

READING TOGETHER 2006
UPDATED EVENT LIST
As of February 8, 2006

TIM O'BRIEN IN KALAMAZOO

Tim O'Brien, author of *The Things They Carried*, will visit Kalamazoo, speaking to the public on the evening of March 21. Free tickets for this event will be distributed at participating libraries beginning February 16. List on the Reading Together website, www.readingtogether.us.

Reception and Book Signing

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S Rose St
Tuesday, March 21, 4:30-6:00 pm
Books will be available for purchase.

Telling Stories

Tim O'Brien Public Talk

Miller Auditorium, Western Michigan University
Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 pm

FREE, BUT TICKET REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE. Tickets will be available beginning the evening of February 15 at Kalamazoo Public Library and February 16 at the following locations. Limit of four tickets per person. Community and school groups may call 553-7913 for special ticket arrangements. Coupons for discounted admission to the Air Zoo to see their related exhibits (exhibit information follows) also available at the following locations.

Air Zoo

Augusta-Ross Township District Library

Climax/Lawrence Memorial Library

Comstock Township Library

Davenport University

Galesburg Memorial Library

Kalamazoo Community Foundation

Parchment Community Library

Portage District Library

Richland Community Library

Schoolcraft Community Library

Vicksburg District Library

Waldo Library, Western Michigan University

Davenport, Kalamazoo College, and KVCC Libraries

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED LIVE

A series of panel discussions, lectures and presentations

The Voice of the Audio Book

Tom Stechschulte, Recorded Books narrator of *The Things They Carried*, will read selections from the book and talk about being a professional reader.

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 pm

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S Rose St.

From Saigon to Sanctuary

A documentary featuring the stories of Vietnamese refugees in West Michigan after the Communist takeover of South Vietnam in 1975. Discussion follows led by film producers Frank Jamison and Huan Le.

Thursday, February 16, 12:00 noon

or Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 pm

First Baptist Church, 315 W Michigan Ave

The Experiences of Black Vietnam Veterans

African American veterans share their wartime experiences with emphasis on the particular issues and challenges faced by people of color during and after the war.

Saturday, February 18, 1:00-1:30 pm

Douglass Community Association, 1000 W Paterson St

After My Lai: Peace & Reconciliation in Viet Nam

Hear Mike Boehm, Veterans for Peace, Madison, Wisconsin, describe his work to foster reconciliation between U.S. veterans and the Vietnamese people through such projects as the My Lai Peace Park. www.mylaipeacepark.org. Reception follows.

February 19, 3:00 pm

First Baptist Church, 315 W. Michigan Ave.

Vietnam in Kalamazoo

Local residents describe their military service, involvement in anti-war protests, attitudes towards veterans, and reflect on how Vietnam continues to affect them.

Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 pm

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S Rose St

The Book as Fine Literature

Local experts discuss narrative structure, characters, style, and storytelling in *The Things They Carried*.

Monday, February 27, 7:00 pm

Mandelle Hall, Olmsted Room, Kalamazoo College

Music of the Vietnam War Era

Singer/songwriter Pat Madden will perform music from and inspired by the Vietnam era.

Reception following the concert will include a light soup supper. \$5 donation suggested. Portion of proceeds will be donated to Ministry with Community.

Sunday, March 5, 3:00 pm

First Baptist Church, 315 W Michigan Ave.

Songs of Rebellion and Hope

Using audio, video, and live performance, Dan Jacobson, WMU School of Music, will discuss the impact of popular songs on the socio-political climate of the 1960s.

Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 pm

Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane

Conversations with Latino Veterans

The language and culture that bind them together also present challenges for Latino soldiers, who often serve in disproportionate numbers in the U.S. armed forces. Sponsored by the Hispanic American Council.

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30-8:00 pm

Washington Square Branch Library, 1244 Portage St

How You Can Support Veterans and the American Legion

A discussion with John H. Skinner, State Commander, Michigan American Legion.

March 11, 11:00 am, 679-5959

Schoolcraft Community Library, 330 N. Centre St.

The Costs of War

Local experts discuss how the Vietnam War's costs can be measured in dollars, as well as its toll in terms of politics, the environment, mental health, and health of the soul.

Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 pm

Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gull Rd

Writing in Dark Times: War and Plague

Drs. Gloria Larrieu, KVCC, and Thomas Seiler, emeritus professor, WMU, will examine the formal, stylistic, and thematic connections between O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* and Mark Doty's *Heaven's Coast*. Cosponsored by KVCC and the Kalamazoo Gay/Lesbian Resource Center.

