

2017

## Cedar Falls Authors Festival: An Introduction by Cherie Dargan & Rosemary Beach, PowerPoint Presentation

Cedar Falls Authors Festival.

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# THE CEDAR FALLS AUTHORS FESTIVAL:

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## **An Introduction**

by Cherie Dargan &  
Rosemary Beach

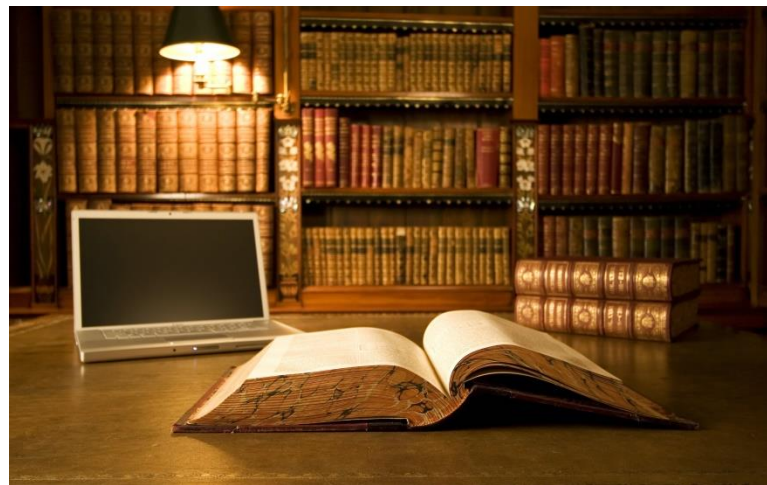


# Overview

- Explain Our Purpose
- Introduce our Five Authors & highlight their Cedar Falls Connections & Work
- Introduce our Umbrella Group and mention our sponsoring organizations
- Show you our website where you can find more information
- Mention a few of the upcoming events

# Our Purpose

- To celebrate the literary legacy of our five best selling, nationally known authors
- To discover other local authors and compile a directory
- To provide materials about the five authors and support programs being offered throughout the community from May 2017 through May 2018



# Our Origins

- The Authors Festival is the result of a conversation and a vision!
- Rosemary Beach and Barbara Lounsberry are at the heart of our project
- Project has created opportunities for collaboration in our community



# Our Funding Sources

- We applied for, and received, a grant from the “Cedar Falls Community Foundation Saul and Joan Diamond Community Enhancement Fund”.
- This helps pay for expenses (for example, printing posters, commissioning artwork, and other costs of marketing events).
- Sales of Posters will also help defray costs.

# Our Funding Sources, cont.

- Additional support is being provided by several of our partners, including:
- The Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitors Bureau
- Western Home Communities

# Our Website

- <http://www.cfauthorsfestival.org/>
- Information about the festival
- Highlights on each author, with downloadable materials to read and discuss in book clubs and classrooms
- Embedded, color coded calendar of events



# The “Umbrella Group”

## (Our Core Group of Organizers)

- Rosemary Beach, Chair (Retired Executive Director of the Cedar Falls Historical Society)
- Jan Andersen (Retired Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitors Bureau)
- Mary Brammer (Cedar Falls Public Art Committee member)
- Scott Cawelti (Retired UNI Professor and Cedar Falls author)
- Cherie Dargan (Retired Professor, Hawkeye Community College and Cedar Falls author)
- Barbara Lounsberry (Retired UNI Professor and Cedar Falls author)
- Kim Manning (Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitors Bureau)
- Mary Taylor (Director of Development, Western Home Community)

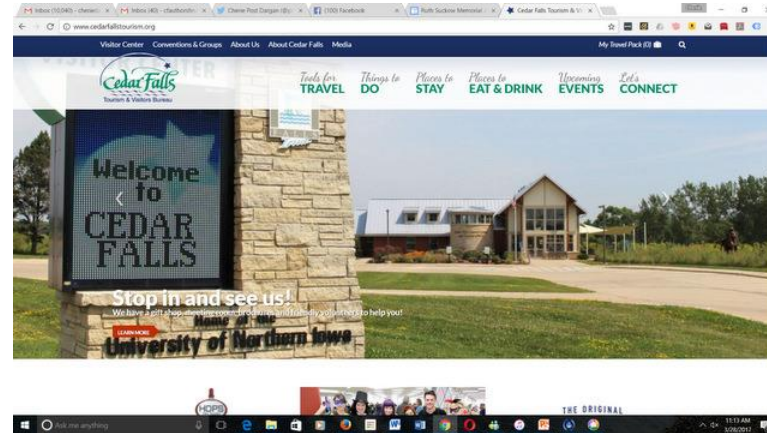
# Some of our Partners: the CF Library and Hearst Center



