



News Release
For Immediate Release
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Contact: Pioneer Memorial Library, 785/460-4470

Book and Film Discussion Series Explores the 1930s

Colby – Pioneer Memorial Library will offer the first in a four-part book and film discussion series about the 1930s entitled *Bright Dreams, Hard Times*. A screening and discussion of *The Grapes of Wrath* will be shown on Sunday, February 21, at 3 PM at the library, 375 W. 4th St. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. For more information about the series, contact the library at 460-4470.

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 Colby June 2-6. 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 Colby series.

The Grapes of Wrath, starring Henry Fonda, is based on John Steinbeck's 1939 novel about the Joad family's trek from dustbowl-ravaged Oklahoma to California. Jane M. Holwerda, professor of English at Dodge City Community College, will lead a discussion following the film screening.

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 book discussions of *Mules and Men* by Zora Neale Hurston and *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren and a screening of the documentary *Stories from the Dust Bowl*. To check out books or for more information about the series, contact the Pioneer Memorial Library at 460-4470. For more information about the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua, visit www.kansashumanities.org.

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