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 pm

KVCC, Texas Township Campus, Commons Theater

A Veteran Returns to Vietnam

Vietnam vet Edo Weits, WMU Holistic Health, reflects on a February 2006 trip to Vietnam with a group of fellow veterans and widows of vets as part of the East Meets West Foundation's humanitarian efforts.

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 pm

Oshtemo Branch Library, 7265 W Main St.

Justice and War

Panel discussion moderated by Michael Pritchard, co-director of the Study of Ethics in Society, WMU.

Monday, March 29, 7:00 pm

WMU, Bernhard Student Center, Room 209

War and the Soul

Dr. Edward Tick, author of *War and the Soul* and an expert on post-traumatic stress disorder, will take part in a public event of reconciliation and reintegration. By learning the stories of our veterans, we can all share the burden of the things they carry. Details to be posted at www.readingtogether.us.

Monday, April 10

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED ON FILM

The Fog of War

Robert S. McNamara discusses his experiences and lessons learned during his tenure as Secretary of Defense under John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. 2004. 107 minutes.

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S Rose St.

The Weather Underground

Impatient with the pace of peaceful resistance, the Weather Underground violently protested U.S. involvement in Vietnam, through street riots and bombing government targets. 2002. 92 minutes

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S Rose St

The Deer Hunter

Three buddies from a steel mill town enlist in the airborne infantry. They are captured by the North Vietnamese and forced to play a game of Russian Roulette. They escape and return home, but their lives are forever changed. 182 minutes

Thursday, February 23, 7:00 pm

Western Michigan University, Little Theatre, Oakland Dr at Oliver St

Apocalypse Now Redux

Directed by Francis Ford Coppola, and inspired in part by Joseph Conrad's classic novella *Heart of Darkness*, this film explores the damage done to the American psyche by the war in Vietnam. Contains many scenes cut from the original release. 2002. 202 minutes.

Thursday, March 2, 6:00 pm

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S Rose St

Gao Rang/Grilled Rice

Tells the story of a small band of North Vietnamese and NLF cameramen whose work has been forgotten, though they founded Vietnamese cinema. They describe their experiences filming in combat, first against the French and later the Americans. 2002. 52 Minutes

AND

Rising Above: Women of Vietnam

This film looks at what happened to five women who played influential parts during wartime efforts. Their peacetime challenge is to rise above centuries of obedience and self-denial to build their own and their country's futures. 1995. 50 minutes.

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 pm

Western Michigan University, Little Theatre

Oakland Dr at Oliver St

Platoon

In the first major film by Oliver Stone, based on Stone's own experience as a combat soldier, a young recruit in Vietnam faces a moral crisis when confronted with the horrors of war and the duality of man. Hailed by critics and veterans alike as the first "realistic" American film about the war in Vietnam. 1986. 120 minutes

Thursday, March 16, 7:00 pm

KVCC, Texas Township Campus, Commons Theater

Regret to Inform

Filmmaker Barbara Sonneborn goes on a pilgrimage to the Vietnamese countryside where her husband was killed. The film weaves interviews with Vietnamese and American widows into a vivid testament to the legacy of war. 1998. 72 minutes

AND**How to Behave**

Dying of cancer, cameraman Dong Xuan Thuyet asks his friends to make a film on the subject of "tu-te" – human relations, fraternity, or, simply, kindness. 1987. 43 minutes.

Thursday, March 23, 7:00 pm

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S Rose St

Film Series Conclusion

KRESA Education for the Arts students premiere their interpretations of *The Things They Carried*.

Monday, March 27, 7:00 pm

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S Rose St

EXHIBITS

Vietnam: Journey of the Heart

This Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit presents 52 breathtaking images of post-war Vietnam taken by Vietnam veteran Geoffrey Clifford. In 1985, Clifford traveled with the first organized group of veterans to return to Vietnam. He made seventeen additional trips over a five-year period to capture, through an artistic lens, the scenes of a culture and a country previously unknown to him. Descriptive text by respected author and translator John Balaban accompanies each photograph.

www.sites.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibits/vietnam/main.htm

The Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Rd, Portage

February 14 - April 8

January-March, Monday-Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Sunday, 12:00-6:00 pm; April, Monday-Friday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sunday, 12:00-6:00 pm

