

NCB Quarterly

Nebraska Center for the Book

Vol. 1

Winter 1991

No. 1



*"If I could endow every young person in Nebraska and in the world with two things,
and two things only, I should choose not beauty or fame
or power or riches,
I should choose to endow you with courage
and a love for reading."*

-Mari Sandoz



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:

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Nebraska
Humanities
Council

Publication Schedule

NCB Quarterly is published quarterly. Our publication dates are:

- May 1
- September 1
- November 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

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: The photograph, entitled *Mari's Grave* is by Kira Gale, from the photo exhibit *Old Jules Country* which pairs Kira's images of the Nebraska Sandhills with quotations by Mari Sandoz. The traveling exhibit may be borrowed from the Nebraska Humanities Council. Inquiries regarding original photographs should be directed to Kira Gale, 3314 North 49th Street, Omaha, NE 68104. The quotation is taken from a letter Mari Sandoz wrote to Nebraska school children, quoted by permission of the Estate of Mari Sandoz.

Welcome New Members!

New members as of January 30, 1990

Individual

Peggy Adair	Omaha
Elmer Baker	York
Charles Baucom	York
Miriam Ben-Yaacov	Omaha
Rebecca Bernthal	Lincoln
Karen Chobot	Omaha
Mary Ann DeShazer	Omaha
Frieda Dietrich	Fremont
Lorraine Duggin	Omaha
Kathleen Dunn	Omaha
Sherrie Dux-Ideus	Amherst
Ella Epp	Henderson
Herbert H. Hyde	Lincoln
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Chris LeBeau	Omaha
Robert Nash	Omaha
Anita Norman	Kearney
Ron Norman	Kearney
Patricia Peterson	Lincoln
Pat Phillips	Red Cloud
Rita Price	Omaha
Susan Rosowski	Lincoln
Flora Sandoz	Ellsworth
Linda Scranton	Norfolk
Fiona Turnbull	Omaha
John Velde	Omaha
Julia Waggoner	Omaha
Karen Warner	Norfolk
Greg Wool	Lincoln

Organizational

Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska	Oakland
Bluestem Books	Lincoln
Ketterson's Old Market Bookstore	Omaha
Media Productions & Marketing	Lincoln
Nebraska Educational Media Association	Lincoln
Nebraska Wesleyan University Library	Lincoln
University of Nebraska Press	Lincoln
Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial & Educational Foundation	Red Cloud

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



President's Column

As the poet calls upon the muse for inspiration, so the president calls upon the support of the membership! Thank you, membership, for being there. Through being there, you demonstrated support of books, reading, libraries, and literacy. Thanks also for your willingness to assist in the activities of the Nebraska Center for the Book.

1991, as you *must* have heard by now, has been designated "The Year of the Lifetime Reader." To quote from our colorful brochure from the National Center for the Book, "At every stage of life, from early childhood through old age, books and reading nourish growing minds and stimulate active involvement in society."

As part of our celebration of The Year of the Lifetime Reader, we are inviting all of our members to one or both of two programs in Lincoln on this coming April 3. Both will take place in the Heritage Room of the Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th Street. If

you have not been to the Heritage Room before, come a bit early or stay a bit late in order to inspect the remarkable treasures there—our state's premiere collection of Nebraska authors and their writings. Visit with Vicki Pike and Laura Weymouth about the collection and the room; it's worth a trip in its own right. (The Nebraska Museum of Art in Kearney forms an appropriate counterpart for Nebraska's visual arts heritage.)

The morning program, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. "A Meeting with Four Nebraska Booksellers," will feature Jane Geske (Niobrara Books) and Kathy Stasch (B. Dalton Books), both from Lincoln; and Ellen Scott (The Book House) and Dan Gleason (Dundee Book Co.), both from Omaha. The four will talk about Nebraskans' reading and collecting interests. We invite all book readers, book collectors, and book sellers to this program. Not only will we hear from the panelists, but we are hoping to hear a lot from the audience as well.

The afternoon program, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., "A Meeting with Four Nebraska Book Discussion Leaders," will feature Barbara Leffler, (Great Books, Lincoln), Joan Moody (AAUW Book Discussion Group and Norfolk Book Discussion Group, Norfolk), Charles Baucom (York College Book Discussion Group), and Richard Toof (Columbus Book Discussion Group). As part of the program I will lead a "demonstration" book discussion of *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. We will then allow some time for a critique of the discussion; how did it go? We are hoping that the program will help us to understand better book discussion

groups and how they can enhance the individual reading experience. We might have called this session "Let's Talk About Talking About It."

