

The Mari Sandoz  
Heritage Society

*Pilster  
Great Plains  
Lecture  
Series*

"Sacred Seed: Indigenous  
Environmentalism and  
Living Red in  
Post-Colonialism"

*Featuring*

**Taylor Keen**

Creighton University &  
Founder of Sacred Seed

September 22, 2022

Center for Great Plains Studies  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, Nebraska

*Mari Sandoz*  
HERITAGE SOCIETY

**Mari Sandoz Heritage Society**  
P.O. Box 6808 | Lincoln, NE 68506-0808  
[www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org)



## The Pilster Endowment

In 2006, the late Esther Pilster gave a gift of ranchland in northwest Nebraska near Whitney in Dawes County, to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. The gift, which established an endowment with the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, was a tribute to her late husband Raleigh, who grew up on the ranch, and his parents John and Grace Pilster. As a beloved teacher and school administrator for 44 years, Esther served 29 years as principal at Boyd Elementary School in Omaha. Esther wanted her gift to honor the courage and tenacity shown by Raleigh's parents and others who lived on the Great Plains. The Pilster Great Plains Lecture Series and other programs are funded by the Pilster endowment.

### Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

The vision of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is to foster an understanding of the literary and historical works of Mari Sandoz; and to honor the land and the people about which she wrote: Native Americans, ranchers, farmers and the people who settled the High Plains country.

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society works to build an appreciation of Mari Sandoz's body of work and to preserve the legacy of this premier historian by bringing people together for the discussion of her works, presenting a symposium, distinguished lecture series, a writing workshop and administering and raising funds to support these efforts.

In addition to the three major annual events, the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society also works to preserve the literary works and legacy of Mari Sandoz. The Society maintains extensive archive materials including manuscripts of Mari's works, research she compiled in a meticulous and copious index card system, written histories, essays, short stories, correspondence and personal items. Many of these collections are permanently on loan to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska. The Society supports the Center's academic, archive and research programs.

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and is member supported. To join or provide a gift membership, please visit our website at [www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org). All membership contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## About The Lecture

Taylor Keen's historical journey with Indigenous seed keeping has led him to contemplate new theories about "Post-Colonial Indigeneity", "Living Red" and "Indigenous Environmentalism". Keen explores the tenets and foundations of Indigenous Agricultural Lifeways as through the work of the Tuscarora Agronomist, Dr. Jane Mt. Pleasant's "Indigenous Environmentalism" and how it may pertain to bolster modern agricultural techniques. Further, Keen investigates new Indigenous philosophical theories of "Living Red" in today's turbulent times. Living Red is based upon Keen's theories of "Post-Colonial Indigeneity", the Four Indigenous Alchemical Elements and an interpretation of Four modes of Sovereignty (Physical, Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual).

### Taylor Keen

Taylor Keen is a full-time instructor in the Heider College of Business Administration in Strategy and Entrepreneurship at Creighton University. Keen holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College as well as a Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration from Harvard University, where he served as a Fellow in the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. Taylor is the author of the book



manuscript *Rediscovering America: Sacred Geography, the Ancient Earthen Works and an Indigenous History of Turtle Island*. Keen carries the name "Bison Mane" of the Eastern Bison Clan of the Omaha Tribe, The People Who Move Against the Current. Taylor Keen is also the Founder of Sacred Seed a non-profit organization to educate and celebrate Indigenous Agricultural Lifeways.