Discounted admission sometimes available. Air Zoo admission discount coupons available at same sites as free Tim O'Brien tickets; good February 23 through March 23. For further information, check www.readingtogether.us/exhibit. Otherwise, exhibit included in admission to Air Zoo. 382-6555 or toll free, 1 866 524-7966

Formal Opening of Smithsonian Exhibit (above) Featuring Discussion and Performance by John Balaban and Ngo Thanh Nhan

Poet and translator John Balaban, a conscientious objector during the Vietnamese war, discovered the work of Ho Xuan Huong, an eighteenth-century woman poet, while in Vietnam making recordings of folk poetry. President Clinton cited Balaban's brilliant translation of her verse, *Spring Essence*, during his historical visit to North Vietnam. Musician Ngo Thanh Nhan will accompany Balaban's reading on a 16-string dan tranh, the classical zither of Vietnam.

The Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Rd, Portage

Monday, February 20, 7:00 pm

382-6555 or toll free, 1 866 524-7966

The Things We Carried: Artifacts from Local Vietnam Veterans

Display cases throughout the Air Zoo exhibit gallery will showcase artifacts loaned and described by local Vietnam veterans. Air Zoo staff will collect and transcribe the stories behind each item—from medals to photos to Bibles to good luck charms—thus offering the public insight into how the Vietnam War was experienced by Kalamazoo County residents. To offer artifacts and accompanying stories, please contact Stewart Bailey at the Air Zoo, 382-6555.

The Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Rd, Portage

February 14-April 8

War in the First Person

Mary Whalen & Students: original B&W photography

March 9 - April 15

Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane

Aspects of War

Prints loaned by the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts depicting imagery of war and its aftermath.

March 9 – April 12

Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane

Reception: Aspects of War

Music by Sojourn

Sunday, March 12, 2:00–4:00 pm
Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane

DISCUSSIONS

Discussion Group Help

Is there a group I can join? How can my group discuss the book with another group? Can we get a trained discussion leader for a group? My book group will accept visitors at our discussion of *The Things They Carried*; can the library help us find a public meeting space? For help with these concerns, please call 553-7913. Book sets available.

Sunday Academy Class

March 5 - April 9, 9:30-10:30 am

First United Methodist Church, 212 Park St.

March 5, Setting Context/Introducing O'Brien's Book

March 12, How Do the Men of Alpha Company Survive?

March 19, War's Effect on the Men of Alpha Company

March 26, The Ambiguity of War: Blurred Boundaries between Right and Wrong

April 2, The Literary Merits of O'Brien's Book

April 9, Living with the Legacy of the Vietnam War

Brown-bag Lunch Series

February 10 - March 24, 12:00 noon

Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St.

Suggested topics will launch, but not limit, discussion

February 10, *The Things We Carry: Personal Reflections*

February 24, *Women and The Things They Carried*

March 10, *The Value of Storytelling*

March 24, *Healing the Wounds of War*

Third Thursday Gathering

February 16, 2:00 pm

Featuring Tom Stechschulte, narrator of the Recorded Books version of *The Things They Carried*. All fellow senior residences especially invited.

Friendship Village Kiva, 1400 N. Drake Rd.

Book Discussion

February 23, 12:00 noon

Gull Road Courthouse, Hearing Room 2, 1400 Gull Rd.

Book Discussion

February 27, 12:00 noon

Brown-bag lunch welcome

Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Rd.

Book Discussion

March 2, 9:00-10:00 am

Vicksburg District Library, 215 S. Michigan

Adult Book Club

March 4, 11:00 am

Schoolcraft Community Library, 330 N. Centre St.

Afternoon Book Club

March 8, 1:00 pm

Comstock Township Library, 6130 King Highway

Book Discussion

March 8, 7:00 pm
Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Rd.

Church & Synagogue Library Association

March 13, 7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge Ave.

Book Discussion

March 14, 12:00 noon
Paw Paw District Library, 609 W. Michigan Ave.

Book Discussion

March 14, 6:30 pm
Paw Paw Big Boy, 854 S. Kalamazoo St.

Book Discussion

March 14, 6:30-8:00 pm
Richland Community Library, 8951 Park St

Comstock Book Club

March 15, 1:00 pm
Comstock Township Library, 6130 King Highway

Book Discussion

March 19, 3:00 pm
People's Church, 1758 N. 10th

Book Discussion

March 22, 10:30 am and 7:00 pm
Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane

Book Discussion

March 22, 7:00 pm
Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane