



*President— Barry*

## **Spoke Newsletter**

Wednesday January 24, 2018

Attendance: 25 (57%) Attendance with make ups: 30 (68%)

**Program Wednesday, January 31, 2018**

*Feroz Mohmand*

*Program arranged by Barry Stelk*

**Program Wednesday, January 24, 2018**

*Andrew Jewell. Life and works of Willa Cather*

*Program arranged by Dick Cummings*



Andrew Jewell is a Professor of Digital Projects at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries and the editor of the Willa Cather Archive. Andy has published several essays on Willa Cather and other American writers, scholarly editing, and digital humanities. He is co-editor of the book *The American Literature Scholar in the Digital Age* (University of Michigan Press, 2011) and has edited, with Janis P. Stout, *The Selected Letters of Willa Cather* (Knopf, 2013). He also serves as co-editor of the open-access, digital journal *Scholarly Editing: The Annual of the Association for Documentary Editing*

**Willa Sibert Cather** (December 7, 1873 – April 24, 1947) was an American writer who achieved recognition for her novels of frontier life on the Great Plains, including *O Pioneers!* (1913), *The Song of the Lark* (1915), and *My Ántonia* (1918). In 1923 she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours* (1922), a novel set during World War I.

Cather grew up in Virginia and Nebraska, and graduated from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She lived and worked in Pittsburgh for ten years,<sup>[4]</sup> supporting herself as a magazine editor and high school English teacher. At the age of 33 she moved to New York City, her primary home for the rest of her life, though she also traveled widely and spent considerable time at her summer residence on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick

Cather was born Wilella Sibert Cather in 1873 on her maternal grandmother's farm in the Back Creek Valley near Winchester, Virginia. Her father was Charles Fectigue Cather (d. 1928), whose family had lived on land in the valley for six generations. Cather's family originated in Wales, the family name deriving from Cadair Idris, a mountain in Gwynedd.<sup>[2]:13</sup> Her mother was Mary Virginia Boak (died 1931), a former school teacher. Within a year of Cather's birth, the family moved to Willow Shade, a Greek Revival-style home on 130 acres given to them by her paternal grandparents..

***A Rotary Thank You to Andrew Jewell for an excellent presentation about the Life and works of Willa Cather and sharing her interesting letters!!***

**Lincoln East Rotary Club**  
**Meetings at Valentino's—70th & Van Dorn**  
**Noon Luncheon starting @ 11:45 a.m.**

**January 24, 2018**

At the urging of Charles Cathers' parents, the family moved to Nebraska in 1883 when Willa was nine years old. The rich, flat farmland appealed to Charles' father, and the family wished to escape the tuberculosis outbreaks that were rampant in Virginia.<sup>[5]</sup> Willa's father tried his hand at farming for eighteen months; then he moved the family into the town of Red Cloud, where he opened a real estate and insurance business, and the children attended school for the first time.<sup>[2]:43</sup> Some of the earliest work produced by Cather was first published in the *Red Cloud Chief*, the city's local paper.<sup>[6]</sup> Cather's time in the western state, still on the frontier, was a deeply formative experience for her. She was intensely moved by the dramatic environment and weather, the vastness of the Nebraska prairie, and the various cultures of the European-American, immigrant and Native American families in the area.<sup>[3]</sup> Like Jim Burden in *My Antonia*, the young Willa Cather saw the Nebraska frontier as a "place where there was nothing but land: not a country at all, but the materials out of which countries were made...Between that earth and that sky I felt erased, blotted out".<sup>[7]</sup>



Willa Cather—1912

This first publication of the letters of one of America's most consistently admired writers is both an exciting and a significant literary event. Willa Cather, wanting to be judged on her work alone, clearly forbade the publication of her letters in her will. But now, more than sixty-five years after her death, with her literary reputation as secure as a reputation can be, the letters have become available for publication.

The voice heard in these letters is one we already know from her fiction: confident, elegant, detailed, openhearted, concerned with profound ideas, but also at times funny, sentimental, and sarcastic. Unfiltered as only intimate communication can be, they are also full of small fibs, emotional outbursts, inconsistencies, and the joys and sorrows of the moment. *The Selected Letters* is a deep pleasure to read and to ponder, sure to appeal to those with a special devotion to Cather as well as to those just making her acquaintance.

The 566 letters collected here, nearly 20 percent of the total, range from the funny (and mostly misspelled) reports of life in Red Cloud in the 1880s that Cather wrote as a teenager, through those from her college years at the University of Nebraska, her time as a journalist in Pittsburgh and New York, and during her growing eminence as a novelist. Postcards and letters describe her many travels around the United States and abroad, and they record her last years in the 1940s, when the loss of loved ones and the disasters of World War II brought her near to despair. Written to family and close friends and to such luminaries as Sarah Orne Jewett, Robert Frost, Yehudi Menuhin, Sinclair Lewis, and the president of Czechoslovakia, Thomas Masaryk, they reveal her in her daily life as a woman and writer passionately interested in people, literature, and the arts in general.

