

Story^{the} Catcher

A publication of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

2017 Story Catcher Summer Writing Workshop & Festival Coming In June

The stage has been set for the **2017 Story Catcher Summer Writing Workshop and Festival** sponsored by Chadron State College and the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, **June 14 – 17**. And a beautiful stage it is in the breath-taking Pine Ridge Region of Northwest Nebraska in the historic buildings and scenic spots around Fort Robinson State Park. Participants will stay in the 1890 Brick Officer Quarters and receive instruction from renowned writers.

Morning instructional sessions will be followed by afternoon workshops designed to give participants a



Mark Halliday, 2017 Poet in Residence | Story Catcher | Serenity in the Pine Ridge Region of NW Nebraska



country 60 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. She raised a son in Santa Fe, New Mexico, then moved to Nebraska where she has taught for 20 years at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She has written four story collections and a novel, *The Do-Right*. “Choreography on the Page.” Knowing in their own minds what’s happening, writers can often miss that the action is not as clear to their readers, according to Sandlin. There are also many times when choreography

alone carries the plot and theme. We can be just as felled by a significant action on the page as when we see it large on a

chance to create new work and receive personalized feedback. The instructors include Poet in Residence Mark Halliday, Fiction Writer in Residence Lisa Sandlin and Nonfiction Writer in Residence Ken Ilgunas. Halliday was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is a noted American poet, college professor and critic. He is the award-winning author of six poetry collections and has taught at Ohio University since 1996. He will lead participants through a craft lecture focused on the art of poetic technique. The craft lecture will conclude with a writing prompt to prepare participants for the afternoon session. Sandlin was born in Beaumont, Texas, and grew up in oil-refinery

movie screen. Ilgunas has written several nonfiction books, his latest being *Trespassing Across America: One Man’s Epic, Never Done-Before (and Sort of Illegal) Hike Across the Heartland*. He wrote the book based on his adventures walking the proposed 1,700 – mile route of the Keystone XL pipeline. He was born in Hamilton, Ontario, and raised in Wheatfield, New York, where his family lives. When he’s not tending a friend’s garden in Stokes County, North Carolina, he’s likely traveling cross-country in his van. Ilgunas will discuss “The art of not being boring.” He will

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Support the Work of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society JOIN or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

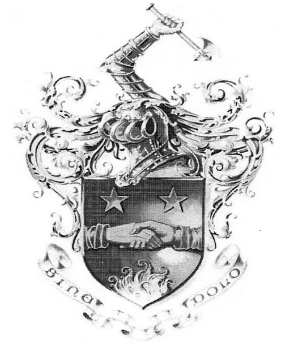
Help us keep the spirit and work of Mari Sandoz alive by supporting the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society with a new membership, gift membership or renewal! Visit our website at www.marisandoz.org and complete the online form, or you can download a copy of the membership form and mail it to us.

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TODAY!

Sandoz Country to Host Family Reunion June 8 to 11, 2017

Members of the international Sandoz family will gather for a family reunion and tour of Old Jules Country in June, according to David Sandoz of Valentine. The four-day event begins Thursday June 8 at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Center on the campus of Chadron State College with a brief welcoming and orientation session before the group leaves for a bus tour of Old Jules Country with the first stop in Hay Springs and then on to Mirage Flats, the location of Old Jules first dugout. The group will also visit the site of his first cabin and then Indian Hill. Next stop is Alliance for visits to the graves of Old Jules and his wife Mary. Lunch in Alliance is followed by a trip to Ellsworth and the Spade Ranch Store, then it's on to Mari's burial site and the second home of the Sandoz'. A stop in Gordon will be followed by a trip back to Chadron for the evening. On Friday morning, the group will spend time at the Sandoz Center and touring Chadron State College. David Sandoz says the visitors will want to see the memorabilia and displays. Lunch will be at the Center before the group departs for Fort Robinson State Park. There we will have a tour of the Fort and go out to the Break-- Out Monument close by. Dinner will be buffalo stew and the night will be capped with the stage play "Mama Mia" at the Post Playhouse. On Saturday, the group will visit the Bowring Ranch State Park at Merriman. The Bowring Ranch has amazing collections and interpretation of the settlement of the Sandhills. Lunch will be at the Sod House on the Bowring grounds. Eva Bowring was a United States Senator and later in life she traveled the world as a member of the National Parole Board. Entertainment at the ranch will feature country and western music. A visit to the Museum of the Fur Trade east of Chadron will cap the day. Sunday will begin with a mid-morning non-denominational church service at the large meeting room at the Country Kitchen in Chadron. Speakers and musicians are friends of the Sandoz family and the service will be filled with music and a message. An indoor picnic provided by the Country Kitchen follows the service. Cedric Sandoz will speak to the group at the official family reunion which will be held following the picnic. He will talk about the next reunion in Switzerland in May 2020. A family picture will be taken on the east steps of the Sandoz Center and will be followed by a Grand Farewell dinner at the Sandoz Center. Governor Pete Ricketts has been invited to the celebration. The dinner will be done in the spirit of Old Jules and feature fresh roasted quail, new potatoes, carrots, salad, fresh Swiss bread and an apple desert. Casual attire. The group will be entertained

