

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jennifer Heinicke, Wichita Public Library, [jheinicke@wichita.gov](mailto:jheinicke@wichita.gov)  
(316) 261-8524

## **THE BIG READ – WICHITA ANNOUNCES OCTOBER EVENTS Community Celebrates Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried"**

The Big Read – Wichita returns for a fourth year with a celebration of Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried," a fictional exploration of a Vietnam War veteran's experiences before, during and after his service. Themes of service, memory and duty will be explored throughout discussions, exhibits, films, and more in Wichita and the surrounding area. Highlights include a free talk by Tim O'Brien at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3 at the WSU Hughes Metropolitan Complex. Most events are free. For a complete list of events, visit [www.bigreadwichita.org](http://www.bigreadwichita.org).

### **The Vietnam War Experience in Images**

During October, Pulitzer Prize candidate and Kansas native Bill Snead will display his photos from his years running the UPI's photo bureau in Saigon. His images chronicle the war with an array of striking work that earned him a place in history. His talk on Saturday, Oct. 15, will focus on his experiences in Vietnam, the people he worked with and the stories and people he covered, including photos he took during his time in Vietnam.

On display Saturday, Oct. 1 – Monday, Oct. 31, Andover Public Library, 1511 E. Central Ave, Andover, KS 67002, (316) 558-3500

Talk: 1-2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, Andover Public Library, 1511 E. Central Ave, Andover, KS 67002, (316) 558-3500

### **The Big Read Kick-Off**

Start The Big Read - Wichita with a big celebration! The McConnell Air Force Base Honor Guard will present the colors, The Jukes featuring Clif Major will play '60s tunes and Ballet Wichita will perform. See Robert Rauschenberg's *Signs*, the artwork featured on this year's poster, and other artwork in a special exhibit that relates to "The Things They Carried." Pick up a free copy of the book, reader's guide and poster (while supplies last) and enjoy refreshments.

2-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd., Wichita, KS 67203, (316) 268-4921

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

Enjoy a lively discussion of "The Things They Carried" hosted by Joyce Suellentrop. Please register in advance by calling (316) 261-8500.

7-8 p.m., Monday, Oct. 3, Wichita Public Library-Rockwell Branch Library, 5939 E. 9th, Wichita, KS 67208, (316) 688-9361

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## October Big Read – Wichita Events Page 2

### Art Start

An art-discussion/early literacy/hands-on program for preschoolers. Children look at artworks from the Big Read exhibition, talk about them, hear the young readers' companion book, and make a project. For ages 3-5 with an adult. Reservations required. Tuesday sessions are for families; Thursdays and Fridays are for groups.

10-11 a.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 18, and Oct. 25, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W Museum Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203 (316) 268-4921  
1:30-2:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 18, and Oct. 25, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W Museum Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203 (316) 268-4921

10-11 a.m., Thursdays, Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, and Oct. 27, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W Museum Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203 (316) 268-4921  
1:30-2:30 p.m., Thursdays, Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, and Oct. 27, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W Museum Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203 (316) 268-4921

10-11 a.m., Fridays, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21, and Oct. 28, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W Museum Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203 (316) 268-4921  
1:30-2:30 p.m., Fridays, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21, and Oct. 28, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W Museum Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203 (316) 268-4921

### "The Things They Carried" Book Discussion

The Evergreen Branch Library's First Tuesday Book Discussion Group will discuss Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" at their October meeting. New members are always welcome to come and share their ideas!

1-2 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 4, Wichita Public Library-Evergreen Branch Library, 2601 N. Arkansas, Wichita, KS 67204, (316) 303-8181

### Senior Wednesday: The Big Read Exhibit

Book and art discussion for active seniors (55+). We will learn about some works of art in the companion exhibition and talk about the themes of the book as made visual in the art. For active seniors age 55 and older. \$2 admission, free for Wichita Art Museum members. Offered in cooperation with nine other cultural institutions in Wichita, Senior Wednesdays are designed for active seniors and made possible by the Kansas Health Foundation, a private philanthropic organization dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans. See all listings at [www.seniorwednesday.org](http://www.seniorwednesday.org).

10-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W Museum Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203, (316) 268-4921

### Book Club

Senior center participants age 55 and older meet once a week to discuss the assigned book.