# Sponsoring Organizations

- Cedar Falls Arts & Culture Board-- James Kerns, President
- Cedar Falls Arts & Culture Board-- Kate Brennan Hall, Vice President
- Cedar Falls Cable Channel 15--Denny Bowman
- Cedar Falls Community Schools--Andy Patee, Superintendent
- Cedar Falls Community Schools Curriculum--Christine Mangrick
- Cedar Falls Community Schools Curriculum--Megann Tresemer
- Cedar Falls Community Main Street--Carol Lilly
- Cedar Falls Community Theatre-- John Luzaich
- Cedar Falls Historic Preservation Commission, UNI history professor-- Tom Connors
- Cedar Falls Historic Preservation Commission-- Iris Lehmann
- Cedar Falls Historical Society-- Karen Smith

# More Partners

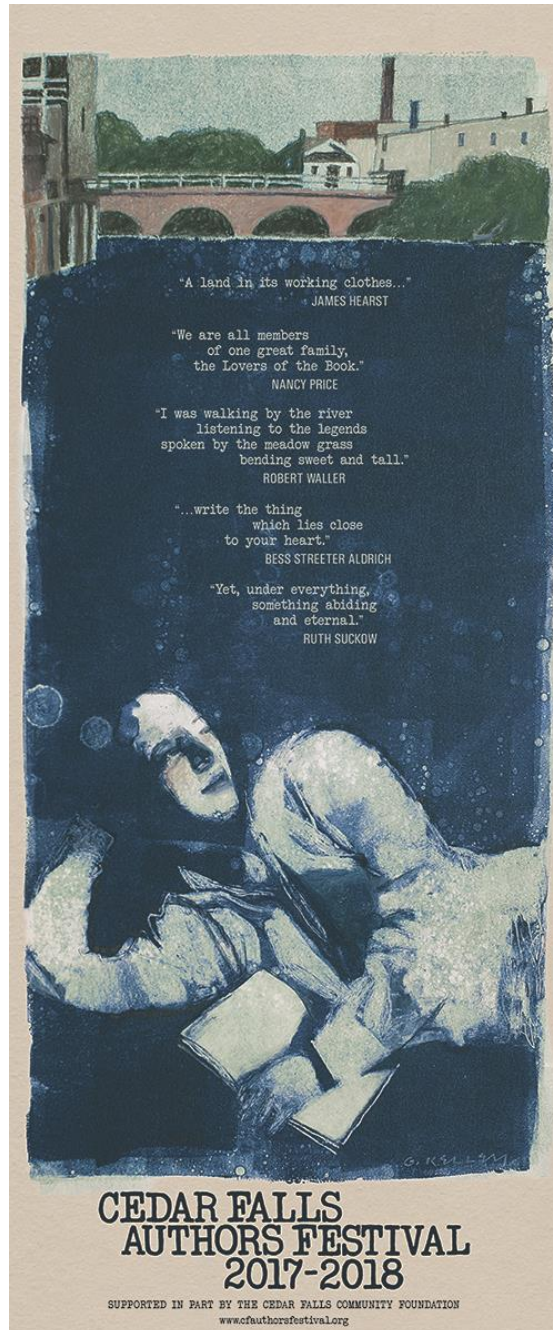


# Sponsoring Organizations, cont.

- Cedar Falls Municipal Band--Dennis Downs
- Cedar Falls Public Library--Sheryl McGovern,
- Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, UNI-- Steve Carignan
- Hartman Reserve Nature Center--Ed Gruenwald,
- Hearst Center for the Arts--Martin Arthur
- Hearst Center's "Final Thursday Reading Series"--James O'Loughlin, UNI English professor (and Cedar Falls author)
- New Aldaya--Millisa Tierney, Director

# Sponsoring Organizations, cont.

- *North American Review*, Jeremy Schraffenberger, co-editor UNI English professor (and Cedar Falls author)
- The Ruth Suckow Memorial Association (RSMA)—Barbara Lounsberry and Cherie Dargan
- Sturgis Youth Theatre, UNI-Theater--Gretta Berghammer, professor
- UNI English Department (and Cedar Falls author)--Julie Husband, Head
- UNI Theatre Department-- Eric Lange, Head,
- UNI education professor, Kathy Oakland, programs at New Aldaya & the Western Home Communities
- UNI Rod Library -- Christopher Cox, Dean and Director



- Original Artwork done by local artist Gary Kelley features a quote from each author.
- Signed copies will be available for sale for \$25.00 at events.