by the Heart City Dancers, Yvonne Hollenbeck humorous western poet, string music, Native American dancers and other performers. If you have questions or would like further information about the reunion, please contact David Sandoz at d42sandoz@gmail.com.



Plans in Motion for Summer Society Board Meeting and Membership Gathering

Plans are being finalized for the annual summer meeting of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board of Directors. The meeting will be held June 2-3, 2017 in Lincoln and will include a tour of the Mari Sandoz archives at Love Library on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, a tour of Lincoln landmarks linked to Sandoz led by Society Board Member Jamison Wyatt, and we are also working to include an informal social gathering for Sandoz Society members and prospective members for either Friday evening or Saturday afternoon.

The Society board meeting will be held Saturday morning. The significance of a Lincoln meeting is best explained in excerpts from the writings of David Bristow, first published in Nebraska Life magazine in January/February 2001. Not only did she live and work in Lincoln for a time, her book *Capital City* (1939), provoked hate mail and threats. The book was seen as an attack on the city of Lincoln (which, in part, it was). Stung by the backlash in her home state, Mari moved first to Denver, then to New York City, where she lived for the rest of her life." As Bristow writes, "Mari's years in Lincoln were a time both of development and of struggle and failure.

Mari worked a series of low-paying jobs, took classes at the University of Nebraska when she could, and—most of all—wrote whenever possible." She lacked a high school diploma and was therefore ineligible to enroll at the university. "She was allowed to take classes only by the intervention of a sympathetic dean, who told her that she could enroll with impunity as long as she didn't apply for a

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Story Catcher Workshop (continued from page 1)

talk about tactics to make your writing captivating from start to finish. He will discuss how to write about nature without putting your readers to sleep; how to make your writing “sing” by cutting out French-derived words from your prose; and how to make your descriptions and metaphors come to life by immersing yourself in your book’s setting. The event moves to Chadron State College on Saturday June 17 for a festival (free and open to the public) celebrating the work of everyone involved in the workshop, from published authors to beginners, and featuring additional workshop sessions from select Mari Sandoz Emerging Writers, and a keynote presentation by Halliday.

General registration for the writer’s retreat costs \$350 and includes 3-days lodging, some meals and refreshments, and the writing workshops. Mari Sandoz Heritage Society members, high school and college students can register for the retreat at a reduced rate of \$300. Registration closes June 1st. Detailed information about the workshop and registration is available on-line at www.marisandoz.org. The retreat is limited to 15 writers and early registration is encouraged.



Lisa Sandlin, 2017 Fiction Writer in Residence & Ken Ilgunas, 2017 Non-Fiction Writer in Residence

Wednesday June 14th – Saturday June 17th

2017 Writing Retreat...



Set in the breath-taking Pine Ridge Region of Northwest Nebraska, we will gather in the historic buildings and scenic spots around Fort Robinson State Park and will lodge in the 1890 Brick Officer Quarters. Renowned writers will lead morning sessions focused on crafting and improving our writing, followed by afternoon sessions designed to give participants a chance to create new work and receive personalized feedback during the retreat.

- [Mark Halliday](#) (Poet in Residence)
- [Lisa Sandlin](#) (Fiction Writer in Residence)
- [Ken Ilgunas](#) (Nonfiction Writer in Residence)

... And Festival

On Saturday we will move to the CSC CAMPUS for a festival (open to the public) celebrating the work of everyone involved in the workshop, from published authors to beginners, and featuring additional workshop sessions from our Mari Sandoz Emerging Writers, and a keynote presentation by our Poet in Residence, [Mark Halliday](#). This inspirational setting fosters a wonderful writing community focused on exploring the wild terrains of our lives.

