This April, the Trinity River Campus Library will celebrate National Library Week by hosting a Human Library Day event.

What is the Human Library?

The Human Library is a creative approach to addressing prejudice and promoting understanding. The idea is simple: in a positive, social environment, Human Books and library visitors engage in dialogue about stereotypes and labeling. The event provides folks with the opportunity to openly and honestly interact with people from varied cultures, experiences and backgrounds.

Where did the idea come from?

In the early 1990s, there was a youth organization in Copenhagen, Denmark, called “Stop the Violence” that was dedicated to educating and mobilizing young people against violence that results from prejudice. Because they had a mutual friend who was a victim of this type of violence, the original five organizers of “Stop the Violence” had both a personal connection to the problem and a message to share. Soon they had grown to more than 30,000 members across the country.

In the summer of 2000, the group was invited to organize some of the activities.

Share the life experiences of these authors:

1. *Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore
2. *A Child Called It* by David Pelzer
3. *Breaking Night* by Liz Murray
4. *Oddly Normal* by John Schwartz

Register for an Information Literacy Class this semester. Visit the Trinity River Campus Library website or call 817-515-1220 for more information.

Mar 1, 1-4 p.m.
Apr 11, 1-4 p.m.
Apr 12, 9 a.m.-Noon
for a large, Northern European festival and the concept of the Human Library was born. Participants and visitors to the festival were able to build relationships and open up about their experiences through non-violent discussion sessions.

**How does it work?**

Volunteers, or Human Books, are regular people whom you might encounter or pass by on any given day. The key is that they are open to sharing their life experiences with others, prepared to answer questions and willing to make themselves available to converse about the topic represented. Visitors to the event, or Readers, browse the collection of Human Books and choose one to “check out” for a period of 15-20 minutes. During the check-out time, readers may ask any questions they like of the Human Book or just listen to the story that the Human Book has to share. However, at no time will the reader be permitted to challenge or threaten the Human Book in any way.

**How can I get involved?**

Our Human Library Day will be Tuesday, April 15, 2014, in the Riverfront Café from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To make this event a success, we are looking for volunteers to be part of our Human Book collection. If you, or someone you know, has a life experience to share or been the victim of some type of prejudice because of skin color, religion, sexual orientation, homelessness, political affiliations, physical abilities, marital status, domestic violence situation or any other reason that has made you feel “different,” you are invited and encouraged to be a part of this event. Interested volunteers may apply online at the following website: http://libguides.tccd.edu/humanlibrary. Or, contact the Trinity River Campus Library at Ext. 51220 for details and a printed application. Human Books selected for the collection will be notified one week prior to the event. Please note that all Human Books should be present for the entire two-hour program.

If you are unable to participate as a Human Book, we invite you to attend the Human Library Day as a reader. Here, you may find that you gain insight and knowledge that couldn’t be obtained anywhere else or under any other circumstances.

For more information on the Human Library Project, visit humanlibrary.org.

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**Sheryl Sandberg**

As COO of Facebook and the first female to serve on the company’s board of directors, Sheryl Sandberg is a woman at the top of a traditionally male-dominated world. Prior to her career with Facebook, Sandberg matriculated through powerful positions with the U.S. Treasury, The World Bank, and from 2001-2008, with Google as their vice president of global online sales and operations. Her book, “Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead,” is about the unfortunate lack of women in leadership roles in business and economics. Reflecting on her own decisions and mistakes, Sandberg contends that women unintentionally hold themselves back in their careers. “Lean In” spent 16 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List and can be checked out from the Trinity River Campus Library.

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