# Our Five Authors

- **Bess Streeter Aldrich**
- **Ruth Suckow**
- **James Hearst**
- **Nancy Price**
- **Robert James Waller**
- **All best-selling authors, nationally known with Cedar Falls Connections!**





**Bess Streeter Aldrich**

February 17, 1881 -- August 3, 1954

See Events for October to celebrate Bess Streeter Aldrich



**Ruth Suckow**

August 6, 1892 -- January 23, 1960

See Events for June to celebrate Ruth Suckow as well as a Program in September



**James Hearst**

August 8, 1900 -- July 27, 1983

See Events in September to celebrate James Hearst



**Nancy Price**

March 16, 1925

See Events in July to celebrate Nancy Price

**CELEBRATING  
CEDAR FALLS'  
LITERARY LEGACY  
FROM PIONEER DAYS  
TO TODAY**



**Robert James Waller**

August 1, 1939 -- March 10, 2017

See Events in May to celebrate Robert James Waller

# Their Cedar Falls Connection

- <https://sites.google.com/site/historicalcedarfalls/home/categories/literature>
- 2012 Project done by a UNI class
- “The city of Cedar Falls makes for an idyllic setting. **Writers Bess Streeter Aldrich, Ruth Suckow, James Hearst, and Nancy Price have used Cedar Falls as the setting for their works.**” “Robert Waller set **Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend (1993)** in the town, as well.”

# What do they have in common?

- James Hearst and Bess Streeter Aldrich were born in Cedar Falls; Ruth Suckow and James Robert Waller were born elsewhere in Iowa. Nancy Price was born in South Dakota.
- Three have birthdays in August.
- Four taught at the University of Northern Iowa (all but Aldrich) and three were students there (Aldrich, Hearst & Waller).

## What do they have in common, cont.

- Hearst knew Suckow and her husband; they corresponded.
- Both men were Founders of the CF Supper Club.
- Suckow commented on one of his poems & sent written “corrections” on it.
- Suckow wrote a Foreword for his book *Country Men*
- Aldrich corresponded with Hearst.
- Price wrote a Foreword for a book of Hearst’s poetry published posthumously, edited by Scott Cawelti.
- Waller wrote a review of the 2001 edition of the Complete Poems of Hearst, edited by Scott Cawelti.

# How to learn about Events

- The Festival website includes an embedded Google Calendar on the EVENTS page
- Currents magazine from our Tourism office
- The Tourism Website
- Facebook page for the Cedar Falls Tourism office
- Press releases in the *Waterloo Courier*
- Brochure published by the Tourism office

# May, 2017 – Robert J Waller

- Thursday, May 4 -- "Eight Songs by Robert Waller: An Appreciation of his Music and Poetry," presented by Scott Cawelti. Hearst Center for the Arts 7 p.m. Reception to follow. Featured will be songs recorded in 1984 by Winter Ridge Handy.
- Friday, May 5 -- Screening of *Bridges of Madison County*. Hearst Center for the Arts 7 p.m. followed by a 9:30 Panel Discussion "*Bridges and Bridges: Two Takes on the Same Story*," Scott Cawelti, Grant Tracey, Barbara Lounsberry
- Marjorie Nuhn Exhibit at the Hearst. She is Ferner Nuhn's sister, & sister-in-law to Ruth Suckow Nuhn. Marjorie's paintings will be on display from May 18 to June 17
- Gary Kelley's Signed Posters also available for sale for \$25.00

# Waller with Cedar Falls Folks!



# Wonderful article with 5 videos

- <https://tinyurl.com/lxx6l2t>
- **Five Fast Facts from Heavy.com**
- After his death in March, many articles praised his writing.
- Embeds 5 Videos, including several interviews, and making of the album following up to the movie.
- Also includes quotes from our own Rosemary Beach & Scott Cawelti.

