

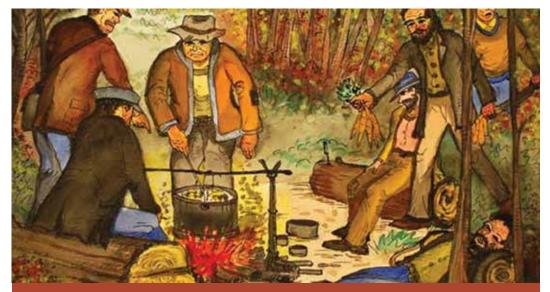
# **HOPE IN HARD TIMES:**

Washington During the Great Depression
TRAVELING EXHIBIT & PROGRAM GUIDE

PRESENTED BY: Spokane County Library District Humanities Washington

CURATED BY: Washington State Historical Society

# EXTIBIL EXTIBIL TRAVELING



# **HOPE IN HARD TIMES:**

**Washington During the Great Depression** 

# April 12-June 30, 2014 North Spokane Library

The Great Depression profoundly affected Washingtonians. Many citizens took to the streets in protest, joining with fellow activists and grassroots political movements to rally for solutions to economic crisis. Others survived by forming small communities called "Hoovervilles," in which homeless men lived while hunting for work. Throughout the state, other Washingtonians made it through tough times by making the best of what they had, recycling and reusing everyday items while looking ahead to the promise of better days.

The Humanities Washington's traveling exhibit, Hope in Hard Times: Washington During the Great Depression, curated by the Washington State Historical Society, explores the adversity and triumph of everyday Americans during the 1930s, comparing the struggles of the decade with those faced today. Personal experiences illuminate the broader themes of the exhibition, enlightening audiences about how people lived during these difficult times.

This special exhibition invites visitors to use the stories they see within the exhibit to start conversations of their own about family histories and the impact that this historical event had on their own lives or those of others. The theme of hope woven throughout the narrative reminds viewers that they, too, can find their own opportunities for creating change and learn from the past to impact their present.

Community members who generously loaned antiques for the North Spokane Library exhibit on life during the Depression. The Spokane Valley Heritage Museum for the lobby displays our libraries. Special thanks to:

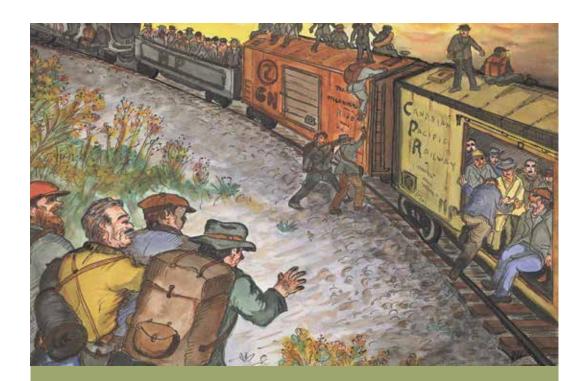






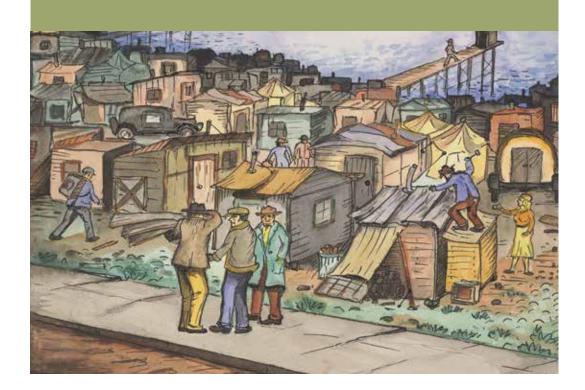


Presented by:



Washington State has seen its share of hard times, from the Great Depression, to the challenges of today. Economic hard times have always forced people to get creative, finding ways to maintain quality of life in the midst of difficulty.

To celebrate the grit and ingenuity of the people of the Great Depression, the Spokane County Library District presents a selection of programs: from hands-on ideas for making the most of your resources, and turning flea market into fabulous, to the history of distilling, to stories about the people and hardship during the Great Depression. Whatever your interest, we think you'll find a little hope with your name on it.



## **ENGAGING AN ERA**

### Author Timothy Egan: Voices of the Dust Bowl

Timothy Egan, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, shares Dust Bowl survivors' stories based on research, writings, and first-hand interviews collected for his National Book Award winner *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl.* Spokane County Library District partners with Whitworth University to present an exciting opportunity to interact with this highly acclaimed author.

