# ONE BOOK ONE SIOUXLAND

"To foster a sense of community through the shared experience of one great book."

## Welcome

As the new Reader Services Specialist for the Sioux City Public Library, I am excited to announce *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand as our 2015 title for One Book One Siouxland. Over the last decade, the One Book One Siouxland initiative has brought our community together to enjoy great books and quality programming. This year will be no exception!

The extraordinary life of Louis Zamperini makes for a gripping read, and his training at the Sioux City Army Air Base during World War II brings the story home for Siouxlanders.

In planning this year's activities, I've been very fortunate to work with amazing people from all over our community. Together, we've built fun and educational events to expand the reading experience, including a variety of book discussions, a WWII-era film series, guest speakers, and

a musical finale!

So grab a copy of the book, check out the calendar of events, and join us in exploring *Unbroken*.



Best Wishes,

### Cate Shury

#### Cate Sering Reader Services Specialist Sioux City Public Library



## Unbroken

#### By Laura Hillenbrand

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared—Lt. Louis Zamperini. Captured by the Japanese and driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor.



2015



All programs are free and open to the public unless noted otherwise.

#### Thursday, January 22 • 5 pm

#### Kickoff Event: Night at the Aviation Museum

Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres during a presentation about the history of Sioux City's airfields; 2600 Expedition Court, Sioux City, IA

#### Saturday, January 24 • 2 pm

"Nebraska Spirit: The North Platte Canteen" Presentation by Charlotte Endorf about the legendary railroad depot that touched the lives of more than six million WWII soldiers; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City, NE

#### Monday, February 2

**Book Discussion:** Open Book Club; Sioux City Public Library, **10 am** • Perry Creek Branch, 2912 Hamilton Blvd., **5 pm** • Morningside Branch, 4005 Morningside Ave.

#### Thursday, February 5 • 10 am

**Book Discussion;** Siouxland Center for Active Generations (members only), 313 Cook St., Sioux City, IA

#### Saturday, February 7 • 2 pm

#### "Iowa's Own Monuments Man: George Stout"

A presentation by Winterset Public Library Director Nancy Trask on a serviceman who protected Europe's art during WWII; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

#### Thursday, February 12 • 7 pm

Film Series Kickoff: WWII movies with an Iowa connection, *The Fighting Sullivans*; Morningside College, Lincoln Center, UPS Auditorium, 3627 Peters Ave., Sioux City, IA

#### Tuesday, February 17 • 5:30 pm

Film Series: Monuments Men; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St. (Continued on back)



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#### Thursday, February 19 • Noon

History at High Noon: Photographic Presentation on Sioux City's Wartime Efforts; Sioux City Public Museum, 607 4th St.

#### Monday, February 23 • 3 pm

**Read-alike Book Discussion:** *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown; Cover to Cover Book Club, South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., S. Sioux City, NE

#### Tuesday, February 24 • 2 pm

Book Discussion; The Pointe at Sunrise, 36 Eastview Dr., Sioux City, IA

#### Saturday, February 28 • 10 am

Book Discussion; Sioux City Public Museum, 607 4th St.

#### Saturday, March 1 • 2 pm

Film Series: Tuskegee Airmen; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

#### Thursday, March 5 • 6 pm

**Book Discussion;** North Sioux City Community Library, 601 River Drive, North Sioux City, SD

#### Monday, March 9 • 3 pm

**Book Discussion;** Regency Square Care Center, 3501 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City, NE

#### Monday, March 16 • 11:45 am

**Book Discussion:** Lifelong Learning Book Club; Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC), Wells Fargo Room, L110; Fee \$8 (includes lunch)

#### Tuesday, March 17 • 6:30 pm

Film Series: They Were Expendable; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City, NE

#### Wednesday, March 18 • 7 pm

Book Discussion; Panera Bread, 1908 Hamilton Blvd., Sioux City, IA

#### Thursday, March 19 • 7 pm

Film Series: One Foot in Heaven; Grace United Methodist Church, 1735 Morningside Ave., Sioux City, IA

#### Saturday, March 21 • 2 pm

**"Camp Algona"** Presentation by Jerry Yocum on the historical WWII POW camp in Algona, Iowa; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

#### Monday, March 23 • 1:30 pm

**Book Discussion;** Whispering Creek Active Retirement Community, 2609 Nicklaus Blvd., Sioux City, IA

#### Tuesday, March 24 • 1 pm

Book Discussion; Emeritus at North Park, 2562 Pierce St., Sioux City, IA

#### Thursday, March 26 • 10:30 am

Coffee & Conversation: Russ Gifford on the 1936 Olympics; WITCC, Entrance 11, Room L416/L417

#### Tuesday, March 31 • 1:30 pm

**Film Series: On the Town;** Lifelong Learning, WITCC, Cargill Auditorium; Entrance 14

#### Saturday, April 4 • 10 am

**Read-alike Book Discussion:** In Harms Way by Doug Stanton; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

#### Sunday, April 12 • 2 pm

**Finale Concert: WWII-Era Music**, performed by Play it Forward, followed by coffee and cookies; Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Road, Sioux City, IA

## **Riveting Read-alikes**

#### **POW STORIES**

Conduct Under Fire by John Glusman Flyboys by James Bradley

#### POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

My Private War: Liberated Body, Captive Mind, a World War II POW's Journey by Norman Bussel

#### **RESILIENCE/SURVIVAL**

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls Life of Pi by Yann Martel

#### WWII FICTION

The Caine Mutiny by Herman Wouk The Bridge Over the River Kwai by Pierre Boulle

#### **1936 OLYMPICS**

Nazi Games: The Olympics of 1936 by David Clay Large The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel Brown

#### SEA DISASTERS

In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of its Survivors by Doug Stanton

66 Days Adrift: A True Story of Disaster and Survival on the Open Sea by William Butler

#### YOUNG ADULT

Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive by Laura Hillenbrand

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

More read-alikes are listed on our website!

## **Discussion Starters**

1. Readers have described Unbroken as gripping, almost impossible to put down. Was that your experience? How do you account for the page-turning quality given the grim subject material?

2. Was the movie a good representation of the book? What differences did you notice between the book and film?

3. Louie completed the last leg of his training at the Sioux City airfields in 1942. Were you surprised by the statistics and safety shortfalls of the B-17 and B-24 planes?

4. How do the POW captives help one another survive? What devices do they use not only to survive but to maintain sanity?

5. What accounts for mankind's capacity for cruelty–especially in times of war?

6. Hillenbrand devotes time to the difficulty of veterans reentering life after the war. She says, "There was no one right way to peace; each man had to find his own path." How does Louie's conversion under Billy Graham help him? What role did his wife, Cynthia, play?

7. Louie eventually went back to Japan and confronted his tormentor. Would you have been able to forgive the way Louie did? Why was this forgiveness so important to Louie?

8. Did this story affect your views on war, and more specifically, on the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? In what ways?

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