10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Wednesdays, Oct. 5-Oct. 26, Northeast Senior Center, 2121 E. 21st, Wichita, KS 67214, (316) 269-4444

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## October Big Read – Wichita Events Page 3

### **The Big Read: Partners and Promotion**

Learn about The Big Read from a different angle. Special Projects Librarian Jennifer Heinicke of the Wichita Public Library, winner of national and state awards for orchestrating marketing campaigns for The Big Read - Wichita, will share lessons learned over the years about building community partnerships and doing public service promotions. This talk is part of the Wichita Professional Communicators (WPC) luncheon series; advance RSVPS welcome at WPC's web site. Fee. 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5, Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67202

### **Recording the Past: The Veteran's History Project**

The Veterans History Project collects and preserves the memories of American war veterans and civilian workers who supported them. Join us as Frank Moreno, a World War II veteran from Wichita, shares his story in a video documentary created by Wichita East High School students. Join the participants in a discussion of the project following the 30-minute video. Part of the Wichita Public Library's Hispanic Heritage and Big Read - Wichita celebrations. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5, Wichita Public Library-Central Library, 223 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202, (316) 261-8500

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

The Evergreen Branch Library's First Thursday Book Discussion Group will discuss Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" at their October meeting. New members are always welcome to come and share their ideas! 7-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, Wichita Public Library-Evergreen Branch Library, 2601 N. Arkansas, Wichita, KS 67204, (316) 303-8181

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

The Orchard Park Branch Library's First Friday Book Discussion Group and Orchard Park Senior Center book club participants will join together to discuss Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" at their October meeting. New members are always welcome to come and share their ideas! 1-2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7, Wichita Public Library-Orchard Park Branch Library, 4808 W. 9th, Wichita, KS 67212, (316) 337-9084

### **"My Vietnam Your Iraq"**

"My Vietnam Your Iraq" tells stories from Vietnam War veterans who have children that served in Iraq. The program showcases the pride and fear a family shares when one is deployed. 8-9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7, airs on KPTS Channel 8 (digital 8-1)

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## October Big Read – Wichita Events Page 4

### **What Have You Read Lately?: "The Things They Carried"**

Be introduced to The Big Read - Wichita, Tim O'Brien's works, and "The Things They Carried." This discussion is fantastic whether you've already the book or have yet to enjoy it. Part of LifeVenture's Adventures in Learning Series. Fee.  
10:15-11:15 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 11, LifeVentures, 4407 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67218, (316) 682-0504

**Senior Wednesday: "A Mind Frozen in Time": PTSD and the Wounded Soldier**  
Dr. Jeremy Crosby of the Dole Veteran's Administration Hospital is an expert on the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder for combat veterans. Here, he will share insights from his work and tips for all citizens. Offered in cooperation with nine other cultural institutions in Wichita, Senior Wednesdays are designed for active seniors and made possible by the Kansas Health Foundation.

1:30-2:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 12, Wichita Public Library-Central Library, 223 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202, (316) 261-8500

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

Will Fahey, decorated Marine Corps Officer during the Vietnam Conflict (Con Thien and Khe Sanh among others) and a popular Vietnam war historian/lecturer at several universities including Emory, Duke, Stanford and UCLA, hosts a book discussion of "The Things They Carried." Please register in advance by calling (316) 261-8500.

2:30-3:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 14, Mead's Corner, 430 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67202, (316) 201-1900

### **The Last Patrol**

Local Vietnam re-enactors The Last Patrol has collected and exhibits authentic Vietnam equipment, including helicopters, jeeps and trucks. They will bring a M35A2C Vietnam gun-truck titled "Business as Usual," and a 1965 UH-1H Huey helicopter painted in the colors of 1/9 Cavalry "The Headhunters," a regiment that participated in some of the most fierce fighting of the war. All of the weapons are facsimiles. The Last Patrol will be in uniforms and will display their 80-pound packs – "the things they carried" -- and all the accoutrements.

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, Andover Public Library, 1511 E. Central Ave, Andover, KS 67002, (316) 558-3500

### **The Vietnam War Experience in Images: Bill Snead Talk**

Pulitzer Prize candidate and Kansas native Bill Snead served as a UPI photo manager in Vietnam (1967-1969). His talk will focus on his experiences in Vietnam, the people he worked with and the stories and people he covered.

1-2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, Andover Public Library, 1511 E. Central Ave, Andover, KS 67002, (316) 558-3500

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THE BIG READ – WICHITA

C/O WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY • 223 S. MAIN • WICHITA, KS 67202 • (316) 261-8500

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## October Big Read – Wichita Events Page 5

### **The Things They Carried: A Hands-On Experience**

Touch a Thompson M1A1, Browning 30-caliber with tri-pod along with other small arms. Wear a Mae West vest, WWII steel pot helmet, back-pack parachute, cartridge belt, haversack and more. Ask local military re-enactors from the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII and Vietnam to answer your questions.

1-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, Orchard Park Recreation Center, 4808 W. 9th, Wichita, KS 67212, (316) 337-9244

### **Wichita Genealogical Society Anniversary Banquet**

Celebrate 25 years of the Wichita Genealogical Society with a special banquet! Virginia Downing will present on researching military records of World War II and Vietnam. Fee, reservations required. See [www.wichitagensoc.org](http://www.wichitagensoc.org) for details.

