Hartford, Connecticut.

Keillor's program will be broadcast before a live audience of 1,000 to 1,200 in the Red Cloud High School gymnasium. Keillor is expected to read from Cather's works and other prairie authors. Prairie humor and music also are expected to be elements of the program.

Submit Items for Calendar

Your organization is invited to submit items for the Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar, a free listing of literary and book events and activities in Nebraska. If you would like to be included, please send a description of the event; time, date, and place. Deadline for our next issues is October 15th. Send to:

Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar
2746 Everett
Lincoln, NE 68502



Off the Press

Recent Book By Or Of Interest To Nebraskans

A Cretan Cycle: Fragments Unearthed from Knossos
Book-Length Poem by Marilyn Coffey,
Artwork by Kostas Lekakis

**The Battle of Orleans: An Illustrated Documentary
of the Marcella Marathon**
Edited by Marilyn Coffey, Illustrated by Renae Taylor

Nebraska...Our Towns: Central Northeast
Edited by Jane Graff

Harry Kirke Wolfe: Pioneer in Psychology
By Ludy T. Benjamin Jr.

Love and Glory: Women of the Old West
By Larry D. Underwood

Miss Adams, Country Teacher: Memories of a One-Room School
By Treva Adams Strait

**Native American Doctor:
The Story of Susan La Flesche Picotte**
By Jeri Ferris

Nebraska Quilts and Quiltmakers
By Patricia Cox Crews and Ronald C. Naugle
with color photographs by Roger Bruhn

Gordon Journal Letters of Mari Sandoz, Part 1
Edited by Caroline Sandoz Pifer

Nebraska's Five Seasons: The Best of Paul Fell
Cartoons by Paul Fell

The Invisible Woman
Poems by Susan M. Whitmore

Resource Guide to Six Nebraska Authors
Edited by David McCleery & Kira Gale

Addicts Antics
Cartoons by Donis Ruff

**"Tower, This is Andy" and Other Flying Stories
from Northeast Nebraska**
By Robert L. Carlisle

Chance

A novel by Peggy Adair

The Confidence Woman, 26 Women Writers at Work
Edited by Eve Shelnutt

Thanks to Herb Hyde for supplying copies of his Sunday Lincoln Journal-Star Book Columns so that this listing could be compiled. If you know of other recently published books that would be of interest to the members of the Nebraska Center for the Book, please contact us.

New Book On Women and Writing Includes Essay by Prairie Schooner Editor Hilda Raz

Hilda Raz's essay appears in the book *The Confidence Woman, 26 Women Writers at Work*, released in May by Longstreet Press. Ms. Raz is the editor-in-chief of *Prairie Schooner*, the nationally recognized literary quarterly based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In the introduction editor Eve Shelnutt says, "These essays are about work and the rewards of work." They celebrate "life itself - deftness, agility, the quick move, opportunity seized . . . The writers have outwitted silence."

Other contributors to the book include Louise Gluck, Josephine Jacobsen, Gail Galloway Adams, Kelly Cherry, Debora Greger, Jane Miller and nineteen other women writers.

Hilda Raz is author of two books of poetry, *What is Good* (Thorntree Press) and *The Bone Dish* (State Street Press). Her essays, poems and reviews have appeared in many publications.

A Cretan Cycle:

Fragments Unearthed from Knossos

By Marilyn Coffey

Bandanna Books, 319 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara CA 93101;
93 pages; \$7.00.

The Goddess, of Herself

I crouch beside you
tending the crop, the weed
causing them to flourish,
to wane. I stand.
My thighs pour forth women.
She of the broad hips
protects childbirth.
She of the single spear
watches warriors wage
their pitiless battles.
She sitting under the tree
is goddess of the harvest.
Yonder is the sea goddess
and the earth goddess--
she around whom serpents twine.
These are my children.

-Marilyn Coffey

© 1991 by Marilyn Coffey

University Press Honored for Design

The design and editing of University of Nebraska Press books have brought several honors to the press recently.

The American Institute of Graphic Arts chose three books for inclusion in its annual book show: *Communicating Vessels*, *A Harmony of the Arts: The Nebraska State Capitol*, and *Questioning Edmond Jabes*.