Sponsored by the North Spokane Friends of the Library, Whitworth University, and Humanities Washington.

WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY

Weyerhaeuser Hall: The Robinson Teaching Theatre
Sunday, Apr 13 2–3:15pm

## The Dust Bowl: A Documentary

Narrated by Timothy Egan, Ken Burns' documentary uses vivid interviews with twenty-six survivors of the Dust Bowl, to tell the story of a devastating decade of dust storms. The film brings to life stories of incredible human suffering and equally incredible human perseverance.

#### PART ONE

NORTH SPOKANE	Wednesday, Apr 16	6:30–9pm
SPOKANE VALLEY	Wednesday, Apr 16	6:30-9pm
PART TWO		
NORTH SPOKANE	Thursday, Apr 17	6:30-9pm
SPOKANE VALLEY	Thursday, Apr 17	6:30-9pm

# Folk, Jazz, and Blues: Songs that Helped Americans through the Hard Times

Music can lift your spirits, or be a faithful friend, in the midst of dark days. The men and women experiencing the Great Depression were no exception. Brad Keeler and Linda Parman will take you on a musical journey, introducing you to the music of Dust Bowl wanderers like Woody Guthrie, the urbane arrangements and witty lyrics of big city jazz and swing, and the comforting soul of the country blues.

FAIRFIELD	Saturday, Apr 19	3pm
NORTH SPOKANE	Saturday, Apr 26	3pm
OTIS ORCHARDS	Saturday, May 3	3pm
CHENEY	Saturday, May 10	3pm
SPOKANE VALLEY	Saturday, May 17	3pm
AIRWAY HEIGHTS	Saturday, May 24	3pm
ARGONNE	Saturday, May 31	3pm
DEER PARK	Saturday, Jun 7	3pm
MORAN PRAIRIE	Saturday, Jun 14	3pm
MEDICAL LAKE	Saturday, Jun 21	3pm

### Tell Me a Story

Let the Spokane Storytelling League open a window into daily life in the Great Depression, as they share stories, both true and fictional, about people facing unusual and challenging circumstances which tested their perseverance, resilience, and ingenuity.

NORTH SPOKANE	Thursday, Apr 24	6:30-7:30pm
MEDICAL LAKE	Wednesday, Apr 30	6:30-7:30pm
AIRWAY HEIGHTS	Tuesday, May 6	6:30-7:30pm
CHENEY	Wednesday, May 14	6:30-7:30pm
ARGONNE	Tuesday, May 20	6:30-7:30pm
SPOKANE VALLEY	Thursday, May 29	6:30-7:30pm
DEER PARK	Tuesday, Jun 3	6:30-7:30pm
Moran Prairie	Wednesday, Jun 11	6:30-7:30pm
OTIS ORCHARDS	Wednesday, Jun 18	6:30-7:30pm
FAIRFIELD	Tuesday, Jun 24	4–5pm

## **Spokane in the Great Depression**

You know that the Great Depression hit the country hard, but what about Spokane? Jim Kershner, of the The Spokesman-Review, offers some insight into our Lilac City during the 1930s, painting a picture of bank failures, local WPA and CCC projects, as well as the Grand Coulee Dam project, unemployed workers, transients forced to wander in the area's rail yards, and the Spokane Art Center, a bright spot in a dark time, that provided work for artists and art lessons for thousands.

ARGONNE	Tuesday, May 13	6:30-7:30pm
NORTH SPOKANE	Thursday, May 15	6:30-7:30pm

## **Everyday Escapes: Films of the Depression**

Come to the movies with Dale Soden, Professor of History at Whitworth University, as he explores some of the most popular films of the Great Depression. From Gone With the Wind to the horrors of Frankenstein, you'll get a look at the place Americans went, and continue to go, to forget their troubles for a little while. You might just discover a new vintage favorite.

NORTH SPOKANE	Thursday, Jun 5	6:30-7:30pm
SPOKANE VALLEY	Wednesday, Jun 11	6:30-7:30pm

## Author Michael Hiltzik: Solutions for Hard Times

Join L.A. Times Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and author of *Colossus: Hoover Dam and the Making of the American Century* and *The New Deal: A Modern History* for a conversation about the Great Depression themes in his books and his thoughts on some solutions born out of the necessities of the 1930s.