Scenic, affordable, friendly and accessible! A GREAT PLACE TO CREATE!

www.storycatcherworkshop.org

The StoryCatcher

The “StoryCatcher” is the title of a book by Mari Sandoz and it is the title of Helen Winter Stauffer’s biography of Mari, *Mari Sandoz: The Story Catcher of the Plains*. The StoryCatcher is published four times a year by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, a 501©(3) non-profit organization. The vision of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is to perpetuate and 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 Society hosts an annual conference, the Pilster Great Plains Lecture Series, and a writer’s workshop. Additionally, the Society provides collections on loan to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska.

Address Changes

Address changes should be mailed to:
P.O. Box 6808, Lincoln, NE 68506

Contributions to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society are tax-deductible. To join the Society contact visit our website at www.marisandoz.org

Mari Sandoz

The feats, the passions, and the distinctive speech of the West come alive in the writings of Mari Sandoz (1896-1966). As the author of 23 books, including *Old Jules*, *Cheyenne Autumn*, and *Crazy Horse, the Strange Man of the Oglalas*, Sandoz was a tireless researcher, a true storyteller and artist passionately dedicated to the land. With her vivid stories of the last days of the American frontier, Mari Sandoz has achieved a secure place as one of the finest authors in American literature and one of Nebraska’s most important writers. As a historian and as a novelist, Sandoz was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1976 and posthumously received the coveted Wrangler Award from the Hall of Great Westerners.

Take A Sneak Peek at This Year's Pilster Lecture & Sandoz Conference: Celebrating Nebraska's Sesquicentennial

For those of you who just can't get enough of the Mari Sandoz Conference, we've added a Saturday (Sept 30) morning session. The session starts at 9am at the Bean Broker in downtown Chadron.

Alan Wilkinson will be presenting "Getting in Touch with Mari Sandoz." He is a noted British writer who has spent 25 years pondering Mari Sandoz's work and getting to know the Sandhills. After getting lost a few times navigating the Old Jules Trail, he created and posted an improved on-line guide <http://www.old-jules-trail.com/index.html>. His talk allows plenty of time for a journey down to Mari's Grave Site south of Gordon. Wilkinson is author of *The Red House on the Niobrara*, "There Used to be a Guy... But He Died," and *Cody, the Medicine Man and Me* (2017). You can read more about Alan and his work at <http://alan-wilkinson.com/>. The Bean Broker is in a beautiful old commercial building in downtown Chadron and offers great coffee, sweets & food. Beer, Spirits & Wine are also available as is fast internet, a warm fire, good friends. Owner and General Manager Andrea Lee Rising has spent hours working on the historic building to preserve its charm and refine the business. Saturday's conference session will be a laid-back affair, so plan to extend your Chadron stay through Saturday.

Walter Echo-Hawk will start things off with the Thursday night (Sept 28) Pilster Lecture on "Nebraska before it was Nebraska." A Pawnee, Echo-Hawk will discuss how the Pawnee lived in the Loup and Platte River Valleys hundreds of years before Europeans arrived in North America, but they were removed from Nebraska in 1876. The Echo-Hawk family is distinguished for its contributions to Pawnee Nation and the State of Oklahoma. In that tradition, Walter Echo-Hawk is a noted attorney, author, and speaker with expertise in indigenous history, federal Indian law, and Native American cosmology. For more information about our lecturer, visit his website <http://www.walterechohawk.com/>.

On Friday (Sept 29), Nebraska State Poet Twyla M. Hansen, will be reading from her published works and from new compositions in honor of Nebraska's 150th statehood anniversary. You can read more about Hansen through Humanities Nebraska at <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/twyla-m-hansen/>.

Hansen will be followed by Steven Rolfsmeier and Robert Roy Foresman. Rolfsmeier is the director of the Herbarium at Chadron State College. He will discuss "Plants of Nebraska." Foresman is this year's Sandoz Research Award recipient, and he will present "Mother's Joy: Early 20th Century Technological Innovations on the Great Plains."

Afternoon sessions will be dedicated to time capsule events. Shortly before her death in 1966, Mari Sandoz made some astounding predictions of what life would be like in 2017. After celebrating the truths and errors of these prognostications, a panel of dignitaries will be encapsulating their own projections about what the future for Nebraska will be at its bicentennial.



The Bean Broker in downtown Chadron, location of Saturday morning's special conference session (top photo). Mari Sandoz historic site south of Gordon (bottom photo)



Watch for conference details and registration information on our website and in this summer's Story Catcher newsletter!