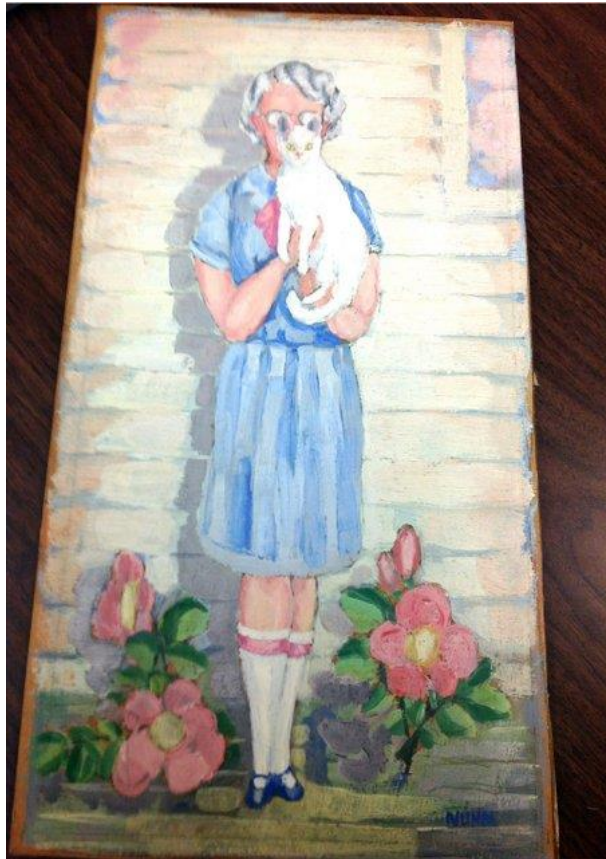




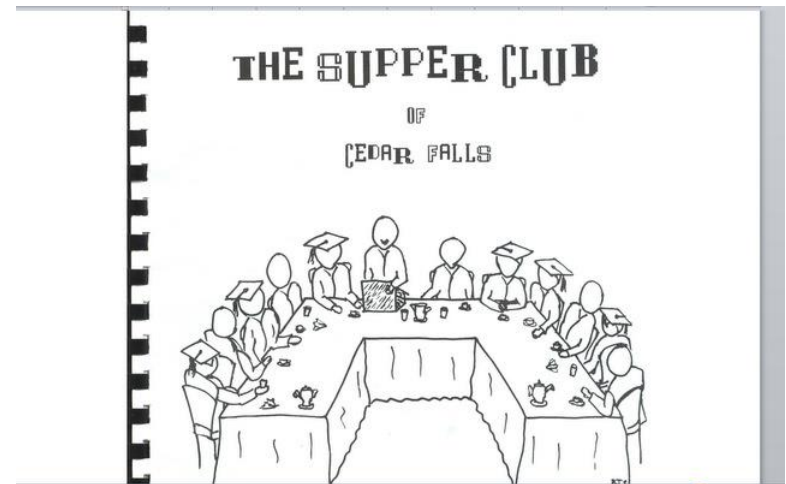
# June—Ruth Suckow

- Saturday, June 10—the Annual meeting of the Ruth Suckow Memorial Association at the CF Public Library, morning. Members come from all over the Midwest.
- 1:00, CFL, Public discussion of Suckow's novella, *A Part of the Institution*.
- Novella posted on [www.ruthsuckow.org](http://www.ruthsuckow.org)

# Ruth with a white cat: Ferner's portrait & photo



# Ferner's legacy: Supper Club & Art Center that later became the Hearst



# June events for Ruth Suckow, cont.

- *Installation of Sculpture honoring Ruth Suckow & Ferner Nuhn, Hearst Garden*
- Reception following—Time TBA
- 7:00 pm – Program, “Writing & Touring *Just Suppose: The Life of Iowa Novelist Ruth Suckow*,” playwright Rebecca Christian,” Hearst Center. Lenore Howard will join her: she portrayed Suckow in the play!
- Gary Kelley’s Signed Posters also available for sale for \$25.00

