



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

TRAVELING EXHIBIT



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.

Special thanks to:
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 in
our libraries.



PROGRAM GUIDE



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
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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
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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

