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:

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

• 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!
CELEBRATING
CEDAR FALLS’
LITERARY LEGACY
FROM PIONEER DAYS
TO TODAY

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

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](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.
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](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."
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
• 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/](https://screenwritingfromiowa.wordpress.com/) Review of Nancy Price’s Sleeping with the Enemy
- **Robert James Waller Dead: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know**
- **Robert James Waller, author of ‘The Bridges of Madison County,’ has died at 77**
- By Mark Kennedy The Associated Press