

## Nebraska Literature Festival: Success in 1994 and Kearney in 1995

Approximately 700 people attended the 1994 Literature Festival in Omaha. The festival highlighted Nebraska authors and featured Omaha's Ron Hansen Tillie Olsen, and Jonis Agee. Jonis remarked at how much she liked the friendly, celebratory atmosphere of the festival. At a luncheon in her honor, Tillie Olsen spoke of her school experience at Central High School; she said how much she enjoyed the presentation of her short story "I Stand Here Ironing." She read from *Yonnonidio* and answered questions from the audience. In addition to these special guests, Maurveen Williams of

the National Center for the Book spoke to the group. The festival featured many of Nebraska's poets and authors, and included storytelling, book discussions, poetry readings, a book fair, and general sessions on Nebraska authors.

The Literature Festival will be held in Kearney on September 22 and 23, 1995. For further information contact Dr. Charles Peek, Chair English Department, UNK. 308-234-8293 or E-mail, peek@platte.unk.edu

### Tillie Olsen's Fiction

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a better world in order to make a living in a new one. As Eva dies of cancer, she and her husband, David, recall the socialist dreams of their youth: "Aaah, children" David says, "how we believed, how we belong," The parents realize with regret that they failed to give their children the heritage of values that had enriched their own lives:

*And he yearned to package for each of the children, the grandchildren, for everyone, that joyous certainty, that sense of mattering, of moving and being moved, of being one indivisible with the great of the past, with all that freed, ennobled.*

("Leaves from the Nebraska Notebook" is a project of the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities. For further information, contact your local library, bookstore, or the NCH office in Lincoln.)



NHC Director, Jane Hood visits with Tillie Olson at the Literature Festival. Pictured from the left: Dave Whitaker, Jane Hood, Linda Pratt, Tillie Olson and Elaine Johnson.

## Mildred Bennett Award Given to Sue Rosowski



Sue Rosowski receives the Mildred Bennet award. Pictured from the left: Elaine Johnson, Sue Rosowski, Betty Kort.

As an acknowledged leading Cather scholar, Sue Rosowski is the fourth recipient of the Mildred Bennett award. Sue is the editor of the scholarly edition of Cather's works and is known for her outstanding teaching. She is UNL's Adele Hall Distinguished Professor of English, an honor given for excellence in teaching and research. Author of *The Voyage Perilous: Willa Cather's Romanticism*, she serves as a board member of the Willa Cather Memorial Foundation. Her active leadership in Nebraska's literary community, her teaching and research make her an outstanding recipient of this award.

Sue commented about the strength of Nebraska's literary heritage and literary community. She sees it as remarkable that the many author groups, living authors, and in-

terested community come together to celebrate writing in Nebraska.

Previous recipients of the Mildred Bennett Award include Jane Geske, Caroline Sandoz Pifer and Flora Sandoz, and Hilda Neihardt Petri.

### President's Message

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that each and every program of the NCB is important and every effort will be made to help the programs grow.

Elaine Johnson deserves recognition and appreciation for her leadership and enthusiasm during her term of office. Thank you Elaine — we look forward to having you on the Board as we continue on our path of growth.

We wish to acknowledge and recognize the efforts of Kira Gale, who served as Festival Chairman and has left the Board as her term of office expired.

We also welcome new Board Member Lori Utecht from the Neihardt Center in Bancroft.

We learned from the Literature Festival in Omaha which left us with challenges and insight for future festivals and were pleased when a long-awaited membership brochure made its debut in November.

I look forward to this year of 1995, knowing that many experienced Board Members are available and willing to keep the NCB moving forward, making changes to meet the challenges of the future.