On April 4 John Y. Cole, Director of the National Center for the Book, part of the U.S. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., will meet with your 15-member Nebraska Center for the Book Board for a morning work session. What has the Nebraska Center accomplished so far, what will it be working towards this year and in the future? These will be some of the issues that John and the Board will be talking about. All interested Nebraska Center for the Book Members are invited to join us. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room. Although it is "open-ended," it should be over around noon. John Cole has worked closely with other state centers for the book and will doubtless have many good suggestions for Nebraska. We had the great pleasure of hearing from him at the formal dedication of the Nebraska Center for the Book on September 15, 1990, in Omaha.

Each individual member and each organizational member of the Nebraska Center for the Book should already have received or should be receiving a copy of the book *Alive and Writing in Nebraska* as a membership benefit. Published in 1986 and edited by Lynn Hawkins and Muffy Fisher-Vrana, the paperbound book contains a wealth of information about 37 contemporary Nebraska writers along with excerpts from each of their works. If you haven't yet received a copy, drop us a line (a postcard will do) and one will

be mailed to you; or you can save us some postage by picking up your copy if you plan to attend a program on April 3. Members wishing additional copies can obtain them from us through donations to the Nebraska Center for the Book. (The book originally sold for \$6.95.) Again, we owe thanks to the Nebraska Humanities Council for making this fine book available to our membership.

Finally, we are hoping to have at least one "social" event for our membership in the Kearney area, the Omaha area, and the Lincoln area respectively. Such events will afford you an opportunity to meet other Nebraska Center for the Book members and some of our Board members. Remembering that we are all part of Nebraska's "community of the book," it is clear that we all have a lot in common, even though we each carry within us different perspectives. The Nebraska Center for the Book, I like to think, is a catalyst for our different perspectives to interact and enrich one another.

-Dick Allen



If I Had A Hammer...

Every few months or so I hammer out the *NCB Quarterly* in the small workshop of my home. (I keep the pounding and sawing down so as not to disturb the neighbors.) Some days there's more wood to work with than others. Some days I hit my thumb or the pieces don't match-up. Other times the right piece comes just in time. But the work gets done, and gets done more or less on time. It's free-form, free-lance publishing, or what's coming to be known as "people's journalism." The people communicating in print. Desktop publishing by the common citizen.

The basic tool in my workshop, the "people's" hammer, so to speak, is the microcomputer. It's what the first hackers, those reversionary-technophiles back in the 60's, envisioned might appear some day—a computer that's cheap enough so anyone of modest means might be able to join in the conversation that once was open only to those with money and influence. The early techno-pioneers dreamed of a global culture with small electronic villages tucked away in a healthy natural environment. (The computer's doing well these days—it's the environment that needs the help.)

It's estimated there are 500,000 newsletters being published in the United States (of course, this one's a quarterly). That's a lot of words and one would hope lots of ideas that aren't being or can't be addressed through conventional media. Unfortunately, newsletters have become so commonplace that the force they could have had is gradually dwindling. I get lots of in the mail—some I read, other's I don't.

But whether their circulation is large or small (most are smaller, but everything is relative) it's good and exciting to know they are there, that folks are talking about the world and what they'd like to see improve and change. It's called democracy and it doesn't cost much. For what some pay for cable television, one could subscribe to a good number of publications that would supply thoughtful ideas for a lifetime. And the great thing about a hammer is that most folks will loan it to you so you can hammer a nail or two of your own.

We're still in the workshop with this publication and we always appreciate hearing from members about their impressions of the *NCB Quarterly* and suggestions on how we can improve things. We'd like to hear from you.

-Dave McCleery, Editor

Order Now

Summer Reading Program Order Forms are available from the Nebraska Library Commission. The 1991 program celebrates the theme *Western Frontier: Right Over Here in a Book*. Materials include a poster, activity manual, award certificates, book marks, stickers, pencils, bags, and reading record folders. Contact Mary Geibel, 402-471-2045 or 800-742-7691 for an order form.

A Conversation with “Lifetime Readers” Wendell and Jodee Olson

Wendell: I lost most of my vision when I was twenty-five and I read print up to that point. From then on it wasn't as easy, a letter at a time. But I tried to read a lot of print because I didn't know anything about how to get recorded books.

Jodee: I read print until I was in my early thirties. My braille wasn't that good so I didn't go with that. I mostly use braille for recipes, phone numbers, grocery lists, things like that. Wendell's certified to teach braille.

