

Soul of a People: Writing America's Story

2009 Program Calendar

Arkansas State University
Jonesboro, AR

September 13

Arkansas WPA State Guide
Jonesboro Public Library

September 17

Arkansas WPA State Guide
Dean B. Ellis Library

September 20

Arkansas Slave Narratives
Lecture with readings by ASU Theatre students

September 23

Soul of a People documentary film
ASU Museum

September 27

Outhouse Program – Bring Your Old Photographs

September 29

Soul of a People documentary film
Jonesboro Public Library

September 30

Richard Wright

October 4

Find the Oldest Quilt in Craighead County

October 6

Soul of a People documentary film
ASU Museum

October 11

Soul of a People documentary film
Jonesboro Public Library

October 18

Floods in Craighead County

Arkansas State University continued:

October 25

Early Newspapers of Craighead County

October 26

Book Discussion of *The House that George Built*

November 1

Church Wars

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San Jose, CA**

September 12

Soul of a People documentary presentation;
California in the 1930s;
Popular Jazz Tunes of the 1930s

September 15

The Federal Writers' Project in California;
Steinbeck and *The Grapes of Wrath*

September 22

Harry Partch and the Authentic Voice of America

September 29

The New Deal Legacy in the Bay Area and California;
Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938

October 6

Kenneth Rexroth and the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance;
Dramatic Adaptation of *The Grapes of Wrath*

**Middlesex Community College Library
Middletown, CT**

September 18

Soul of a People community celebration

October 8

Panel discussion of Connecticut Federal Writers' Project

October 22

Oral histories from the 1930s

November 12

Soul of a People documentary presentation

November 18

Book discussion of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
by Zora Neale Hurston

**Alvin Sherman Library, Nova Southeastern University
Davie-Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

March 28

Soul of a People community celebration;
Saturday Afternoon at the Matinee

March 28 – May 10

Soul of a People: Writing Florida's Story Exhibit;
Depression Glass Exhibit

March 30

Tour of *Soul of a People: Writing Florida's Story* Exhibit

April 9

South Florida and the WPA Oral History Project

April 13

Tour of *Soul of a People: Writing Florida's Story* Exhibit

April 16

The People's Art and 1930s Florida

April 21

Zora Neale Hurston: The WPA and the Blues

April 22

Zelda Fitzgerald Literary Dramatization

May 7

Film clips from *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*

**Lane Library, Armstrong Atlantic State University
Savannah, GA**

May 22

Soul of a People preview/ planning meeting for local high school teachers

July 8

Soul of a People preview for people ages 55 and over

September 30

Dr. Kalenda Eaton will present a program on Richard Wright as a FWP writer for a local high school

October 3

Kick-off celebration depicting life in Savannah during the New Deal Era

October 10

Drums and Shadows: Explore the stories and photographs of Coastal Georgia's long-standing African American communities

October 14

Richard Wright and *Twelve Million Black Voices*

October 21

Symposium on "American Life Histories"

November 5

Soul of a People: Writing America's Story

Chicago State University Library
Chicago, IL

April 13

Oral History: from the Slave Narratives to *The HistoryMakers*

September 12

Soul of a People documentary film presentation

October 8

Soul of a People Community-Wide Celebration
Chicago State University Library Auditorium

October 17

Soul of a People Community-Wide Celebration
Maywood Public Library

November 5

Studs Terkel: The Man and his Message;
Richard Wright: The Man and his Message

November 17

Screenings of *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*

Highland Park Public Library
Highland Park, IL

May 17

Soul of a People community celebration
and documentary presentation

May 19

A Discussion of Writers' Project Author Richard Wright
and his major work, *Native Son*

June 4

The State Guides: Helping You Find Your Way

June 11

American Life Histories, focused on 1930s narratives from
Chicagoans and New Yorkers

Muncie Public Library
Muncie, IN

January 12

Creating a Hoosier Self-Portrait: the Works Progress Administration's Impact in Indiana

January 19

Black Authors and the Federal Writers' Project: Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, and Ralph Ellison

January 26

Homeless, Friendless, and Penniless: Interviews with Former Slaves Living in Indiana

January 31

Hope in Hard Times: The WPA in Muncie during the Wild and Woolly 1930s

February 9

Soul of a People: 1930s Art in the Time of the Federal Writers' Project

February 16

George Bernard Shaw and the Federal Writers' Project: Race and Identity

February 23

Indiana State Parks: A New Deal Legacy

Wichita State University Libraries
Wichita, KS

May 12

Celebrating America's Story: The Cultural Legacy of the Great Depression

May 21

Writing America's Story: The Federal and Kansas Writers' Projects

June 2

Telling America's Story: Oral Histories of the Great Depression

June 16

One Writer's Stories: Selected Short Stories of John Cheever

June 28

Finding the Sunny Side of the Street: Life in 1930s Wichita

**Enoch Pratt Free Library
Baltimore, MD**

Beginning September 21

Exhibit: *The Federal Writers Project in Maryland*

October 3

Soul of a People Community Celebration

October 17

Cinema Saturday:

The Cradle Will Rock and *Gold Diggers of 1933*

October 18

Baltimore and Maryland in the 1930s

October 24

Unchained Memories: Slave Narratives

October 28

Zora Neale Hurston: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

**Witherle Memorial Library
Castine, ME**

August 28

Kick off event: Town Band performs songs from the 1930s and 1930s Pot Luck with Chef Tom Gutow

September 3

Castine native Paul Gray on Castine in the 1930s

September 10

A Lecture by Maine Maritime History Professor Dr. Patricia Bixel in a 1930s Era Venue

September 17

Movie & Talk: Studs Terkel's *Hard Times*, with Margery Read

September 24

Soul of a People documentary presentation

Baldwin Public Library
Birmingham, MI

September 13

Welcome to the 1930s

September 15 and 29 & October 13 and 27

Writing Your Own Story, a 4-part writing workshop

September 20

Soul of a People documentary presentation

September 30 and October 7

Self-Publishing

October 20

The New Deal: A Debate

October 29

Looking Back at Michigan and Birmingham in the 1930s

November 3 and December 1

Let's Talk About It

December 8

Let's Talk About It: Oral Histories of the Great Depression

November 8

Storyteller Concert featuring Corinne Stavish

St. Cloud State University
St. Cloud, MN

September 24

Discussion of the documentary *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*

September 30

Life Histories from the Great Depression Era

October 1

Soul of a People full documentary screening

October 5

A Woman's Perspective: Minnesota Author Meridel Le Sueur

October 12

Soul of a People Community Celebration

The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library
St. Paul, MN

September 19

The West Side Theater Project

September 22

The Ah-Gwah-Ching Collection at MHS;
Book discussion, *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck

September 23

Lecture on Sterling Brown and the Slave Narratives;
Book discussion, *The Actual* by Saul Bellow

September 24

Soul of a People documentary presentation;
Book discussion, *The Good War: An Oral History of World War II* by Studs Terkel

September 26

Slave Narratives

September 27

Tales of the Road: Highway 61 and the WPA in Minnesota

September 28

Regina Marie Williams in *Jump at the Sun*

September 30

Art and Architecture of City Hall

October 7

Book discussion, *Native Son* by Richard Wright

October 8

Film Screening: *The People Are My Home*;
Book discussion, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by
Zora Neale Hurston

October 22

Book discussion, *North Star Country* by Meridel LeSueur

Kansas City Public Library
Kansas City, MO

September 2

Portrait of America: A Cultural History of the FWP

September 3

Voices from Slavery: WPA Slave Narratives

September 16

The WPA Guide to Missouri

September 23

Soul of a People documentary presentation

Various dates in September

Screenings of a selection of 1930s films and Depression Era newsreels

Kirkwood Public Library
Kirkwood, MO

March 28

Soul of a People community celebration

April 22

Introduction to the WPA, the Federal Writers' Project and
Missouri: A Guide to the "Show Me" State

April 30

American Life as Revealed by the Federal Writers' Project

May 14

The Literature of Zora Neale Hurston

May 14 and May 21

WPA Projects in the St. Louis, MO area

May 27

Excerpts from *Soul of a People* and the Legacy of the
Federal Writers' Project

June 6

Kirkwood Walk

Lincoln County Public Libraries
Libby, MT

March 28

Soul of a People Opening (Libby)

April 6

Oral Histories with Rich Aarstad, MT Historical Society (Eureka)

April 7

Oral Histories with Rich Aarstad, MT Historical Society (Libby)

May 9

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington movie screening (Libby)

May 12

Gardening and Food in the 1930s & Plant Exchange (Libby)

May 19

Brother Can You Spare a Dime movie screening (Libby)

May 21

Gardening and Food in the 1930s & Plant Exchange (Troy)

May 26

Book Discussion – *The Surrounded* by D'Arcy McNickle (Libby)

May 28

Gardening and Food in the 1930s & Plant Exchange (Eureka)

Lincoln County Public Libraries continued:

June 11

WPA Projects in Lincoln County with Jeff Gruber (Libby)

June 13

Shall We Dance movie screening (Libby)

June 16

Pre-New Deal Help in Montana with Jeff Malcomson (Libby)

June 25

WPA Projects in Lincoln County with Jeff Gruber (Eureka)

June 27

Kit Kittredge movie screening (Libby)

June 30

Book Discussion – *The Surrounded* by D’Arcy McNickle (Eureka)

July 7

How two counties fared in the 1930s – Sheridan and Lincoln (Libby)

July 8

How two counties fared in the 1930s – Sheridan and Lincoln (Eureka)