12-2:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, Hyde Park Enclosed Shelter, 201 S. Greenwood, Wichita, KS 67211, (316) 261-8500

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

Join us as we have a passionate book discussion of the classic narrative of the Vietnam War experience, "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien. The book is made up of 22 interconnected stories that focus on a platoon of American soldiers in Vietnam. The groundbreaking book is a painful meditation of war and its effects on the human heart and soul. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP.

3-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, Barnes and Noble at Bradley Fair, 1920 N. Rock Rd., Wichita, KS, 67206, (316) 315-0421

### **What Have We Done to War? Vietnam and Its Successors**

Vietnam changed Americans' perception of war as our longest war to date. Hesitant to commit so much money to a war that had troops on the ground for eight years, Americans were "gun shy" of military involvements. But in the past decade, all that changed. Dr. Gretchen Eick, professor of history at Friends University, will explore these changes and how they have affected Americans' pocket books, psyches and politics. Pick up a free copy of "The Things They Carried," reader's guide and poster (while supplies last). A Huey will be on hand to make great use of the location!

2:30-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16, National Center for Aviation Training (part of the Wichita Area Technical College) at Jabara Airport, 4004 N. Webb Rd., Wichita, KS 67226, (316) 677-1916

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## October Big Read – Wichita Events Page 6

### **Sharing the Things He Carried: Vietnam Letters from My Brother**

Kauffman Museum at Bethel College will feature Karen Ross Epp of Newton in the Sunday-Afternoon-at-the-Museum series. Epp will share the story of her brother Sp4 Stanley D. Ross who lost his life while serving with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, Charlie Co, 2/3 in Vietnam. Epp's book "With Love, Stan" is based on her brother's letters home, along with recollections and quotes from authors including Tim O'Brien.

3:30-4:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 16, Kauffman Museum, 2801 N. Main St., North Newton, KS 67117, (316) 283-1612

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

Join a lively discussion of Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried." Reservations requested at (316) 261-8500.

7-8 p.m., Monday, Oct. 17, Wichita Public Library-Alford Branch Library, 3447 S. Meridian, Wichita, KS 67217, (316) 337-9119

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

The Westlink Branch Library's Third Tuesday Book Discussion Group will discuss Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" at their October meeting. New members are always welcome to come and share their ideas!

12:45-1:45 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 18, Wichita Public Library-Westlink Branch Library, 8515 Bekemeyer, Wichita, KS 67212, (316) 337-9456

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

The Central Library's Third Tuesday Book Discussion Group will discuss Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" at their October meeting. New members are always welcome to come and share their ideas!

7-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 18, Wichita Public Library-Central Library, 223 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202, (316) 261-8500

### **Family Artventure: The 1960s in America**

Kids and their families will look at works of art made in or inspired by the turbulent '60s and the Vietnam War. Families can create their own illustrated story to read at home. Drop in anytime between 11-3, no reservations required. Activity takes about an hour.

11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22, Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W Museum Blvd. Wichita, KS 67203 (316) 268-4921

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## October Big Read – Wichita Events Page 7

### **The Redemptive Power of Storytelling: A Modern Classic of the Vietnam War**

Listen as the Reverend Jim Wooten of Grace Presbyterian Church and East High School IB students dramatically interpret a sampling of O'Brien's tales and participate in a multi-generational dialogue, then join in a discussion led by Taylor Jones and Shirley Wells, Watermark booksellers and book club leaders.  
6-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25, Watermark Books & Café, 4701 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita, KS 67218, (316) 682-1181

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

Join a lively discussion of Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried." Reservations requested at (316) 261-8500.  
6:30-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25, Wichita Public Library-Angelou Northeast Branch Library, 3051 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Wichita, KS 67214, (316) 688-9580

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

Join a passionate book discussion of the classic narrative of the Vietnam War experience, "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien. The book is made up of 22 interconnected stories that focus on a platoon of American soldiers in Vietnam. The groundbreaking book is a painful meditation of war and its effects on the human heart and soul. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP.  
7-8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27, Barnes and Noble at Bradley Fair, 1920 N. Rock Rd., Wichita, KS, 67206, (316) 315-0421

### **"The Things They Carried" Book Discussion**

Join a lively discussion of Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried." Reservations requested at (316) 261-8500.  
2:30-3:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 28, Wichita Public Library-Linwood Branch Library, 1901 S. Kansas, Wichita, KS 67211, (316) 337-9125

### **SAVE THE DATE! Author Tim O'Brien**

Big Read author Tim O'Brien's service in the United States Army (3rd Platoon, A Company, 5th Battery, 46th Infantry, 1969-1970) as a foot soldier has inspired him to write award-winning works. His visit is made possible by Candlewood Suites - Wichita Airport, Friends of the Wichita Public Library, Friends University Library, USD 259 - Wichita Public Schools, Wichita State University Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Wichita State University Libraries.  
7-8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3, Wichita State University Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 5015 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, KS 67220, (316) 261-8500

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