Wendell: I've read a few books in braille. But my left hand doesn't have much feeling, so I can't use it to read braille, so I have to read braille one-handed. And it's very slow reading a book one-handed.

Editor: So tell me about what you read, what written material you listen to.

Jodee: Through the Nebraska Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, I get *Readers Digest* on tape, *Consumer Reports*. Wendell, you get *Analog*.



Wendell: I get *Analog Science Fiction Magazine*, I get *Ellery Queen*, I get *Nebraska Public Television's Choice*.

Editor: So when you listen to *Ellery Queen* or *Analog*, is that time different for you than say listening to radio? Is it a different kind of listening you do when you listen to those stories?

Wendell: When you're listening to a book, you've got to keep your mind with it as if you were actually reading print. When you're listening to the radio, you can kind of half listen. But

I read mysteries and if I don't listen close I miss the clues. It takes a while to get used to listening to a book. I had trouble at first, because I could still read print. I've gotten used to it now.

Editor: What about you, Jodee?

Jodee: I don't know if I'm such an awful big reader on my own. I was in the hospital an awful lot having eye surgery when I was young. I missed all of seventh grade when I was in the hospital down in St. Louis. It was a good thing there was a book store close by,

CONTINUED PAGE 8



because I went through every *Nancy Drew* book. My poor Dad and Mom must have spent a fortune. My dad was such a good reader, reading aloud, that I really liked just listening. And he read to me. Of course, my eyes were all patched and I couldn't read. Then even much later, he'd say, "I've come across a real interesting book I think you'd like. I'll read this one aloud." So for an evening he'd read aloud. He was a good reader and a lot of people aren't.

Editor: So do you have favorite readers? People whose voices you can recognize?

Wendell: There's an awful lot of them that are good. I could list some. Some of them with very strong British accents are tough for me to enjoy sometimes.

Jodee: Some are very monotonish, and that will send you up the wall.

Wendell: This one guy, when he's doing a woman's voice, to me he sounds like a young Ricky Nelson.

Editor: So is there a better selection of materials for you to listen to over the last ten or fifteen years?

Jodee: I first began getting *Talking Book Topics* in the early sixties. At that time there was only classics and text books, basically nothing a thirteen or fourteen-year old would be interested in. As the years have gone on they've recorded more and more books and have gotten up-to-date things, books off the best seller list. It's improved a lot. Now I'd be lost without my *Talking Books Topics*.

Wendell: We're always reading.

Jodee: We recently moved Wendell into his new den. He used to have to read in the living room with the TV going and the girls running around and talking. And he likes to hibernate in there.

Wendell: That's where I go to read.

Wendell and Jodee Olson live in Lincoln with their two daughters Rachael and Stephanie, and two dogs Jiggs and Pookie. Wendell is on the Board of Directors of Friends of Print-Handicapped Nebraskans, and Jodee volunteers for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

If you would like information on Friends of Print-Handicapped Nebraskans or services for print handicapped readers, contact the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 1420 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, or call, 402-471-2045 or 800-742-7691.

Call For Papers

The Nebraska English and Language Arts Journal invites papers on "Cather in Our High Schools" for its fall/winter 1991-92 issue, to be guest-edited by Susan Rosowski. The focus of this issue is intentionally broad and includes (but is not limited to):

- teaching Cather in the high schools
- Cather and questions of gender, class and ethnicity
- training teachers to teach Cather
- teaching Cather in urban settings

Other appropriate topics on style and interpretation are welcome.

Completed papers (10-15 pp, double spaced) should arrive by July 15, 1991. Send typescripts to:

Susan Rosowski
Department of English
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0333

Inquiries should be directed to Professor Rosowski.

The Nebraska English and Language Arts Journal is a juried/refereed publication.

Nebraska Literature Festival News

The Nebraska Center for the Book and the University of Nebraska at Omaha are co-sponsoring the first Nebraska Literature Festival, September 27-29, 1991. The festival for the general public will feature a fair, family activities, theater, and many kinds of literary programs, celebrating Nebraska's literary heritage and contemporary authors.

