



News Release

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National World War I Museum and Kansas City Public Library Announce Great War | Great Read Initiative

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 29, 2014) – In conjunction with the commemoration of the centennial of World War I, the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial and the Kansas City Public Library announced the Great War | Great Read initiative.

A collaboration between the National World War I Museum and the Library, Great War | Great Read is a multi-faceted initiative encouraging people to engage in works about World War I through a series of community-wide book discussions and more than 15 public programs and lectures featuring internationally renowned authors and historians.

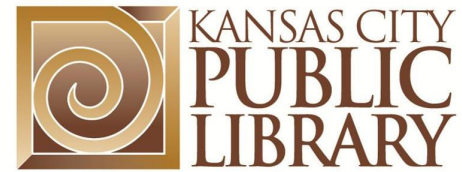
“During the centennial, the international spotlight will shine on Kansas City as the world explores the effects and enduring impact of the Great War,” National World War I Museum President and CEO Dr. Matthew Naylor said. “This partnership between the National World War I Museum and Kansas City Public Library not only encourages the reading of classic works, but also brings additional recognition to Kansas City by welcoming scholars from across the world to speak to our great city.”

Residents in the greater Kansas City area are encouraged to attend the public programs associated with Great War | Great Read as well as revisit acclaimed World War I literary classics *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Remarque and *The Guns of August* by Barbara W. Tuchman.

Kansas City Public Library Director Crosby Kemper III noted, “History has never seen worse than the evils of the slaughter of World War I, and yet the literature conceived from it is extraordinary. Even today, this period in history is fertile ground for scholars, authors, and poets. It was a terrible war that gave us great literature.”

Great War | Great Read kicks off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3, 2014 at the Museum with a discussion featuring Kemper and Linda Trout, National World War I Museum Director of Strategic Engagement and former Executive Director of the International Relations Council, about the role of World War I in global and Kansas City history. The discussion will be followed by a screening of the remastered 1930 Academy Award-winning film *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

Notable participants in public programs via Great War | Great Read include: author Christopher Clark (*The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914*), author Paul Jankowski (*Verdun: The Longest Battle of the Great War*), author April Smith (*A Star for Mrs. Blake*), author Ann Bausum (*Sergeant Stubby: How a Dog and His Best Friend Helped Win World War I*), author Howard Blum (*Dark Invasion 1915: Germany's Secret War and the Hunt for the First Terrorist Cell in America*) and author/radio-personality Michael Lasser (*America's Songs*).



The National World War I Museum recognizes the generous support of Shook Hardy & Bacon through the Charles Bacon Fund. Major funding for programs at the Kansas City Public Library is provided by a generous grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation with additional support from the Bradbury Speaker Series, established in honor of retired library Director Daniel J. Bradbury with the support of the Friends of the Kansas City Public Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition, Deutsche Film-Aktiengesellschaft, the German Studies Association, *The Kansas City Star*, the Truman Library Institute and Union Station are also supporters of Great War | Great Read.

Additional program information can be found at theworldwar.org or kclibrary.org.

Program Schedule:

Sunday, Aug. 3, 1 p.m. – Discussion/*All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930) film screening (National WWI Museum)

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 6:30 p.m. – Captain Harry Goes to War (KCPL Central Library)

Wednesday, Aug. 13, 6:30 p.m. – *Verdun: Longest Battle of the Great War* (KCPL Central Library)

Sunday, Aug. 17, 2 p.m. – Missouri's German Americans During WWI (KCPL Central Library)

Wednesday, Aug. 20, 6:30 p.m. – Intelligence and Espionage During WWI (KCPL Central Library)

Saturday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m. – Explore: Galleries through the Lens of *The Guns of August* (National WWI Museum)

Saturday, Aug. 23, 1 p.m. – *Kansas City Star's* FYI Book Club: *The Guns of August* (National WWI Museum)

Wednesday, Aug. 27, 11:30 a.m. – Brownbag Book Discussion: *The Guns of August* (National WWI Museum)

Saturday, Sept. 6, 11 a.m. – Explore: Galleries through the Lens of *All Quiet on the Western Front* (National WWI Museum)

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2 p.m. – *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1979) film screening (National WWI Museum)

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m. – *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* (National WWI Museum)

Friday, Sept. 19, 11:30 a.m. – Brown Bag Book Discussion: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (National WWI Museum)

Saturday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m. – Deutsche Film-Aktiengesellschaft *The Woman and the Stranger* film screening (National WWI Museum)

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. – *A Star for Mrs. Blake* (National WWI Museum)

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m. – Meet the Past: Ernest Hemingway (Union Station)

Friday, Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m. – *Sergeant Stubby: How a Dog and His Best Friend Helped Win World War I* (KCPL Plaza)



Wednesday, Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m. – *Dark Invasion 1915: Germany's Secret War and the Hunt for the First Terrorist Cell in America* (KCPL Central Library)

Sunday, Oct. 12, 2 p.m. – Great Songs of WWI (KCPL Plaza)

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m. – The First World War in the Middle East (KCPL Central Library)

About the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial is the only American museum solely dedicated to preserving the objects, history and personal experiences of a war whose impact still echoes in the world today. The National World War I Museum holds the most diverse collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and personal experiences of the war. The Museum takes visitors on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National World War I Museum inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit theworldwar.org.

About Kansas City Public Library

The Kansas City Public Library is a doorway to knowledge for all people in our community. The Kansas City Public Library system consists of a central library, nine branches, and an outreach services program serving a constituency of over 250,000 in Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to providing library services to residents, the Library also serves as a resource for the 1.7 million metropolitan residents of greater Kansas City. The Library is the 2014 recipient of the American Library Association's Excellence in Library Programming Award. In 2013, the Library was awarded 5 stars, the highest possible rating from *Library Journal*, for contributions made to the Kansas City community. The Institute of Museum and Library Service recognized KCPL in 2008 with the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries, the National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

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