

Local Author brings “Dust Covered Dreams” to the Library

By Jill Owens

Columbus High School graduate and author Barbara Eymann Mohrman will be presenting a program, *Dust Covered Dreams*, at Columbus Public Library on Sunday, April 14th at 2:00. This program tells her family's story during the dust bowl in Nebraska. She focuses on the dreams of three family members and how those dreams, and the town of Oakdale were changed by the dust bowl, and later, by World War II.

While many of us today are concerned about comfort and convenience, families in that time were concerned with survival on a very basic level.

NET will air a segment, also called *Dust Covered Dreams*, about Ms. Mohrman's family on their program “Nebraska Stories” on Friday, April 12 at 9:00. This segment tells part of the story. The program coming to the library tells much more!

Barbara Mohrman has written a new book, “*The Dust Covered Days of Dorie Archer*,” which will be published in April. This book is targeted to young adult readers and is based on NET interviews of her family members. She will be bringing copies of this book with her to the program at the library.

She is also the author of “*Four Blue Stars in the Window*,” which chronicles “One family's story of the Great Depression, The Dust Bowl, and the Duty of a Generation.” Her immigrant grandparents saw four of their sons, including the author's father, off to World War II in an era when news was scarce and far between. The family waited and worried around a radio wondering if their sons had been in any of the battles they were hearing about (they were).

“*Four Blue Stars in the Window*” is the story of the family raised near Oakdale, Nebraska has something most people will identify with. Whether it is siblings playing by a river, doing farm chores, worrying about crops, the relationships that came and went because of the war ... something in this book will reach out to you. When reading about the brothers in the air over the Pacific, and on ships targeted by kamikaze, you will find yourself in the grip of a real ‘page-turner.’

Now a substitute teacher and Humanities Speaker, Ms. Mohrman retired after 33 years of teaching Spanish and English as a Second Language in North Platte Public Schools. She was taught by Nebraska Poet Laureate William Kloefkorn at Nebraska Wesleyan University and received a master's degree in Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The library is grateful to the Friends of Columbus Public Library and The Nebraska Humanities Council for bringing this program to Columbus. We also wish to thank the Columbus Woman's Club for their donation to help with Summer Reading Program expenses.