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Thorson Memorial Library of Elbow Lake to host “The Vietnam War” film screening as part of ALA grant award

—Thorson Memorial Library of Elbow Lake has been selected by the American Library Association (ALA) and WETA Washington, DC, to receive a programming kit for “The Vietnam War,” a 10-part documentary film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick that will air on PBS stations beginning Sept. 17.

As part of the award the library will host a public viewing of a portion of the documentary followed by a discussion co-facilitated by Grant County Veterans Services Officer, Joe Hjelmstad on Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. On Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7:00 Dean Hjelle will present a slide show from his experience in Saigon from 1970-71. Thorson Memorial Library will also host an art exhibit featuring art focused on the Vietnam War from mid-October through mid-November with a reception on Nov. 14 from 4:00 to 7:00 There will be a book discussion on “Matterhorn: a Novel on the Vietnam War,” by Karl Marlantes.

In “The Vietnam War,” filmmakers Burns and Novick tell the epic story of the conflict as it has never before been told on film. The film features testimony from nearly 80 witnesses, including many Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as Vietnamese combatants and civilians from both the winning and losing sides.

Thorson Memorial Library was one of 50 U.S. public libraries selected to receive the kit through a peer-reviewed competitive application process. More than 350 libraries applied, according to ALA. Thorson Memorial Library will receive a copy of the 18-hour documentary series on DVD, with public performance rights; the companion book, “The Vietnam War: An Intimate History” by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns (Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Penguin Random House, 2017); a programming guide, promotional resources, partnership opportunities and more.

The kit is designed to help libraries participate in a national conversation about one of the most consequential, divisive and controversial events in American history.

The project is offered by the ALA Public Programs Office in partnership with WETA Washington, DC.

Thorson Memorial Library a Library for Everyone

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Gail Hedstrom at 218-685-6850 or email at library@runestone.net.