Although Cather began her writing career as a journalist, she made a distinction between journalism, which she saw as being primarily informative, and literature, which she saw as an art form.<sup>[41]</sup> Cather's work is often marked by its nostalgic tone, her subject matter and themes drawn from memories of her early years on the American plains. Some critics have charged Cather with being out of touch with her times and failing to use more experimental techniques, such as stream of consciousness, in her writing. However, others have pointed out that Cather could follow no other literary path but her own: She had formed and matured her ideas on art before she wrote a novel. She had no more reason to follow Gertrude Stein and James Joyce, whose work she respected, than they did to follow her. Her style solves the problems in which she was interested. She wanted to stand midway between the journalists whose omniscient objectivity accumulate more fact than any character could notice and the psychological novelist whose use of subjective point of view stories distorts objective reality. She developed her theory on a middle ground, selecting facts from experience on the basis of feeling and then presenting the experience in a lucid, objective style. Cather's style is not the accumulative cataloguing of the journalists, nor the fragmentary atomism of psychological associations.



## Lincoln East Rotary Club

Teacher of the Month—December 2017

*Amy Ruisinger—University of Nebraska High School & Lux Middle School*



Erin Rausch Conaway, U.S. Bank, Duane Dohmen, Lux Principal, Amy Ruisinger, Teacher, Hugh McDermott, UNHS Principal, Wayne Casper Chairman

*Lincoln East Rotary Club Members extend a sincere thank you and congratulations to Amy Ruisinger as an outstanding teacher at UNHS & Lux Middle Schools.*

Lincoln Rotary Club #14 Fund Raiser

Saturday, February 10,, 2018

Tickets available on Club #14 website: [rotary14.com](http://rotary14.com)

## Tickets on Sale Now



# Rise. Shine. *give.*

**Saturday, February 10, 2018 | 10 a.m. - noon**

**Nebraska Innovation Campus**

Silent Auction • Event Program • Live Give  
Full Brunch Buffet • Mimosas • Bloody Marys  
Raffle Prize Drawing to Las Vegas, Nevada

Funds raised will aid in providing a safe and fun-filled playground for the children of Everett Elementary School.



Lincoln East Rotary Club  
City Parks and Recreation Painting Project  
Signup Sheet (Start time: 9:00 A.M.)

**Saturday, January 13, 2018:**

Ozzie Gilbertson  
Gene Roth  
Paul Horton  
Duane Tappe  
Greg Schnasse

Phone Number:

489-6993  
477-2188  
499-9295  
786-4075  
440-9917

Thanks You

**Saturday, January 20, 2018:**

John Garrison  
Andrea & Mike Ahrens  
Dean Douglas  
Wayne Casper  
Milt Schmidt

423-5407\*\*Donuts  
202-4115-6787  
430-4805  
450-3516  
840-5133

**Saturday, January 27, 2018:**

Gene Frederick  
Duane Tappe  
Chuck Erickson  
Mark Ebers  
Milt Schmidt

310-9266\*\*Donuts  
786-4075  
420-3088  
450-2246  
840-5133

**Saturday, February 3, 2018:**

Barry Stelk  
Jason Smith  
Chris Klingenberg

429-5012\*\*Donuts  
309-4990  
499-8404

OPEN

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Milt Schmidt

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840-5133

**Saturday, February 10, 2018:**

Wayne Casper  
Larry Fletcher

450-3516\*\*Donuts  
488-4972

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OPEN

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OPEN

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Milt Schmidt

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840-5133

**NOTE: Open slots – we need 3 more volunteers**

Northeast Division Maintenance Building, 5045 Colby Street.



## Anniversaries & Birthdays

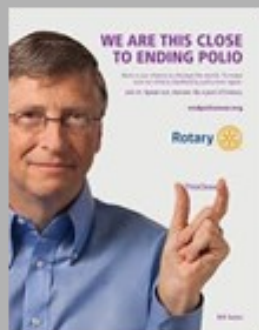
Weeks of —January 25—31

### Birthdays:

Jerry Albright—January 27

### Anniversaries

Ben Martin—January 28



## Happy Dollars

Al Burdick	\$ 1.00
Darrel Huenergardt	\$ 1.00
Chris Klingenberg	\$ 1.00
Blake Collingsworth	\$10.00
Ben Martin	\$ 5.00
Paul Horton	\$ 2.00
Chuck Erickson	\$ 1.00
Dick Cumming	\$ 1.00
Wayne Casper	\$ 5.00
Barry Stelk	\$ 5.00



CASHIER  
TABLE



## Cashier Duty

*We need volunteers for the following:*

*Month of January— Dick Cumming*

*Month of February—OPEN*

*Please contact Dick Cumming*

## Make Ups

John Duling  
Larry Fletcher  
John Garrison  
Greg Schnasse  
Ed Stivers

Another meeting  
Concessions F.B.  
Concessions F.B.  
Concessions F.B.  
Concessions F.B..



## Greeter Duty

February	Wayne Casper
March	Ed Stivers
April	John Garrison



## Guests & Visitors

Merrilea Anderson  
Barb Roth  
Gary Harmon  
Linda Cumming  
Doris Burdick  
Ginger Martin  
Merle Jansen  
Andrew Jewell  
Hugh McDermott  
Erin Rausch Conaway  
Amy Ruisinger  
Duane Dohmen

Steve Grosserode  
Gene Roth  
Club 14  
Dick Cumming  
Al Burdick  
Ben Martin  
Club #14  
Speaker  
Principal UNHS  
U.S. Bank  
Teacher of Month  
Lux Principal

## Lincoln East Rotary Club January Speaker Schedule

January 31—Feroz Mohmand, program arranged by Barry Stelk

Lincoln East Rotary Club  
Spoke Newsletter  
Published by Wayne Casper