



TALK

Talk About Literature In Kansas
Book Discussions

Spring 2010 Book Discussion Series:

Women Around the World

Tues., February 16—SO LONG A LETTER, by Mariama Ba (Senegal)

In a lively letter to a childhood friend, the recently widowed Ramatoulaye reminisces about her husband's devastating decision to take a second wife and about how she rebuilt her life and her emotional serenity. 89 pp.

Discussion leader **Kim Stanley** chairs the Department of Modern Languages at McPherson College. She received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas at Austin and her M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. Johns College at Santa Fe. She has won the Dean's Teaching Award at the University of Texas, the Professor of the Year Award (twice) at McPherson, and the Public Scholar Award from KHC. Kim has served KHC in the TALK program since 1992, *Stories at Work*, *Prime Time Family Reading Time*, and *Read to Me* (at Hutchinson Correctional Institute), and is currently a member of the Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) board of directors.



Tues., March 16—NONE TO ACCOMPANY ME, by Nadine Gordimer (South Africa)

The evolving relationships of two couples, one black, one white, illustrate the hazards and hopes of life in post-apartheid South Africa, especially for Vera Stark, a mature, self-possessed woman on the brink of change. 324 pp.



Alan S. Lubert received his B.A. in philosophy from McGill University in Montreal, and his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Rochester. He currently teaches philosophy at Baker University and also works at the Kansas City Ronald McDonald House. Alan's research interests include ethics, literature and philosophy, peace studies and medical ethics.

Alan is active in several community programs, *Changing Lives Through Literature*, a book discussion program at the Juvenile Detention Center in Olathe; *The Learning Club*, an inner-city children's program in Kansas City, KS; two homeless shelters; and reading circles at the Kansas City Public Library. He has been a discussion leader for the KHC TALK program since 1995.

Thurs., April 1—THE COUNTRY GIRLS TRILOGY, by Edna O'Brien (Ireland)

Kate and Baba are ambitious Irish country girls in search of life: romantic Kate seeks love while pragmatic Baba will take whatever she can get. Together they set out to conquer Dublin—and the world. 532 pp.

Discussion leader **Linda M. Lewis** is the Margaret H. Mountcastle Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Bethany College, Lindsborg. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in English from the University of Nebraska.

Linda has published a number of essays and three books on British poetry and fiction. She has served as a project director and scholar for several grant projects supported by the Kansas Humanities Council. Linda is also a former member of the KHC Speakers Bureau and has been a TALK discussion leader since 1989.



Thurs., April 29—LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE, by Laura Esquivel (Mexico)

Obedient daughter Tita rebels when tradition and a tyrannical mother conspire to keep her from true love in this enchanting story of romance, recipes, and magic. 246 pp. large print



Martha Ortiz Sanchez is community educator for the City of Wichita and adjunct for both Friends University and Wichita State University, where she has taught Mexican American History and Spanish. She earned her master's degree from WSU, where she studied health care services for Hispanic women.

In addition to her scholarly training, Martha attended the Perkins School of Theology and was ordained as a minister by the United Methodist Church in May 1997. She is a member of the women's national organization MANA, Mexican American National Alliance. She has served as a discussion leader for the KHC TALK program since 1996.

Groups will meet on the above dates at 6:30 p.m. in conference room 2 at the Hutchinson Public Library. 25 copies of Mariama Ba's *SO LONG A LETTER* will be available for check out from the Adult Circulation Desk beginning in February. *NONE TO ACCOMPANY ME* may be checked out starting February 16, *THE COUNTRY GIRLS TRILOGY* beginning March 16 and *LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE* starting on April 1. Those interested in joining one, two, three or all four groups should contact Annette at the Library, 620-663-5441, ext 132 or e-mail amsmith@hutchpl.org.

TALK Book Discussions are co-sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, a non-profit cultural organization with 35 years of experience promoting understanding of the history and ideas that shape our lives and strengthen our sense of community. Their Resource Center furnishes the books and discussion leaders for this series. All programs are free and open to the public.