



**News Release  
For Immediate Release**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:** Belleville Public Library, 785/527-5305

**Book and Film Series Continues with *Mules and Men***

**Belleville** – The Belleville Public Library will offer the third in a four-part book and film discussion series about the 1930s entitled *Bright Dreams, Hard Times*. A book discussion of *Mules and Men* will take place on Sunday, April 18, at 1:30 PM 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.

*Mules and Men* is a treasury of African American folklore, compiled by folklorist and author Zora Neale Hurston. Carmaletta M. Williams, executive director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Johnson County Community College, will lead the book discussion.

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.

The *Bright Dreams, Hard Times* series will conclude with a screening of the documentary *Stories from the Dust Bowl*. 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](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

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