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center Included in the 2017 Nebraska Passport Program

The Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center is one of the stops on the Nebraska Tourism Commission's summer 2017 Nebraska Passport program. The 2017 Passport will again feature 80 attractions on 10 themed tours with one tour honoring the state's sesquicentennial. Travelers will have from May 1 through September 30 to visit the attractions and get their stamps. The Sandoz Center is one of the Celebrate Nebraska 150 (sesquicentennial) stops. "We're excited to continue this program for an eighth year. The Passport inspires Nebraskans and tourists to travel the state collecting stamps to earn prizes, while also supporting small businesses, attractions and hidden gems," said John Ricks, Nebraska Tourism executive director. "Every year since its inception the program has gained popularity. In 2016, more than 87,000 total stamps were collected and we expect 2017's participation to be even better." "The 2017 Passport program is focused on giving travelers truly memorable experiences," said Passport program coordinator Erin Wirth. "The 80 Passport stops offer a mix of thrilling, relaxing and unique adventures. Passport travelers will create lifelong memories while they have fun exploring Nebraska. From discovering Nebraska's hidden gems to celebrating Nebraska's 150th birthday, the 2017 Passport showcases what makes Nebraska special." Passports will be available at participating stops starting May 1 or can be pre-ordered at <http://nebraskapassport.com/requestyourpassport/>. Participants are also encouraged to download the Nebraska Passport App for their smart phone and get stamped digitally, supplementing the physical Passport booklet for convenience. Please note, the passport app will be updated with the 2017 information on May 1. Those who used the mobile app last year will need to download the update to see the new program information. To download, search 'NE Passport' in the Apple App Store or the Google Play App Store. Prizes for this year's participants will be announced at a later time. In addition to the Sandoz Center, here are the others in the CELEBRATE NEBRASKA 150 category: Legacy of the Plains Museum (Gering), National Willa Cather Center (Red Cloud), NE 150 Mobile Museum (Various Locations), Nebraska History Museum (Lincoln), Nebraska National Forest, Bessey Ranger District(Halsey), Nebraska State Capital (Lincoln) and the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer (Grand Island).



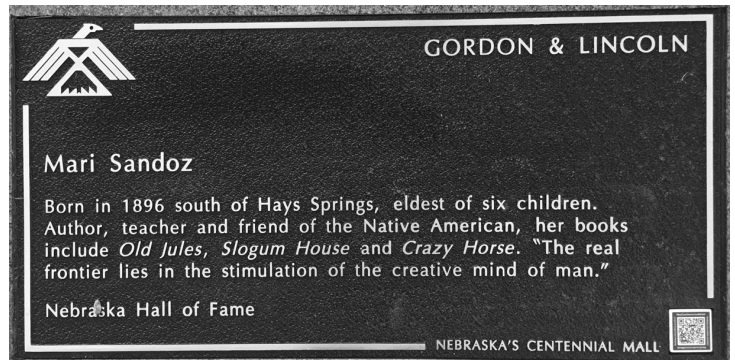
David Sandoz to be Presented With The 2017 In The Spirit of Mari Sandoz Award

David Sandoz of Valentine is being recognized with the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society's 2017 "In the Spirit of Mari Sandoz" award. Award chair Ron Hull made the announcement and said the presentation will be made sooner than normal. The award is normally presented at the Society's Annual Conference in September at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Cultural Center in Charon. But Dave Sandoz has organized a family reunion of Old Jules Country this summer and the award will be presented there, Hull said. Sandoz said he was "touched beyond words for this recognition. On her last trip to her beloved Nebraska, Mari autographed a copy of "Old Jules" for me saying, 'Dave, you are a fine credit to a fine old name.' In my life, I have tried to be worthy of her loving compliment." The award will be presented during the family reunion Grand Farewell Dinner, in Chadron, for all of the Old Jules Country Tour attendees, on Sunday, June 11, 2017. "We have many Sandoz' coming in from around the USA. Cedric Sandoz, President of the Sandoz Meeting in Switzerland, will also be joining us," Sandoz said. Hull said that David Sandoz is the son who has truly been "the keeper of the Mari Sandoz flame." His "enthusiasm for life, compassionate nature and eagerness to share the life and legacy of his auspicious relative is an important factor in keeping Mari Sandoz in high profile in America." He said the award will be recognized again during the Sandoz Conference in Chadron Sept. 29 during the noon luncheon. It will be another chance to thank Sandoz and to acknowledge his accomplishments.