The Chicago Book Clinic chose those three, as well as *Dreams in Dry Places*, and *The Origins of Writing*, for its annual exhibit. Both groups chose books based on their design.

Resource Guide to Six Nebraska Authors

Edited by David McCleery and Kira Gale

In celebration of the first Nebraska Literature Festival and Nebraska's literary heritage, the Nebraska Center for the Book and Friends of Nebraska Literature have co-produced a resource guide focusing on the works of six Nebraska authors—Bess Streeter Aldrich, Willa Cather, Loren Eiseley, Wright Morris, John G. Neihardt, and Mari Sandoz.

The guide is a listing and description of published books produced by the six writers, and contains information on the various organizations that have been created to further the understanding and readership of the authors. The guide was edited by David McCleery and Kira Gale and contains many photographs with biographical sketches supplied by scholars Naomi Brill, Carol Miles Petersen, Barbara Rippey, Susan Rosowski, Lori Utecht, and Joseph Wydeven. The guide also contains information on video productions and Humanities Resource Center programs that focus on the lives and works of these well-known Nebraska writers.

The 93—page publication was made possible in part by a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council. The funding also allows for 1,000 guides to be distributed to classrooms throughout the State.

The *Resource Guide to Six Nebraska Authors* will be available the last part of September, and may be obtained through the Heritage Room, Lincoln City Libraries, 136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 471-8510. Cost will be \$5.95 plus 6.5% tax, and postage/handling of \$1.50.



Omega Cottonwood Press Launches *The Battle of Orleans*

On September 15, Omega Cottonwood Press (OCP) launches a new book, *The Battle of Orleans: An Illustrated Documentary of the Marcella Marathon*. “I’m doing this to fight increasing public apathy about First Amendment rights,” says Marilyn Coffey, publisher of OCP. “You could say I have a passion for the First Amendment. Most publishers do.”

Coffey’s large format book, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, has a striking four-color cover featuring Renae Taylor’s “State of the Arts.” Nearly two years in the making, the book will retail for \$19.95. The 64-page book documents, through reprinted news stories, the suppression of a reading of Coffey’s novel, *Marcella*, in the rural community of Orleans, Nebraska, in 1989.

Marcella, published internationally in the 1970s, is considered a break-through book. Its topics include sexual addiction, sexual abuse of an adolescent girl by a conservative Protestant minister, and explicit descriptions of masturbation. Indeed, Coffey’s book is the first novel ever written in the English language to use female masturbation as a primary theme.

The Marcella Marathon, which was to include a panel of experts to discuss the issues raised by the book, was sponsored by the Orleans Chamber of Commerce and various local arts groups. However, two Orleans ministers and members of their congregations protested the event. They labeled Coffey’s work “disgusting” and joined the Chamber of Commerce in order to have voting leverage to withdraw support from her work.

When the newly-constituted Chamber withdrew its backing, Coffey canceled her reading. “Books don’t have to be burned to be censored,” says Coffey.

“They can be silenced in other ways.

“I don’t believe it’s right to close down public access to a reading because someone may be offended,” says Coffey. “I think adults should be able to hear anything they want. On the other hand, I did not want to read my novel, a delicate, personally meaningful work, in a volatile, even hostile, atmosphere.

“This confrontation showed me how easily our First Amendment freedoms can be eroded,” Coffey says. “I’ve long believed in free speech. But until I experienced ‘The Battle of Orleans,’ I didn’t realize how fragile those rights are.”

OCP hopes that *The Battle of Orleans* will be a source book for students, journalists, and others interested in free speech and right to know issues. The book demonstrates, through its arrangements of documents, how the pressure not to hold the reading built.

Coffey, editor of the book, noted that most of the materials in *The Battle of Orleans* are in a special Marcella Marathon Collection in the Archives of the University Libraries at the UNL. “Publishing the book, however, makes those materials much more accessible,” she notes.

“By providing in detail one struggle, I hope to advance intellectual freedom, not only in my home state, but elsewhere,” says Coffey. “When censorship is imposed in any town, it’s not merely a ‘local’ matter—it’s a threat to all our rights.”