Willa Cather impersonator Betty Jean Steinshouer will be a featured performer at the Nebraska Literature Festival. Ms. Steinshouer, whose improvised performance of Willa Cather is widely praised, will also appear in special performances in Omaha area school districts, Friday, September 27th. These *Students Day* performances are sponsored by the Junior League of Omaha in cooperation with the Nebraska Literature Festival. Schools and teachers interested in hosting/attending the programs should write to Elaine Booth, Program Chair, Nebraska Literature Festival, 2104 Fraser Court #1506, Bellevue, NE 68005, for further information. Ms. Steinshouer, contacted at her winter residence in Cross Creek, Florida, reports that she has added a second impersonation to her repertoire, Pulitzer-Prize winning author, Marjorie Rawlings. She will present a new program at the festival discussing her creative techniques of impersonation, and also will make several appearances as Willa Cather.

Roger Welsch will appear in a special performance, scheduled for Saturday, September 28th, after the Nebraska Literature Festival Banquet. Welsch, who

appears regularly on "CBS Sunday Morning", recently quoted three Nebraska authors on his "Postcard from Nebraska" segment: Mari Sandoz, Willa Cather and Loren Eiseley.



There is still time to enter the Minority Playwrights Competition. Deadline for entries is April 1st. The winning play, which will receive a \$500 first prize from the National Conference of Christians & Jews, Omaha, will be performed at the festival. Emmy Gifford Children's Theater of Omaha has agreed to help in producing the play. Second and third place winners will have a reading prior to the festival.

A new play by Doug Marr will also premiere at the festival, "Neihardt", performed by Sam Hall. "Neihardt" and the winner of the Minority Playwrights competition will be presented together, September 27th and 28th.

Hilda Neihardt Petri, daughter of John G. Neihardt, also will be a featured attraction at the festival, presenting a program on her experiences accompanying her father on his visits to Black Elk, the Lakota Sioux spiritual leader. Sculpture by Mona Neihardt, student of Auguste Rodin, and wife of John G. Neihardt, will be on display at the Bemis Gallery in Omaha's Old Market. The Bemis Gallery will host Nebraska Literature Festival exhibits and events during the month of September.

-Kira Gale



Off the Press

Recent Book By Or Of Interest To Nebraskans

The Centennial of Vine 1890-1990

By Grace H Swift & Doris-Dee Roberts

A Black Hills Lady: The Cinderella Horse

By W.H. O'Gara

Crazy Wisdom

By Wes Nisker

I Can't Sleep With Those Elves Watching Me

By Kate Cavanaugh,
illustrated by K.C. Kiner

The War Letters: A Young World War II Naval Officer Writes Home

By John B. Davis

A College on a Hill: Life at Doane, 1872-1987

By Donald J. Ziegler

From the Heart

By Hannie Wolf

A Hole in the Language

Marly Swick

Eating Nebraska: A Humorous Guide to Dining in the Cornhusker State

By Richard and Katherine Endacott

Nebraska, Where Dreams Grow

By Dorothy Weyer Creigh

Black Rock: Portraits on the Playa

By Douglas Keister

Proud Patriot: Philip Schuyler and the War of Independence, 1775-1783

By Don R. Gerlach

Words To Bridge the Gap

By Virginia Argabright

Transfer Spending, Taxes, and the American Welfare State

By George Holmes

Chance

By Peggy Adair

Ethical and Legal Issues in Home Health Care- Case Studies and Analyses

By Amy Haddad & Marshall B. Kapp

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.

Neihardt Works

Available From

University of Nebraska Press

The End of the Dream and Other Stories

By John G. Neihardt

Compiled by Hilda Neihardt Petri

Introduction by Jay Fultz

140 pages \$19.95 Cloth

The Dawn-Builder

By John G. Neihardt

335 pages \$35.00 Cloth

Lyric and Dramatic Poems

By John G. Neihardt

239 pages \$30.00 Cloth

When the Tree Flowered

The Story of Eagle Voice,
a Sioux Indian (New Edition)

By John G. Neihardt

Introduction by Raymond J. DeMallie

264 pages \$8.95 Paper

Planned for 1992--a reader containing selections from all of Neihardt's works--compiled by Neihardt's daughter, Hilda Neihardt Petri, and another collection of short stories.

To receive more information about these and other titles contact the University of Nebraska Press, 901 North 17th, Lincoln, NE 68588.

Eiseley Biographer Nominated for Pulitzer

Fox at the Wood's Edge; A Biography of Loren Eiseley by Gale E. Christianson, published by Henry Holt in the summer of 1990, has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for biography.

