The Learning Tree by Gordon Parks Has Been Selected for Kansas First Adult One Book Program

by Kim Harp, Legislative Reference Librarian, State Library

Kansas Center for the Book (KCFB) at the State Library of Kansas is pleased to announce the first Kansas One Book, One State project for adults featuring *The Learning Tree* by Gordon Parks. ***2007 Kansas Reads… The Learning Tree*** will kick off on Kansas Day, January 29, 2007 and run through April 30, 2007.

2007 Kansas Reads… The Learning Tree is intended to bring communities of Kansans together to discuss issues based on the reading and the topics raised in the book. The selection of *The Learning Tree* for the first ever adult One Book, One State project is highly appropriate to honor native Kansas genius Gordon Parks, who died March 7, 2006. Parks was a composer, writer, poet, film director and photographer. To learn more about Gordon Parks, click on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_Parks or visit the Gordon Parks Center at Fort Scott Community College's website at http://www.gordonparkscenter.org/index.asp.

The book was selected by a committee of experienced and qualified librarians selected by the KCFB. From hundreds of books, three titles were recommended and *The Learning Tree* was selected. The KCFB will partner with the Gordon Parks Center at Fort Scott Community College and others to provide many ways to promote reading and discussion across Kansas communities.

This advance notice is for those who would like to plan and organize events and programming around *The Learning Tree* in 2007. We encourage libraries to publicize this project to ensure that adults in your community are aware of it and of the educational and cultural role of books and libraries. For creative programming ideas visit the Kansas Center for the Book's website at http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/kcfb/index.htm.

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