For further details, contact OCP, PO Box 524, Alma NE 68920-0524.

The National Literacy Act of 1991

and the Nebraska Center for the Book

On July 25, 1991, President George Bush signed the National Literacy Act, an act "to enhance the literacy and basic skills of adults, to ensure that all adults in the United States acquire the basic skills necessary to function effectively and achieve the greatest possible opportunity in their work and in their lives, and to strengthen and coordinate adult literacy programs."

The Act includes the establishment of the National Institute for Literacy, which will serve as a clearinghouse for all federal literacy initiatives, conduct basic and applied research and demonstrations on literacy, assist public agencies "in the development, implementation, and evaluation of policy with respect to literacy," provide technical assistance for literacy programs nation-wide, develop literacy standards, and provide toll-free assistance to literacy providers and volunteers.

The Act further makes provision for the establishment of "state literacy resource centers" to stimulate the coordination of literacy services, enhance state and local literacy organizations, and serve as a link between the National Institute for Literacy and the states.

First year funding for new literacy efforts is set for \$160 million and establishes grant programs for Workforce Literacy, Even Start Family Literacy Programs, Business Leadership for Employment Skills, Literacy for Incarcerated Individuals, Programs for Literacy Volunteers, and Books for Families.

Nebraska is fortunate in having a number of active literacy organizations in place. On the state level, the Adult Basic Education Program, administered by Burney Bouslough at the Nebraska Department of Education, provides ABE and high school equivalency programs across the state. The Literacy Councils of Nebraska,

of which Diann Muhlbach of Shelton is President, coordinates the various local literacy councils using the phonic or "Laubach" method of reading instruction. In addition, Coordinators for Adult Literacy (CAL), of which Golda Bockbrader of Grand Island is President, is a coalition of literacy providers and supporters, established to promote and encourage literacy awareness, training, and volunteer literacy programs. On the national level, Lincoln, Nebraska, is the home of the toll-free literacy number. Located at CONTACT, Inc., the service has been supported in part by the Nebraska Library Commission.

The Nebraska Center for the Book has as part of its mission "the promotion of literacy" and continues to work with Nebraska literacy providers and CAL to put the concept of literacy in a broader context. The Nebraska Center for the Book applauds the passage and signing of the National Literacy Act of 1991.

—Dick Allen

Attention: Book Discussion Group Members

The Nebraska Center for the Book is compiling a directory of book discussion groups statewide. If you participate in, or know of, a book discussion group, please contact Barbara Leffler, 1524 Crestline Drive, Lincoln, NE 68506, (402) 488-6287 for a questionnaire. The directory aims to describe groups in which all participants read and discuss the same work.

In compiling the directory, the Center strives to emphasize that Nebraska is a community of readers. It also hopes to try to identify areas of concern to participants in book discussion groups. Finally, for those groups open to the public, the directory will serve as a referral source.



Letters from Two Lifetime Readers

May 22, 1991

Dick Allen
President
Nebraska Center for the Book

Dear Mr. Allen:

Thank you for your letter of May 16, 1991, in which you enclosed a copy of *Alive and Writing in Nebraska*. I've scanned the book lightly and am looking forward to reading it in detail. It's exciting to see so many Nebraska authors in print. Thanks for the book. I'm sure I will enjoy it.

I would also like to thank you for being named an Honorary Member of the Nebraska Center for the Book. As you are aware, my background is in journalism. Needless to say, I do have an appreciation for the printed word and good books, and am interested in encouraging literacy throughout our state and nation.

Sincerely,
Maxine B. Moul
Lieutenant Governor

Kearney, Nebraska
May 28, 1991

Nebraska Center for the Book
c/o Lincoln City Libraries

Dear Friends:

I do not remember when I could not read. I have been an avid reader all of my almost eighty-four years.

The Book and the Library have been my salvation during times of stress.

I cannot walk out of the Library without a book.

When I walk into the library I can almost hear faint whispers—“Come. Read Me”—or an author saying to me, “You haven't read me yet.”

The Library here is wonderful about tracking down books for me when I want to read an author or a subject.

