



# One Book One Nebraska 2014 Toolkit

## *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* Bob Greene

### Get started

- Visit the official website, <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2014>, to learn more about the book and the author. You will also find resources (on the Get Involved page) to enhance your book discussion or related programming.
- Join the One Book One Nebraska community on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OneBookOneNebraska>.
- Reserve a book club kit through the [Nebraska Library Commission](#) or any of Nebraska's [Regional Library Systems](#)

### Plan your programming

- Visit <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2014/get-involved.aspx> to access discussion questions, articles, photographs, videos, and audio clips
- Host a scholar listed on the Speakers Bureau of Humanities Nebraska (<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speakers/book-a-speaker/>). Example programs (<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/subjects/wwii-our-nation/>):
  - "Nebraska Spirit: The North Platte Canteen" by Charlotte M. Endorf
  - "Sharpie: Queen of the Air" by Diane Bartel
  - "Nebraskans Remember World War II" by Doug Rung
  - "Produce for Victory: Nebraskans in World War II" by Martha Ellen Webb
  - "Four Blue Stars in the Window: A Story of WWII" by Barbara Eymann Mohrman
  - Other programs about World War II in general

Apply for a grant from Humanities Nebraska to finance your event. Public programs sponsored by not-for-profit organizations may be eligible for funding assistance from Humanities Nebraska. Contact Mary Yager at 402-474-2131 or mary (at) humanitiesnebraska.org with questions.

- Customize and send out a [press release](#) to promote your program
- Submit your event to Kathryn Brockmeier, [kathryn.brockmeier \(at\) nebraska.gov](mailto:kathryn.brockmeier@nebraska.gov), to be listed on the One Book and Nebraska Center for the Book events calendars, and various Facebook pages

## Follow-up

- Program leaders: Please complete a short evaluation of your program (<http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2014/docs/leaderevaluation.pdf>) and direct members of your group to complete a participant evaluation (<http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2014/docs/participantevaluation.pdf>). Your valuable feedback helps to improve the One Book One Nebraska program
- If your event is highlighted by the local media, let Kathryn Brockmeier, [kathryn.brockmeier \(at\) nebraska.gov](mailto:kathryn.brockmeier@nebraska.gov), know and share the coverage

## About One Book One Nebraska

The notion of one book/one city (state, county, church, etc.) was the brainchild of the now famous Seattle librarian Nancy Pearl. The idea of city-wide reading programs started in Seattle in 1998 with the program “If All Seattle Read the Same Book” initiated by the Washington Center for the Book, located at the Seattle Public Library. The Library of Congress’ Center for the Book reports that “One Book” programs have been introduced across the USA and around the world. The Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Library Association, and Humanities Nebraska (formerly Nebraska Humanities Council) spearheaded the One Book One Nebraska initiative, and it was inaugurated in 2005.

Contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission liaison to the Nebraska Center for the Book, with any general questions you may have regarding the One Book One Nebraska project. Telephone: 402-471-3434 or toll-free (Nebraska only) 800-307-2665. Email: [maryjo.ryan \(at\) nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov).

Contact Kathryn Brockmeier, Webmaster, to submit your event for posting on the calendar of events or with any questions or comments you may have regarding the One Book One Nebraska website. Telephone: 402-471-4002 or toll-free (Nebraska only) 800-307-2665. Email: [kathryn.brockmeier \(at\) nebraska.gov](mailto:kathryn.brockmeier@nebraska.gov).

Near Christmas of 1941, the people of North Platte, Nebraska, heard that their local soldiers were coming through town on a troop train. Deciding to give the boys a homecoming party, they brought food and drink to the Union Pacific depot. Throughout the war and for half a year after the war, the townspeople of North Platte and the surrounding communities met every troop train that passed through. Despite being hindered by wartime rationing, they brought cakes, pies, fried chicken, sandwiches, milk, and coffee; they offered smiles, and warm welcomes to each trainload of troops. Author Bob Greene went to North Platte to research the canteen registers and other old documents for his book. [SUBSCRIBE TODAY!](#) Subscribe to Questia and enjoy *Once Upon a Town* book. Read 422 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. In search of the best America there ever was, bestselling author... The tiny town, wanting to offer the servicemen warmth and support, transformed its modest railroad depot into the North Platte Canteen. Every day of the year, every day of the war, the Canteen "staffed and funded entirely by local volunteers" was open from five a.m. until the last troop train of the day pulled away after midnight. Astonishingly, this remote plains community of only 12,000 people provided welcoming words, friendship, and baskets of food and treats to more than six million GIs by the time the war ended.