Whole Notes

A Special Issue

Writings By Young People

Edited by Nancy Peters Hastings

Whole Notes is a small magazine which may be familiar to those who follow contemporary Nebraska poetry. Published twice each year in May and December from Las Cruces, New Mexico, Nebraska native Nancy Peters Hastings always has a wide offering of poetry by new and established Nebraska poets. However, every two years Nancy devotes one issue to the writing of young people. Her latest offering is an anthology of work by primarily Nebraskan and New Mexican young writers, young people Nancy has encouraged through her work with the Artist-in-the-Schools/Communities Program, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. If you are curious what young people are writing these days, this issue will be a pleasant surprise. Manuscripts are welcome. Subscription to *Whole Notes* is \$6 a year; \$10 for two years; single copies are \$3 and may be obtained by writing to: Nancy Peters Hastings, Editor, *Whole Notes*, P.O. Box 1374, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88004. A few pieces are excerpted below with permission from *Whole Notes*.

Letter

I was going to write a letter to nothing but there's something in nothing, or is there? If you are talking about a magician making something disappear, you might say there's nothing there, but it has to be somewhere.

-Tyler Fisher, age 12
Hildreth, NE

The Bear

The brave black bee bit
the busy brown bear
because the brave bee
believed the busy brown bear
was breakfast.

-Ben Frede, age 7
Lincoln, NE

Proverbs

Too many parents spoil the party.

-Vickie Brady, age 17
Orleans, NE

Eating Nebraska: A Humorous Guide to Dining in the Cornhusker State Richard & Katherine Endacott

Eating Nebraska is the culmination of a three year labor of love for the authors, Richard and Katherine Endacott of rural Pleasant Dale. The couple spent three years traveling throughout the state visiting cafes, taverns, saloons, and restaurants in a search for the best of Nebraska. The book reviews 130 eateries located throughout the state, including Lincoln and Omaha. Also included are twelve light-hearted essays celebrating life in Nebraska and illustrations by Nebraska artists Monica Mercer and Les Remmers. *Eating Nebraska* was produced entirely in Nebraska for Nebraskans. Printed in Cairo, Nebraska, by the Record Printing Company, a small town press recently featured on Charles Kuralt's "Sunday Morning," the book is available through Pleasant Dale Press of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska 68423.

212 Pages \$9.95



Nebraska Writers: State of the Writer's Art

A year ago, an editorial I wrote about Nebraska writers and their need for support was published in the Omaha World-Herald. Today, although still concerned for the welfare of Nebraska contemporary writers and their acceptance by East Coast publishers, I am happy to report something exciting is happening in our State. Kira Gale, an artist with a vision, put together a coalition of people who would create a Nebraska Literature Festival. This diverse group, made up of contemporary writers, teachers, booksellers, librarians, representatives from the six Nebraska authors' foundations (Aldrich, Neihardt, Cather, Sandoz, Morris, Eiseley), and playwrights began meeting in December of 1989.

The group has grown to forty-five, has become a subcommittee of the Nebraska Center for the Book, and is busy planning the festival. The Festival will be held on September 27-29, 1991, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, co-sponsored by the UN-O Writers' Workshop. Festival activities will include readings, lectures, a minority playwright contest, workshops, performances, booths, a student writing contest, and a banquet, all held in a festival atmosphere designed to showcase not only our famous Nebraska authors, but contemporary writers as well.

During this last year, along with serving as Secretary of the Nebraska Literature Festival, I was elected Vice president and Membership Chair of the Nebraska Writers Guild. This organization reaffirmed its dedication to the promotion and fellowship of all authors in our State. The Nebraska Writers Guild was founded in 1925 and is the only official writers' organization in our State. We are calling for members. What

surprises me is that so many Nebraska writers are not members of the Guild. When asked what the Nebraska Writers Guild could do for writers, I replied, "It's not what the Guild can offer you, but what can you give to others."

There is an excitement that happens when a group of writers get together. An electricity in the air, charged by our mutual understanding of what drives us. During the Fall and Spring meetings, I always meet new writers, hesitant to ask questions about our craft. They are the ones I love to talk to. We owe it to our heritage to nurture and mentor those who might entertain a desire to read, write, or express themselves through prose, poetry and drama, regardless of age, sex, race, creed or socioeconomic status. Literature is the past, present, and future of our land and we must do everything we can to preserve it. The Nebraska Writers Guild has two types of memberships: Associate and Active. To be an Associate, all you have to do is request an application from me, 14824 Parker Plaza, Omaha, NE 68154, fill it out, enclose the annual dues of \$10 and drop it in the mail. There are no other requirements. Active Membership does require proof of paid publication and is voted upon by the Executive Committee of the Nebraska Writers Guild during the biannual meetings.