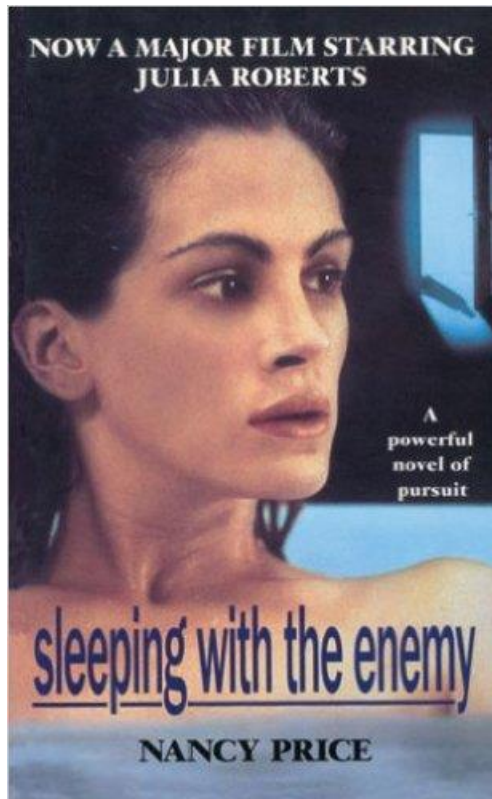
# July – Nancy Price

- **Friday, July 14:** Seerley Park *Sleeping with the Enemy* Weekend Festival
- 7 p.m.: Beer garden and music, sponsored by the College Hill Partnership. Price's autographed books available in the Park.
- 9 p.m.: Outdoor screening of *Sleeping with the Enemy* in Seerley Park, sponsored by the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center

# Nancy the Illustrator & Author



# *Sleeping with the Enemy*



- *Sleeping With the Enemy* brought her fame, and was made into a movie starring Julia Roberts
- Book translated into 18 languages
- Focus on spousal abuse: "I can't live without you. And I won't let you live without me." - Patrick Bergin as Martin Burney to wife Laura

# July – Nancy Price, cont.

- **Saturday, July 15** – CF Tour of Homes tours of the four homes surrounding Seerley Park connected to *Sleeping with the Enemy*
- (Price's home on Iowa Street; 3 homes across the Park on Tremont St. that appear in the novel and also the UNI President's home, where Nancy lived as a teenager) 1 p.m.
- **Sunday, July 16** – Public Panel Discussion: “*Sleeping with the Enemy: Novel vs. Film*,” 2 p.m., Hearst Center, Grant Tracey, Greg Holt, UNI student, Barbara Lounsberry (moderator); Nancy Price will be present to answer questions and sign books.
- Gary Kelley's Signed Posters also available for sale for \$25.00



# August – birthday party & more

- All month: “Nancy Price: Original Book Illustrations,” Hearst Center exhibition
- Cedar Falls Public Library Birthday Celebration: Cake and drink will be served in the upstairs meeting room all day on **Saturday, August 5.**
- Ruth Suckow -- (August 6, 1892 – January 23, 1960)
- James Hearst -- (August 8, 1900 - July 27, 1983)
- Robert James Waller -- August 1, 1939—March 10, 2017
- We will also recognize local authors with August Birthdays and schedule a slot for them to share some of their work.

