

## **Kansas Reads *The Learning Tree* by Gordon Parks**

by Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Projects Director/KCFB Coordinator

*The Learning Tree* is the FIRST One Book project for Kansas. It's been an exciting adventure to plan the first state level adult One Book Project and see all the programming ideas generated. I keep hearing that this project is a wonderful way to bring folks into the library to talk about Kansas, its culture and some challenges.

The State Library's Kansas Center for the Book, GLPM Architects Inc. in Lawrence and David Parks, son of the late Gordon Parks, author of *The Learning Tree*, will do some Kansas programming to kick off the Kansas Reads project. David Parks will begin his speaking schedule in Pittsburg on Monday, January 29th, with a high school writing class and a soup luncheon, where he will talk about his father's writing of the book. He will travel to the Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity at Ft Scott Community College, Lawrence Public Library, Kansas Public Radio and AudioReader in Lawrence, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library and Watermark Books in Wichita (where he will lead a discussion on *The Learning Tree*). He will complete his Kansas tour at the Mary Jane Teal Theatre, Wichita Convention Center, on Wednesday evening, January 31st.

For more information about the Learning Tree Project, PLEASE visit the website at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/kcfb/learningtree.htm> or visit the Kansas Center for the Book at <http://www.kcfb.info> and explore your way to the Learning Tree resources. There is a lot of information to help with local discussion projects and to connect them with the Kansas Center for the Book. A new link has been added to "Resources -- Logo Images". It's a step-by-step way to use the Kansas Center for the Book's logo or the logo developed for the Kansas Reads projects.

Kansas Reads....*The Learning Tree* will run from January 29 through April 30, 2007.