I guess Nebraska writers still need support, but one year later, we are closer to a finely tuned, cohesive unit that will serve all the members of our State.

-Diane L. Kirkle

Benefit Proves Successful

"Winter Thunder" Eyes Future Presentations

November's benefit performance of Mimi Loring's "Winter Thunder" not only may be regarded as a success for its sponsor, the Nebraska Literature Festival, but it also spurred future plans for the play.

Based on a Mari Sandoz story, "Winter Thunder" provided an appropriate attraction for the fund-raiser held at the Ruddyard Norton Theatre in Omaha. Sell-out ticket sales resulted in receipts of nearly \$2,100, providing the Literature Festival affiliate of the Nebraska Center for the Book with a comfortable operat-

ing balance as it seeks funding assistance from foundation and granting sources.

Meanwhile, plans are underway to increase "Winter Thunder's" popular exposure for a wider segment of Nebraska audiences. The Emmy Gifford Children's Theater has tentatively agreed to produce the play aiming for a tour of the western part of the state later this year. The production would then return to Omaha and UNO for two feature performances at September's Nebraska Literature Festival.

-Elaine Booth, NLF Program Chair

American Renaissance Chautauqua Is Coming!

Chautauqua is a wonderful humanities program, featuring teachers who have researched the lives and writings of historical figures and writers. The teachers give evening programs in the Chautauqua tent—a different program for each of the five nights, and during the day there are workshops and other activities for all ages. Chautauqua is a unique blend of entertainment and innovative educational style. The goal, of course, is to make everyone more aware of the pleasures of reading and talking about literature and history.

The theme for 1991 is "American Renaissance," and will focus on the works of Louisa May Alcott, Herman Melville, Henry Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Frederick Douglass, and Margaret Fuller. These writers have been called the "first truly American writers," and their works are also referred to sometimes as "the literature of our democracy." Professor Carrol Peterson of Doane College in Crete will portray Walt Whitman.

The Great Plain Chautauqua Society will make appearances in two Nebraska communities next summer.

Dates are:

Alliance	July 4 - 9
Central City	July 11- 16

Each community will plan special activities so that each week will be different. Complete schedules will be available in April. A booklet of preparatory readings is available from the Nebraska Humanities Council by writing to them at:

Nebraska Humanities Council
Suite 225
Lincoln Center Bldg
215 Centennial Mall So.
Lincoln, NE 68508.



Loren Eiseley Award Given to Dr. Lewis Thomas

Dr. Lewis Thomas, scientist, author and humanist; currently Scholar-in-Residence at New York Hospital-- Cornell Medical Center, has been awarded the Distinguished Lifetime Loren Eiseley Award for his contributions to both the sciences and the humanities. This award is given by the Humanities Emphasis Workgroup of the Educational Advisory Board of Bishop Clarkson Hospital in Omaha.

Dr. David Schrader, Dean of the College of Fine Arts of the University of Nebraska, Omaha, in presenting

the award at a ceremony in New York, commented that Dr. Thomas's essays, "The Lives of a Cell", "The Medusa and the Snail", "The Youngest Profession" and "Late Night Thoughts on Listening to Mahler's Ninth", have established him as one of the few writers of this century who have been able to provide a synthesis of sciences, arts and philosophy in a format that is approachable by a very wide audience of readers.

This award is given to the person who best exemplifies the balance between the sciences and the humanities that was personified by the work of Loren Eiseley.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Inquiries for further information are invited.

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Send in your membership form or forms today!

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone with Area Code: _____

_____(_____)_____

Name of Contact Person: _____

Title of Contact Person: _____

Our organization is especially interested in (check one or more):

- Promotion of literacy
 Promotion of reading
 Promotion of Nebraska literature and writers

Other: _____

Please enclose a check for \$25.00 (one-year membership) made payable to "Nebraska Center for the Book". Mail this form and check to address below.

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone with Area Code: _____

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(Work)_(_____)_____

My particular interests in the promotion of literacy and reading are: _____

Please enclose a check for \$15.00 (one-year membership) made payable to "Nebraska Center for the Book". Mail this form and check to the above address.

