

November 20, 2006

***ATTENTION: LIBRARIES AND BOOK COMMUNITY OF KANSAS***

From: Roy Bird, Director, Kansas Center for the Book (kcfb@kslib.info)  
Vikki Jo Stewart, KCFB Coordinator of Projects

***KANSAS READS . . . THE LEARNING TREE*** is the inaugural one-book/one-state project especially for adults in our state. It will kick off on ***Kansas Day***, January 29, and run through April 30, 2007. The Kansas Center for the Book (KCFB) encourages every community in the state to read and discuss this classic by Gordon Parks, a native son and renaissance man.

***KANSAS READS . . . THE LEARNING TREE*** is intended to bring communities together to discuss issues based on topics raised in the book. The selection of ***THE LEARNING TREE*** for the premier adult one-book/one-state project is timely—it honors Kansas-born genius Gordon Parks, who passed away on March 7, 2006. Parks was a photographer, film-maker, composer, poet and author.

***KANSAS READS . . . THE LEARNING TREE*** was created by a committee of experienced and qualified librarians who are representatives of KCFB Affiliates or Fellows of KCFB. All have led adult programs or one-book projects in their communities. ***THE LEARNING TREE*** by Gordon Parks was selected from among literally hundreds of books. KCFB has partnered with other organizations such as the Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity at Fort Scott Community College, the Kansas Humanities Council and Watermark Books and Café in Wichita to provide many ways to promote reading and discussion in any Kansas community.

***KANSAS READS . . . THE LEARNING TREE*** will make it possible for any library, bookseller or literary organization in any community regardless of size or location to bring Kansans together to discuss issues based on the reading and the issues raised in the book. A biography, suggestions for resource materials and persons, a bibliography of other works by Gordon Parks, promotional materials and other assistance for creative programming ideas will be on a special page of the KCFB website at [www.kcfb.info/learningtree.htm](http://www.kcfb.info/learningtree.htm). Watermark Books and Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67218, (316)682-1181, will provide bulk copies of the book to any library at a 20% discount.

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**KANSAS READS . . . THE LEARNING TREE** can be a successful community project for any number of persons, from two to two thousand. It is meaningful to communities from St. Francis to Galena, from Elkhart to Wathena. It is as appropriate for small rural towns as it is for large urban areas.

**KANSAS READS . . . THE LEARNING TREE** will be an important project to promote the educational and cultural role of the book community in Kansas. Join us in 2007!

**NOTE** the following 2007 timeline for One Book reading programs in Kansas:

- KCFB, **Kansas Reads . . . The Learning Tree** by **Gordon Parks**, January 29-April 30, 2007, contact: Vikki Jo Stewart at [vikkijo@kslib.info](mailto:vikkijo@kslib.info).
- Kansas City Kansas Public Library, **The Big Read, Grapes of Wrath** by **John Steinbeck**, April, 2007, contact: Jennifer Tarwater at [jtarwa@kckpl.lib.ks.us](mailto:jtarwa@kckpl.lib.ks.us).
- Johnson County Public Library, Shawnee Mission, **The Big Read, The Joy Luck Club** by **Amy Tan**, April-mid May, 2007, contact Jennifer Mahnken at [mahnkenj@jocolib.org](mailto:mahnkenj@jocolib.org).
- Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library/Kansas Center for the Book at the State Library of Kansas, with Hamilton County Public Library (Syracuse), Morrill Public Library (Hiawatha), Dorothy Bramlage Public Library (Junction City), and Watermark Books & Café (Wichita), **The Big Read, Fahrenheit 451** by **Ray Bradbury**, May 12-June 30, 2007, contact: Marie Pyck at [mpyko@mail.tscpl.org](mailto:mpyko@mail.tscpl.org).

The Kansas Center for the Book selection for **2008 KANSAS READS** one-book/one-state read is **IN COLD BLOOD** by **Truman Capote!**

**-End-**