ONE BOOK ONE SIOUXLAND



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

Join Us

As the Reader Services Specialist for the Sioux City Public Library, I am excited to announce our 2016 title, *One Summer: America*, *1927* by Iowa native, Bill Bryson.

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 razzle-dazzle of 1927 was not just on a national scale. Sioux City experienced a great deal of the grandiose excitement with visits from national heroes Charles Lindbergh, Babe Ruth, and Lou Gehrig, and the construction of our opulent Orpheum Theatre during the movie palace boom. This year's programming spotlights local connections to bring the exhilarating summer of 1927 home for Siouxlanders.

In planning this year's activities, I've been very fortunate to work with amazing people from our community. Together, we've built engaging, educational events to expand the reading experience. I'm

confident you will agree. So grab a copy of the book and join us in exploring *One Summer: America*, 1927.



Best Wishes,

Kelsey Patterson

Kelsey Patterson Reader Services Specialist Sioux City Public Library



One Summer: America, 1927

By Bill Bryson

The summer of 1927 began with Charles Lindbergh crossing the Atlantic. Meanwhile, Babe Ruth was closing in on the home run record. In Chicago, the gangster Al Capone was tightening his grip on bootlegging. The first true "talking picture," Al Jolson's The Jazz Singer, was filmed, forever changing the motion picture industry.



All this and much, much more transpired in the year Americans attempted and accomplished outsized things—and when the twentieth century truly became the

American century. **One Summer** transforms it all into narrative nonfiction of the highest order.



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

Monday, February 1

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 18 • 5-8 pm

A Roaring Reception at the Sioux City Orpheum; Drop in for hors de'oeuvres and peruse historical artifacts as we celebrate the launch of the 2016 season with 45-minute, all-access tours of the Orpheum Theatre—a slice of Sioux City decadence originally built in 1927; Orpheum Theatre, 528 Pierce St.

Thursday, March 3 • 10 am

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

Monday, March 7 • 11:45 am

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

Thursday, March 10 • 6:30 pm

Crime and Law Enforcement in Prohibition-Era Sioux City; Matt Anderson's presentation includes historic photographs depicting prohibition violations, notorious Sioux City locations, local law enforcement efforts, and notable individuals on both sides of the prohibition debate; Sioux City Public Museum, 607 Fourth St.

Monday, March 14 • 3 pm

Book Discussion: Cover to Cover Book Club; South Sioux City Public Library, 2121 Dakota Ave., S. Sioux City, NE



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

- Tuesday, March 15 1 pm Book Discussion; Brookdale Senior Living, 2562 Pierce St., Sioux City, IA
- Tuesday, March 15 6 pm Book Discussion: Booked on Crime; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

Tuesday March 22 • 5 pm A History of Aviation in Siouxland; Mid America Museum of Aviation and Transportation, 2600 Expedition Court, Sioux City, IA

Thursday, March 24 • 10:30 am Coffee and Conversation: Remembering 1927–Flying High in the Roaring 20s; WITCC, Entrance 11, Room L416/L417

Tuesday, March 29 • 2 pm

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

Tuesday, April 5 • 5 pm

Book Discussion; Minerva's Restaurant, 2945 Hamilton Blvd., Sioux City, IA

Thursday, April 7 • 10:30 am

Coffee and Conversation: The Golden Age of Radio with Larry Fuller; WITCC, Entrance 11, Room L416/L417 Sioux City, IA

Saturday, April 9 • 2 pm

Memoir Writing Workshop Series: Session One; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

Tuesday, April 12 • 1:30 pm

Film Screening: Show Boat (1951); WITCC, Entrance 14, Cargill Auditorium

Saturday, April 16 • 2 pm

Memoir Writing Workshop Series: Session Two; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

Sunday, April 17 • 2 pm

Toe-Tapping Tunes of the 1920s: Performed by Play It Forward; Betty Strong Encounter Center, 900 Larsen Park Road, Sioux City, IA

Thursday, April 21 • 12:05 pm

History at High Noon: Sports, Recreation and Entertainment in Prohibition-Era Sioux City; Sioux City Public Museum, 607 Fourth St.

Saturday, April 23 • 2 pm

Memoir Writing Workshop Series: Session Three; Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

Monday, April 25 • 12 pm

One Term Wonders: Calvin Coolidge, the Silent Man in the Roaring 20s; presented by Russ Gifford, WITCC, Entrance 11, Room L416/L417

Wednesday, May 4 • 6:30 pm

The Life and Books of Bill Bryson; presented by Leslie Erickson, Sioux City Public Library, Wilbur Aalfs (Main) Library, 529 Pierce St.

Riveting Read-alikes

BILL BRYSON BOOKS

The Life and Times of the Thunderbold Kid

A Walk in the Woods

l'm a Stranger Here Myself

TRUE TALES OF THE 1920s Atlantic Fever: Lindbergh, His Competitors, and the Race to Cross the Atlantic by Joe Jackson

Flappers: Six Women of a Dangerous Generation by Judith Mackrell

FAMOUS NOVELS OF THE ERA

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Arrowsmith by Sinclair Lewis

MODERN STORIES SET IN THE JAZZ AGE The Other Typist by Suzanne Rindell

The Jazz Bird by Craig Holden

MONUMENTAL MOMENTS IN HISTORY The Wright Brothers by David McCullough

The Last of the President's Men by Bob Woodward

LAUGH-OUT-LOUD READS

Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void by Mary Roach

Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls by David Sedaris

More read-alikes are listed on our website!

Discussion Starters

- 1. Of all of the stories that Bryson tells in One Summer: America, 1927, fit your personal favorite story to some of these descriptors: most interesting, engaging, surprising, disgusting, deplorable, disappointing, poignant, admirable, sympathetic.
- 2. Is there an incident or personality you want to explore more extensively?
- 3. One of Bryson's trademarks is humor. What parts, in particular, did you find funny? Amusing?
- 4. Is there anything about the episodes in this book that mark them as distinctly American? Is there something that links them together in a way that defines American culture?
- 5. The book has been criticized for being "light"–lacking any deeper analysis—that it's merely a collection of disparate historical anecdotes whose purpose is to amuse. Why do you agree—or disagree—with this critique?
- 6. Talk about the key events during this time that made a difference in establishing America as a world leader.
- 7. The summer begins with Charles Lindbergh's historic transatlantic flight. When he landed in France, he instantly became the most famous person on the planet. Much of the book focuses on the "protagonist." Discuss your reaction to Lindbergh.
- 8. Pick a pivotal year in your life or a "modern" year that interests you. What would the events in your "one summer" be?

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