The Nebraska Literature Festival

September 27-29, 1991

University of Nebraska-Omaha Campus

Co-sponsored by

Nebraska Center for the Book

and University of Nebraska Omaha

Organizations supporting the Festival include:

*Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation
Bellevue College English Club
Center for Great Plains Studies
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
College of St. Mary's Humanities Department
Creighton University Creative Writing Program
Friends of Loren Eiseley
John G. Neihardt Foundation
Lincoln City Libraries
Lone Tree Literary Society
National Conference of Christians & Jews, Omaha
Nebraska Arts Council*

*Nebraska Book Arts Center (UNO)
Nebraska Center for the Book
Nebraska Humanities Council
Nebraska Literary Heritage Association
Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival
Nebraska Writers Guild
Omaha Organization for the Purpose of Storytelling (OOPS)
Tuesday Book Club, Omaha
UNO Alumni Association
UNO Library Friends
UNO Writer's Workshop
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The 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

February

- February 13 Omaha. Creighton University Poet-in-Residence Desmond Egan, lecturing on "Irish Poetry from Yeats to the Present," 7:30 p.m., Union Pacific Room, Reinert Alumni Library, Creighton University Campus.
- February 18 Lincoln. Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefkorn, reading at The Gathering Place, 1448 E St., Noon. For more information call 402-476-7398.
- February 20 Omaha. Creighton University Poet-in-Residence Desmond Egan, reading selections from his poetry, 7:30 p.m., Union Pacific Room, Reinert Alumni Library, Creighton University Campus.
- February 21 Lincoln. Tom Adamson, poet, reading in the Heritage Room, Bennet Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, John H. Ames Reading Series.
- February 22-23 Santee and Macy. Native American Reading Tour, Jack Weatherford, Feb. 22, 6:00 p.m., Santee, and Feb. 23, 1:00 p.m. Macy. Contact Kim Cavillo, 402-878-2414 for more information.
- February 23-24 Lincoln. The Nebraska English/Language Arts Council and The Nebraska Educational Media Association Spring Conference, University of Nebraska-Lincoln City Campus Student Union. For more information, contact Deb Levitov, 3401 Stockwell, Lincoln, NE 68506.
- February 24-26 Omaha. 1991 Nebraska Pre-White House Conference on Library and Information Services, sponsored by Nebraska Information Partnerships. For more information, contact Nancy Busch or Rod Wagner at the Nebraska Library Commission, 402-471-2045 or 800-742-7691.
- February 24-March 22 Lincoln. Art Exhibition: "Norman Saunders's Outlaws of the West: Illustrations for the Pulp Westerns", 205 Love Library, UNL Campus, 13th & R Streets. Sponsored by Center for Great Plains Studies Art Collection, University of Nebraska. Call 402-472-3082 for more information.
- February 25 Curtis. Don Welch, poet, reading from his poetry and discussing rural values, 7:00 p.m. NE College of Technical Agriculture. Call 367-4124 for more information.
- February 25 Lincoln. Marcia Southwick, poet, reading at The Gathering Place, 1448 E St., Noon. For more information call 402-476-7398.
- February 28 Omaha. The Friends of the UNO Community Writer's Workshop, Spring 1991 Reading Series presents Marly Swick, fiction writer, reading at the Arts & Sciences Hall, UNO Campus, 8:00 p.m.
- February 28 Lincoln. The Great Books Reading and Discussion Group, Conference Room of the Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th and N Streets, 7:00 p.m. Regular meetings are held every other Thursday and are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Barbara E. Leffler, 402-488-6287.

March

- March 4 Lincoln. Bud Narveson, speaking on "Contributions of the Novel to Shaping Current American Culture", The Gathering Place, 1448 E St., Noon. For more information, call 402-476-7398.
- March 7 Omaha. The Friends of the UNO Community Writer's Workshop, Spring 1991 Reading Series presents Robert Reilly reading from his prose, Dundee Book Company, 1207 Harney Street, 8:00 p.m.
- March 11 Lincoln. Dr. Harvey Potthoff, speaking on "The Religious Pilgrimage of Loren Eiseley", The Gathering Place, 1448 E St., Noon. For more information, call 402-476-7398.
- March 15 Crete. Inherit the Wind Symposium, "The Debate Goes On—Evolution, Freedom of Speech, and Censorship", 4:00 p.m., Doane College. Call 402-826-8245 for more information.
- March 15 Lincoln. "The Evolving Text: A Biographer's and an Editor's Perspective", 7:30 p.m. 203 B Love Library. Sponsored by Friends of Love Library. Call 402-472-6987 for more information.
- March 16 Annual Spring Meeting of the Friends of Loren Eiseley, place and program to be announced.
- March 19 Omaha. The Friends of the UNO Community Writer's Workshop Spring 1991 Reading Series present Albert Goldbarth, poet, reading at the Arts & Sciences Hall, UNO Campus, 8:00 p.m.
- March 18-10 Broken Bow. "Bringing Literature to Life", featuring author Robert Newton Peck. 308-872-2982 for information.

NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK CALENDAR

- March 21 Lincoln. Evelyn Haller, reading in the Heritage Room, Bennet Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, John H. Ames Reading Series.
- March 28-30 Kearney. Women's Worlds Conference, "Concepts, Images, and Visions". Sponsored by Women's Studies Kearney State College. Call 308-234-8294 for more information.

April

- April 1 Lincoln. Marjorie Saiser, poet, speaking at The Gathering Place, 1448 E St., Noon. For more information call 402-476-7398.
- April 3 Lincoln. "A Meeting with Four Nebraska Booksellers," featuring Jane Geske, Kathy Stasch, Ellen Scott, and Dan Gleason, Heritage Room, Bennet Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Humanities Council. (See President's Column page 4.)
- April 3 Lincoln. "A Meeting with Four Nebraska Book Discussion Leaders," featuring Barbara Leffler, Joan Moody, Charles Bausom, and Richard Toof, Heritage Room, Bennet Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Humanities Council. (See President's Column page 4.)
- April 8 Lincoln. Katherine and Richard Endacott, speaking about their book, *Eating Nebraska: A Humorous Guide to Dining in the Cornhusker State*, at The Gathering Place, 1448 E St., Noon. For more information, call 402-476-7398. (See article page 10.)
- April 11 Omaha. The Friends of the UNO Community Writer's Workshop Spring 1991 Reading Series presents Kent Haruf, fiction writer, reading at the Dingle Bay Oyster Bar, 1207 Harney Street, 8:00 p.m.
- April 15 Lincoln. Robert Knoll, speaking on "Writing in Nebraska", The Gathering Place, 1448 E St., Noon. For more information, call 402-476-7398.
- April 18 Omaha. The Friends of the UNO Community Writer's Workshop Spring 1991 Reading Series present Richard Duggin, fiction writer, reading at the Dundee Book Company, 5015 Dodge Street, 8:00 p.m.
- April 18 Lincoln. Kate Cavanaugh, author of children's books, reading in the Heritage Room, Bennet Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, John H. Ames Reading Series.
- April 22 Lincoln. Ruth Thone, speaking about her forthcoming book, *Women and Aging*, The Gathering Place, 1448 E st., Noon. For more information, call 402-476-7398.
- April 27 Bancroft. John G. Neihardt 1991 Spring Conference: "Publishing and Preserving the Native American Tradition." Presenters include: Willis Regier, Kathleen Dankar, Hilda Neihardt, Catherine Rudin. For more information, contact the Neihardt Center, 402-648-3388.

May

- May 3 Omaha. The Friends of the UNO Community Writer's Workshop Spring 1991 Reading Series present Writer's Workshop Students reading their work, Arts & Sciences Hall, UNO Campus, 8:00 p.m.
- May 4 Red Cloud. 36th Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference. The conference will feature the premiere of two public television releases. For more information, call 402-746-2653.
- May 11 Mari Sandoz's birthday. Born May 11, 1896.
- May 24-26 Omaha. 2nd Annual Midwest Mystery and Suspense Convention. For more information, contact Charles Levitt, Little Professor Book Center, 13455 W. Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144, 402-334-1370.

IN THE MONTHS TO COME

- June 1 Hastings. Nebraska Writing & Storytelling Festival. A one day gathering of writers and storytellers of all levels, workshops in many areas. Fuhr Hall, Hastings College Campus, 8 am to 4:30 p.m. More information forthcoming.
- June 14-15 Omaha. 4th Annual Storytelling Festival of Nebraska, featuring nationally-known teller Susan Klein. Sponsored by OOPS, UNO, and the Nebraska Arts Festival. Call 402-572-5948 for more information.
- July 4-9 Alliance. Great Plains Chautauqua Society, "American Renaissance".
- July 11-16 Central City. Great Plains Chautauqua Society, "American Renaissance". Complete schedules will be available in April from the Nebraska Humanities Council. (See article page 13.)
- Sep. 27-29 Omaha. Nebraska Literature Festival sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, UNO and UNO Writers Workshop. Contact Kira Gale, 3314 North 49th St. Omaha, NE 68104, for more information. (See article page 9.)

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 April 15th.
Send to: Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar, Dave McCleery, Editor, 2746 Everett, Lincoln, NE 68502