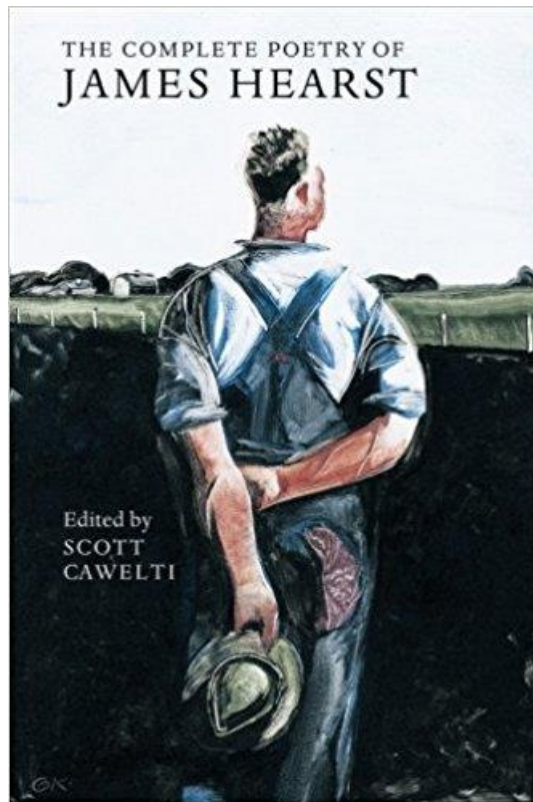
# September—James Hearst

- All the programs will begin at 7:00 at the Hearst Center.
- Thursday, Sept. 7: Jeremy Schraffenberger: "James Hearst and the North American Review."
- Thursday Sept 14: Scott Cawelti: "James Hearst's poems as Songs: Reprise and Update"
- Thursday Sept 21: Jim O'Loughlin: Title TBD, but tentatively "Planting Red Geraniums: Discovered Poems of James Hearst."
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# Hearst & UNI



# His poetry



- “Part of the regionalist movement ... James Hearst helped create what Iowa novelist Ruth Suckow called “a poetry of place.”
- Hearst wrote with a distinct voice of rural life and its joys and conflicts....” (Scott Cawelti)

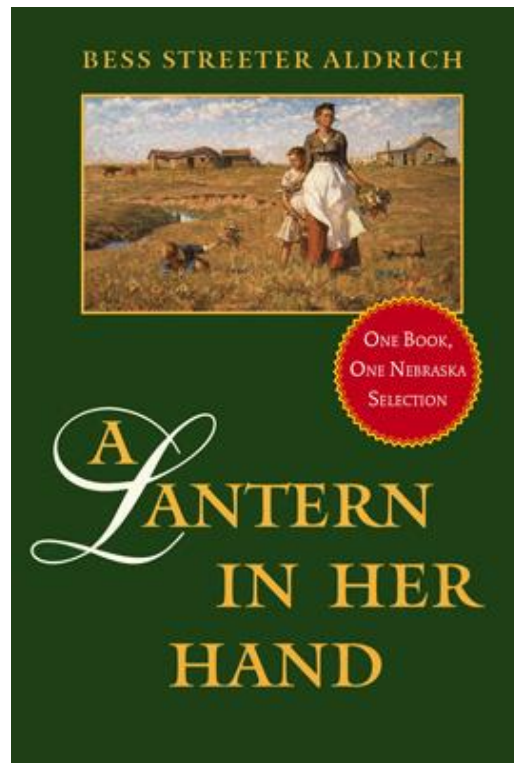
# Intersections!

- Scott Cawelti took on the task of gathering the complete work of Hearst on the request of Professor Robert Ward, his teacher, colleague & friend.
- Nancy Price wrote an Introduction to the volume, writing movingly of his life & work. She met him when she was 15 & he was 40.
- Robert James Waller reviewed it (“James Hearst wrote eloquently of the land, its pleasures and sorrows, carefully turning the language as one of his farmer heroes turns the soil...”)
- Ruth Suckow wrote a Foreword for one of his books of poetry (*Country Men*).

# October--Bess Streeter Aldrich

- Sunday, October 15: Cedar Falls Historical Society *Song of Years* Cemetery Walk, 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday, October 22: Screening of film *Cheers for Miss Bishop*, Oster Regent Theatre, 4:30 p.m.
- Please watch the EVENTS page for more details and more events, which go until May 2018.

# Aldrich & UNI



# Aldrich: book to movie, Miss Bishop

- She is known as a prolific author of 200 short stories and 13 novels.
- Her book *Miss Bishop* was made into a movie, *Cheers for Miss Bishop* (1941).





# Sources

- The Cedar Falls Authors Festival website,  
[www.cfauthorsfestival.org](http://www.cfauthorsfestival.org)
- Historical Cedar Falls  
<https://sites.google.com/site/historicalcedarfalls/home/categories/literature>
- Page developed by Maggie Moss, 2012 as part of a class taught by Dr. Thomas Connor, Dept. of History, UNI

# Sources, cont.

- <https://screenwritingfromiowa.wordpress.com/> Review of Nancy Price's *Sleeping with the Enemy*
- <http://heavy.com/entertainment/2017/03/james-robert-waller-dead-bridges-of-madison-county-author-cause-age-biography-wife-family/>
- **Robert James Waller Dead: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know**
- <http://www.newsday.com/entertainment/books/robert-james-waller-author-of-the-bridges-of-madison-county-has-died-at-77-1.13243062>
- **Robert James Waller, author of 'The Bridges of Madison County,' has died at 77**
- By Mark Kennedy The Associated Press