SPOKANE VALLEY	Saturday, Jun 28	2–3pm
NORTH SPOKANE	Sunday, Jun 29	2–3pm

## **APPLE ANNIES**

#### **Preserve Your Produce**

Whether you're into growing your own food, eating local, or storing up a little taste of summer, you won't want to miss this conversation with Anna Kestell, a local Food Safety and Preservation Information Specialist. She'll walk you through the basics of canning, freezing and drying your bounty, and help you determine which method is the best fit for you.

AIRWAY HEIGHTS	Tuesday, Apr 15	6:30pm
ARGONNE	Monday, Apr 21	6:30pm
MORAN PRAIRIE	Monday, Apr 28	6:30pm
SPOKANE VALLEY	Monday, May 5	6:30pm
DEER PARK	Monday, May 12	6:30pm
FAIRFIELD	Tuesday, May 20	6:30pm
OTIS ORCHARDS	Tuesday, May 27	6:30pm
CHENEY	Monday, Jun 2	6:30pm

#### **Spread the Love: Toast Toppers**

If you fancy a layer of something sweet on your morning toast, you'll want to take notes as Anna Kestell, Food Safety and Preservation Information Specialist, gives the run down on basic jams and jellies (and the difference between them) so that you can make your own.

SPOKANE VALLEY	Monday, Jun 9	6:30pm
NORTH SPOKANE	Monday, Jun 16	6:30pm
MEDICAL LAKE	Monday, Jun 23	6:30pm

## Getting to the Good Stuff: The History of Distilling

Wander down a back alley, whisper the password at the door, and you just might find yourself in a speakeasy, sipping a glass of bathtub gin. Don Poffenroth of Dry Fly Distilling will take you through the fascinating and scandalous history of strong drink in America, from the founding fathers through Prohibition and the Great Depression, to today.

NORTH SPOKANE Thursday, May 8 7–8pm

## **MAKE IT DO**

# Treasure Hunting 101: Find Good Stuff Cheap

Shopping at a thrift store can be like going on a treasure hunt. You never know what vintage wonders await. Linda Elston, treasure hunter extraordinaire, is here to help you create your treasure map, with guidance on where to go, what to be on the lookout for, how to find discount incentives, and share some of her own treasures.

SPOKANE VALLEY	Wednesday, Apr 23	7–8pm
NORTH SPOKANE	Thursday, May 1	7–8pm

# Is That New? Make Cheap Stuff Good

Looking to spice up your décor or wardrobe? Kelly Lynch, the Retro Vixen, will share some of her secrets for repurposing old-fashioned to fabulous, using items you already have, or can easily find for a song, secondhand.

SPOKANE VALLEY Wednesday, May 7 6:30–7:30pm NORTH SPOKANE Saturday, May 17 2–3pm

## Van Gogh in the Garage?

If you're wondering if that masterpiece might be a Monet, you'll want to bring it in to Carol Worthington, of Worthington Estate Sales. Carol is a Senior Appraiser for the American Society of Appraisers and is ready to give you the scoop on your art, china, and household objects. Register now to secure your spot!

No weapons, musical instruments, or oriental items. Limit: one item appraised per person

SPOKANE VALLEY Wednesday, Jun 11 1–5pm



Artwork created by students from Mead and Mt. Spokane High Schools. Pieces reflect their representations of a more modern Great Depression.

The display Hooverville is built by local students.

## **SIGHTS & SOUNDS**



## Give Me a Sign

Hey kids! Go on a treasure hunt for hobo signs or play games popular in the past at the North Spokane Library during open hours!



#### **Audio Tour**

Listen to oral histories of local residents who recount their memories of the 1930s. Available at listening stations at the North Spokane library during the exhibit period, and on our website.

## **Library Locations**

AIRWAY HEIGHTS 1213 S Lundstrom St 509.893.8250

ARGONNE 4322 N Argonne Rd 509.893.8260

CHENEY 610 First St 509.893.8280

DEER PARK 208 S Forest Ave 509.893.8300

FAIRFIELD 305 E Main St 509.893.8320

MEDICAL LAKE 321 E Herb St 509.893.8330

MORAN PRAIRIE 6004 S Regal St 509.893.8340

NORTH SPOKANE 44 E Hawthorne Rd 509.893.8350

OTIS ORCHARDS 22324 E Wellesley Ave 509.893.8390

SPOKANE VALLEY 12004 E Main Ave 509.893.8400