July 21

Book Discussion – *The Surrounded* by D’Arcy McNickle (Troy)

July 28

Screening portions of *Soul of a People* documentary (Libby)

July 29

Screening portions of *Soul of a People* documentary (Eureka)

**Belk Library and Information Commons
Boone, NC**

April 5

Book discussions of WPA writer Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

April 19

Tour of the Parkway Project;
Soul of a People documentary presentation

May 2

Soul of a People Celebration

June 14

Book discussions of WPA writer Saul Bellow’s *Seize the Day*

June 21

Oral Histories: Then and Now

**New Mexico State University Library
Las Cruces, NM**

April 4

Great Depression Era Road Show,
including screening of *Soul of a People* excerpts

April 18

New Mexico's Voices: Local Oral Histories
from the Writers' Project

April 27

Talk on *New Mexico: A Guide to a Colorful State*

April 29

Screening of excerpts from *Soul of a People*

May 4

Federal Writers' Project author program:
Discussion of *The Surrounded* by D'Arcy McNickle

**East Meadow Public Library
East Meadow, NY**

April 26

Writing America's Story Gala Family Day

April 27

The Cradle Will Rock film screening

April 29

American Life and the Slave Chronicles

April 30

Book Discussion on *Native Son* by Richard Wright

May 8

From Wall Street to Front Street:
Films of the Great Depression

**Clark Memorial Library, Shawnee State University
Portsmouth, OH**

September 15

Soul of a People kickoff at the Portsmouth Public Library

September 16

Music of the WPA

September 17

WPA Oral Histories: Voices of a People

September 18

Soul of a People documentary film presentation

September 22

Stories of Life & Labor: Oral Histories from Portsmouth, Ohio

September 23 and 24

Nick Taylor author talks about “The WPA and the New Deal” and readings from his book *American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work*

September 24

Zora Neal Hurston: Folklorist, Author, and Writer with the WPA

September 25

Soul of a People documentary film presentation

September 28

Literacy Council sponsored Book discussions

September 29

Soul of a People: Writing America’s Story presentation and discussion

September 30

Ohio Guide book discussion

Wadsworth Ella M. Everhard Public Library
Wadsworth, OH

Week of May 17

Soul of a People Celebration Week

May 20

Kit Kitteridge: An American Girl Program

May 20

How to Conduct Oral Histories

May 21

Music of the Railroads & the Hobo Way of Life

May 28

Studs Terkel's *Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression*

June 4

Slave Narratives from the Writers' Project

June 9

Soul of a People documentary presentation

June 11

The WPA's *Ohio Guide* and *Lake Erie Guide* presented by the Ohio Historical Society

May – June

Soul of A People: Writing America's Story/

Depression Era Stories from Wadsworth Residents

Oklahoma State University Library
Stillwater, OK

January – March

"Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma" series of 5 book talks, organized with the Oklahoma Humanities Council

March 8

Kickoff celebration

April 2

Discussion of Angie Debo, the Federal Writers' Project, and her contributions to scholarship

April 24

Discussion of Slave Narratives gathered by the Federal Writers' Project

October 22

The Federal Writer's Project Overview by Project Scholar

November 8

Soul of a People documentary presentation at Stillwater Public Library

**Linebaugh Public Library
Murfreesboro, TN**

May 9

Soul of a People Celebration

May 29

Soul of a People Screening and Antiques Discussion

June 2 and June 23

Studs Terkel Discussion

June 9

Tennessee Folktales

June 16

“But Mr. Roosevelt was gonna save us all” – The New Deal and the South

July 7

Discovering Family Roots through New Deal Documents

July 10-12

Uncle Dave Macon Days

September 19

Soul of a People documentary presentation

**The University of Texas – Pan American Library
Edinburg, TX**

June 16

Slave Narratives from the Rio Grande

September 17

Soul of a People kickoff presentation – Texas Writers from the Great Depression of the 1930s: Their Careers and Legacies

Additional dates TBA

**Fairfax County Public Library
Fairfax, VA**

May 3

Federal Theater Project and its relationship to the WPA Writers’ Project

September 26

Soul of A People community celebration
Gallery activities for the exhibit, *Stitching Pretty Through Hard Times: Quilts and the Sewing Arts of the 1930s*

October 4

Soul of A People documentary presentation

October 11

Gallery talk and exhibit tour

Verona Public Library
Verona, WI

October 3

“Truly a Family”: The Federal Writers’ Project in Wisconsin,
1935-1942;
The Hard Times Soup Kitchen;
Kit Kitteridge Program

October 8

Oneida Lives: When Wisconsin Oneida Indians Told Their
Stories

October 20

Bunyan’s Progress: Out of the Forest and Into the Media

October 28

Book Discussion: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
by Zora Neale Hurston

October 15

Slave Narrative Program

November 9

Soul of a People documentary presentation