

## The Big Read 2009

The Arizona Center for the Book at the Arizona State Library partnered with the West Valley Arts Council to host a Big Read program at the Carnegie Center in October 2009. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.



Photo by Shayna Muckerheide

The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Big Read brings together partners across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

In the fall of 2009, 25 libraries and 46 schools and community organizations throughout the state hosted Big Read Programs to celebrate the classic *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. The Arizona Center for the Book at the Carnegie Center was one of these organizations. On October 22, it hosted professor and biographer Sam Weller, who discussed his interest in Bradbury and how he came to write his biography, *The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury*. Fifteen state employees and members of the general public attended this program.