



News Release
For Immediate Release
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Contact: Belleville Public Library, 785/527-5305

Book and Film Discussion Series Explores the 1930s

Belleville – The Belleville Public Library will offer the first in a four-part book and film discussion series about the 1930s entitled *Bright Dreams, Hard Times*. A book discussion of *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren will take place at 1:30 PM on Sunday, February 7, at the library, 1327 19th St. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. For more information about the series, contact the library at 527-5305.

The series is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization, in conjunction with the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua coming to Belleville June 9-13. The Chautauqua will feature tent programs by scholars portraying famous historical figures from the 1930s: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Louisiana Senator Huey Long, Pentecostal leader Aimee Semple McPherson, writer Zora Neale Hurston, and humorist Will Rogers. The Council's Resource Center is furnishing the books, films, and discussion leaders for the Belleville series.

All the King's Men tells the story of Louisiana politician Willie Stark, a character loosely based on Huey Long, the state's legendary governor from 1928-1932 and senator from 1932-1935. Frederick A. Krebs, professor of Social Sciences and Humanities at Johnson County Community College, will lead the discussion. Krebs will portray Huey Long in the upcoming Chautauqua.

The books and films in the series reflect the themes of the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua. The Chautauqua explores 1930s themes that are familiar today: environmental devastation, economic concerns, the relationship between Americans and their government, the flowering of intellectual and artistic activity, and the role of new media in American lives.

Upcoming *Bright Dreams, Hard Times* events include a discussion of Zora Neale Hurston's book *Mules and Men* and screenings of the documentary *Stories from the Dust Bowl* and 1940 film *The Grapes of Wrath*. To check out books or for more information about the series, contact the Belleville Public Library at 527-5305. For more information about the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua, visit www.kansashumanities.org.

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