Years ago when I was about ten or twelve we lived in Lincoln for several years. I haunted the City Library. I could take the street car downtown. What a treat!

Good Luck.

Sincerely,
Phebe Keenan

The First Nebraska Literature Festival

Free and Open to the Public
September 27-28, 1991
University of Nebraska at Omaha

*Celebrating Nebraska's
Literary Heritage and
Contemporary Writing*

Co-sponsored by University of Nebraska at Omaha and Nebraska Center for the Book

Nebraska Center for the Book
c/o Lincoln City Libraries
136 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 2 3 4 5

CALENDAR

1991: THE YEAR OF THE LIFETIME READER

September

- Sept. 13 Lincoln. "The Alchemy of Contemporary Bookbinding," Timothy Ely from the Center for Books Arts, New York, New York. Center for Great Plains Studies Art Collection, Love Library, 7:30 p.m. Contact Eva Sartori at (402) 472-6987 for more information. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- Sept. 14-29 Omaha. Bemis Gallery Photography Exhibit in connection with The First Nebraska Literature Festival, 614 South 11th Street in Omaha's Old Market. Open daily: 11 a.m.—5p.m. John G. Neihardt, *The River and I* photographs; Wright Morris *The Home Place* photographs; Lucia Woods *Willa Cather's World* photographs; Kira Gale *Old Jules Country* photographs. Gallery talks: Saturday, September 14th, 4 p.m., Hilda Neihardt; Sunday, September 15th, 4 p.m., Joe Wydeven on Wright Morris; Saturday, September 21st, 4 p.m., Joe Wydeven and Barbara Allen-Langdon on Wright Morris; Sunday, September 22nd, 4 p.m., Kira Gale; Friday, September 27th, 4 p.m., Lucia Woods.
- Sept. 16 West Point. "Let's Talk About It—Family: The Way We Were, The Way We Are" John A. Stahl Library. Feature book *The House of Sky* by Ivan Doig John A. Stahl Library. Contact Julie Senden at (402) 372-3831 for more information. Other dates and works discussed in the series are: September 30, *A Raisin in the Sun and The Glass Menagerie*; October 14, *Ordinary People*; October 28, "The Stone Boy," "A & P," "The Five Forty-Eight."; November 11, *During the Reign of the Queen of Persia..* Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- Sept. 22 Elmwood. Dedication of the Elmwood Public Library and Aldrich Museum, 3:00 p.m.
- Sept. 26 Holdrege. "Mark Twain In Performance," a one man show by Michael Mauldin. Holdrege Community Center, 8:00 p.m. Contact Brenda Carroll for more information at (308) 995-6556. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- Sept. 27 Cather Omaha. First Nebraska Literature Festival Student's Day featuring *Willa Cather Speaks*, a portrayal of Willa by Betty Jean Steinshouer appearing in Omaha area schools. Sponsored by the Junior League of Omaha.
- Sept. 27 Omaha. Nebraska Literature Festival Reception 7—10 p.m. at the Bemis Gallery, 614 South 11th Street in Omaha's Old Market. 8—9 p.m. Willa Cather Songs by John Kunz, Hilda Neihardt reciting the poetry of her father, John G. Neihardt, accompanied on guitar by her son, Robin Neihardt. Tickets: \$12.50 in advance through Stubs Box Office, 120 Regency Parkway, Suite 115, Omaha, Nebraska 68114, \$15 at the door.
- Sept. 28 Omaha. Friends of Loren Eiseley Luncheon followed by annual meeting, UNO Alumni House, 12 noon. \$7.00. Call Jane Stilwell Smith to make reservations (luncheon only) at (402) 559-2541.
- Sept. 28 Omaha. First Nebraska Literature Festival, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Featuring public programs, bookfair and exhibits. Co-sponsored by University of Nebraska at Omaha and Nebraska Center for the Book. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- Sept. 28 First Nebraska Literature Festival Social Hour, Dinner and special program 5—9:30 p.m., Milo Ball Student Center Ballroom, University of Nebraska at Omaha campus. Tickets \$19.50 through Stubs Box Office by advance reservation only. Informal dress. Guest Speaker John Cole, Director, Center for the Book, Library of Congress; Program, William Kloefkorn, Nebraska State Poet, Betty Jean Steinshouer, *Willa Cather Speaks*.
- Sept. 28 Alliance. "Calamity Jane Tells Her Tale", Chautauqua style presentation by Glenda Bell. 7:00 p.m., American Legion Club. Contact Robin Hovseth at (308) 762-7953 for more information. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.

