Kauffman Museum Bus Tours *Cranes & Cather* Monday & Tuesday, April 1 & 2, 2019

Pre-tour program and "homework": Prior to the tour, there will be an optional evening program about Sandhill Cranes and author Willa Cather. We encourage participants to read the Willa Cather novel *My Antonia* prior to the trip. Although not mandatory, it will inform your visit to Red Cloud.

Tour overview:

Pawnee Indian Village Museum State Historic Site, Republic, KS. We'll view the floor of a large Pawnee earth lodge left intact after an archeological dig and protected by the interpretation building where we'll learn about the people of the Pawnee Nation who lived here in the 1700s.

Crane Meadows Nature Center, Grand Island, NE. Newly remodeled 12,000 square foot interpretive center with indoor exhibits about the annual migration of thousands of Sandhill Cranes.

Crane viewing, Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, Gibbon, NE. We'll walk ¼ mile to viewing blinds strategically placed along the Platte River, providing excellent views of Sandhill Cranes while they fly in to roost for the night. A trained naturalist will staff each blind. Bring your hat, gloves, long johns and your camera for this 2-3 hour experience! We have a few spots reserved for indoor viewing which is also 2-3 hours but further from the river in the visitors center. Although the crane migration happens every year, this is a once in a lifetime experience!

Willa Cather Foundation Visitor Center, Red Cloud, NE. Willa Cather penned some of the most iconic literature of the prairie, relating her view of the world from the countryside around this small town. Cather scholars come to study. Visitors come to walk the streets of her characters. On our way from Grand Island, we'll stop at a farmstead featured in her novel *My Antonia*. In Red Cloud we'll visit the new exhibit, *American Bittersweet* created by Flint Hills Design of North Newton, at the Willa Cather Foundation. Before lunch, we'll have a guided tour of three prominent Cather buildings in town, including her childhood home.

Quirky Kansas sites on the way home:

Home on the Range Cabin, Athol, KS. Dr. Brewster Higley wrote our state song here. Geographic Center of the Contiguous United States, Lebanon, KS. It's the middle of the lower 48 in the middle of nowhere! We'll stop for a photo op.

The World's Largest Ball of Twine, Cawker City, KS. It's true. It does exist. We'll see it.

Supper, Martinelli's, Salina. KS. We'll send you home with your tummy full of good Italian food.

Cost includes six meals, lodging at Quality Inn Grand Island, all admission fees, travel by motor coach with a restroom, and gratuities. Fee is refundable (minus \$25 processing fee per person) prior to March 15. After March 15, refunds depend on site policies and waiting lists. No refunds 48 hours or less prior to departure.

\$ 315 per museum member

\$ 330 per non-member (yearly museum membership <u>not</u> included in this price)

To reserve your seat, return this form with payment to **Kauffman Museum**, **Bethel College**, **300 E 27**th **St.**, **North Newton**, **Kansas 67117**. Phone reservations will only be accepted with credit card payment.

Expiration date _____ 3-digit code from the back of the card ___