Custer's Last Stand Diorama Wins History Day Award

Samantha Johns' exhibit portraying Custer's Last Stand was the outstanding winner of the History of the Great Plains award at the District History Day at Chadron State College on March 6. Miss Johns' exhibit of Custer's Last Stand was very arresting with a diorama of the rolling hills, monument and headstones fronting the exhibit. Judge Diana Hoffman said she has to the monument and thought it was a good visual depiction. In addition, a copy of the Bismarck Tribune article of that time described the battle and listed the military dead. The list took up two columns. Her primary source list was very impressive and gave proof that she had effectively explored the primary sources available. Her list of secondary sources included The Battle of the Little Bighorn by Mari Sandoz. Hoffman said Samantha provided considerable visual impact and that she had done an admirable job of fulfilling the criteria and theme of a History Day entry.

If you would like to get involved with History Day in your area, please visit <http://nhd.org/affiliates/>. If you would like to support the Great Plains Award given by the Sandoz Society, please contact Diana Hoffmann at 308-282-1648.



Mari Sandoz is recognized with a plaque on the newly renovated mall connecting the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus with the State Capitol. She joins a host of other famous Nebraskans on the recently re-designed mall. Photo courtesy Jamison Wyatt

Mari Sandoz Listed in the 150 Top Nebraskans

Using the words “notable” and “significant” as their guide, the Lincoln Journal Star newspaper assembled a panel of five people to select 150 notable Nebraskans to honor for the state’s 150th birthday, or sesquicentennial. Mari Sandoz was number 35 on that list. The inspiration for this list was a 2012 book, “Nationally Distinguished Nebraskans,” written by E.A. Kral. In 1999, the newspaper had picked 100 “influential” Nebraskans as a way to usher in the new millennium. That’s how the newspaper explained the project in a March 26, 2017 special section on the 150th event. Some on the list were born in Nebraska and achieved fame elsewhere. Others were born elsewhere but moved to Nebraska where they made significant contributions.

Sandoz Board Meeting

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degree. Following his advice, Mari never declared a major and never graduated. Seeking neither degree nor husband, Mari used higher education entirely for her own peculiar purpose—to improve as a writer,” Bristow wrote.

“She did not lead a normal life, no getting around that. Though friendly and fun-loving, fond of going dancing at the ballrooms in town, Mari nevertheless let nothing—not friendship, not love—interfere with her writing. She was difficult to get close to, never spoke of her family or of her failed marriage, and seemed unable to tolerate conflict or intense emotion. She often spent hours at a time in a dank basement of the State Historical Society, reading old newspapers—by flashlight if necessary—as research for her future writing,” according to Bristow’s article.

Call For Proposals

Mari Sandoz Research Award

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society encourages college students to conduct research on Mari Sandoz and her work at the undergraduate and graduate level by offering an annual research award of \$1,000 for proposals that emphasize new insights on Sandoz or new approaches to her life and work. Topics to consider include: feminism; American Indian topics; environmental issues; activism. The award recipient will present the research at the Mari Sandoz Conference at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska, held during the fall of 2018. One award of \$1,000 will be disbursed in two payments: An initial payment of \$500 will be presented with award notification to the recipient and an announcement to attendees of the fall 2017 conference. The balance of \$500 will be paid the following year when the research is completed and presented at the 2018 conference.

Requirements:

- Undergraduate or graduate student at any college or University
- Call for application proposals: March 10, 2017
- Deadline for application proposal: July 31, 2017
- Notification of Award: September 15, 2017
- Announcement of Award: Mari Sandoz Conference, September 29, 2017
- Research Timeline: 1 year
- Research Presentation: Mari Sandoz Conference, 2018

The online application can be found here: http://www.marisandoz.org/events_activities/mari-sandoz-research-award/mari-sandoz-research-award-application.html

Application Evaluation:

- The articulation of the research question
- The context of the broader theoretical/historiographical issues significant to the topic
- The significance of the overall project to the field of Sandoz research
- The decision of the Sandoz Research Award committee is final. Applicants will receive email notification of their proposal status following final review of the proposals.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE VOORHEES ENDOWMENT

The Voorhees Endowment at Chadron State College provides stipends in the form of Voorhees Grants for researchers using the archival resources of the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center. Applicants are required to define their proposed project(s) and describe how endowment funds will be used. Funding may be used for travel to the Center; lodging during research trip(s) to the Center and preparation of research project findings into various media formats. Priority will be given to individual researchers or research teams from schools in the Chadron State College service area, including reservation schools. Mari Sandoz Research Award Applicants are encouraged to apply for these funds. Please use the online endowment application form found here: <http://www.marisandoz.org/funding-endowments/endowment-request-form.html>

Mari Sandoz
HERITAGE SOCIETY

Mari Sandoz Research Award Committee
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Questions? echase@windstream.net

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