October

- October 5 Osceola. *A Pitcher Full Of Cream*, presenting Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, author of *The Yearling* and *Cross Creek*, a one-woman show created and performed by Betty Jean Steinshouer. Osceola Public Library, 2:00 p.m.. Contact Lawrence Theis at (402) 747-7321 for more information. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- October 6 Albion. Betty Jean Steinshouer, *Willa Cather Speaks*, 4:00 p.m. United Church of Christ. Contact Just Kohl (402) 395-5126. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- October 6 Elmwood. Bess Streeter Aldrich Remembrance Day. Dinner and program at Elmwood School. Contact Velda Bornemeier for more information at (402) 994-6155.
- October 7 Genoa. *A Pitcher Full Of Cream*, presenting Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, author of *The Yearling* and *Cross Creek*, a one-woman show created and performed by Betty Jean Steinshouer. Genoa Public Library, 7:30 p.m.. Contact Kathleen Harris at (402) 993-2489 for more information. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- October 10 Omaha. Nebraska Library Association Conference, 72nd and Grover Holiday Inn, 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Center for the Book sponsored panel discussion "Publishing in Nebraska," Hilda Raz, Willis Regier, Herb Hyde, Jerry Kromberg, panelists; David McCleery, moderator.
- October 15 Kearney. Betty Jean Steinshouer, *Willa Cather Speaks*, 7:00 p.m. Kearney Public Library. Contact Carol Reed at (308) 237-2638 for more information. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- October 15 Deadline for *NCB Quarterly* Calendar of Events.
- October 15 Lincoln. "Clara Colby, Suffragist and Newspaper Editor," by Marlene Synder. 11:00 a.m. Gere Public Library. Contact Jo Forbes at (402) 477-2236 for more information. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.
- October 17 Lincoln. Nebraska Center for the Book Board of Directors meeting, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room of the Lincoln Center Building, 215 Centennial Mall South. Contact Dick Allen at (402) 471-2045 for more information
- October 19 Omaha. Mari Sandoz Heritage Society membership meeting. Contact Kira Gale at (402) 451-2878 for more information.
- October 27 Bancroft. Sunday Afternoon at the Museum Program: "Cather and O'Keefe: Spirits of the Southwest" by Polly Duryea. John G. Neihardt Center, 2:00 p.m. For more information, call (402) 648-3388.

November

- Nov. 13 Fremont. Nebraska Center for the Book annual meeting, Midland College. Tentative activities include a public program by Nebraska Humanities Council Executive Director Jane Renner Hood speaking on "The Chautauqua in Nebraska," and a report to the membership on the year's events and the Center's progress. For more information, contact Dick Allen, c/o Nebraska Center for the Book.

Schedule for the Lincoln Great Books Reading and Discussion Group September—November

All meetings will take place in the meeting room of the Gere Library, 56th and Normal Blvd, Lincoln, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. The Great Books Reading and Discussion Group uses the Adult Great Books First Series from the Great Books Foundation. All meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about this group, or information on how to begin a Great Books Reading and Discussion Group in your community contact Barbara Leffler, (402) 488-6287.

September	12	Chekov: <i>Rothschild's Fiddle</i> *
September	26	Aristotle: <i>On Happiness</i>
October	10	Plato: <i>The Apology</i> *
October	24	Conrad: <i>Heart of Darkness</i> *
November	7	Kant: <i>Conscience</i>
November	21	Marx: <i>Alienated Labour</i>

*Indicates complete work

Your organization is invited to submit items for the Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar, a free listing of literary and book events and activities in Nebraska. If you would like to be included, please send a description of the event; time, date and place, including street address; and a name and daytime telephone number for verification. Deadline for next issue is October 15th.
Send to: Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar, Dave McCleery, Editor, 2746 Everett, Lincoln, NE 68502