Celebrate 75 Years of Little Golden Books

Peoria Public Library will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Little Golden Books on Saturday, September 30, with two events. At 11:00 a.m. families are invited to meet The Poky Little Puppy at the Picnic with The Poky Little Puppy at Main Library at 11:00 a.m. Then at 2:00 p.m. The Poky Little Puppy will join Leonard S. Marcus, author of Golden Legacy: The Story of Golden Books, and Diane Muldrow, an editorial director at Golden Books and author of Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Little Golden Book in the Auditorium.

Those attending are encouraged to bring well-loved and most read Little Golden Books or photos of family enjoying Little Golden Books to share at the afternoon program. Those sharing their Little Golden Books and photos will earn a chance to enter a prize drawing to win a set of Golden Books or books by the authors.

Leonard S. Marcus is one of the world's most respected historians of children's books and the people who create them. A frequent contributor to the New York Times Book Review and the Horn Book Magazine, Marcus has been featured on NPR’s All Things Considered, ABC's Good Morning America, and BBC Radio 4. Diane Muldrow, an editorial director at Golden Books with an outstanding knowledge of the Golden Books oeuvre and a prolific children's book author, edited Golden Legacy: The Story of Golden Books. She is the author of the New York Times bestseller Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Little Golden Book and several companion editions, including the 2017 release Everything I Need to Know About Family I Learned From a Little Golden Book. Attendees will also see the exhibit by collector Rick Everetts on LL2 of the Main Library in the Wheeler Case.

Both authors will have books for sale and signing. The programs and exhibits are free and open to the public.

Little Golden Books Collector Shares Wisdom and Collection for 75th Anniversary

Little Golden Books collector Rick Everetts will share pieces of his extensive collection this September at Main Library on Lower Level Two in the Wheeler Case and at North Branch. Here he shares insights into his fascination with Little Golden Books.


Q. Describe that book in one sentence.
A. After reading this book, it is no wonder The Poky Little Puppy is the top-selling children’s book of all time with the book being simple to read and providing various life lessons.

Q. What was the first item related to Little Golden Books you purchased for your collection that was not an actual book?
A. Eloise Wilkin Posters.

Q. What is the physically largest item in your collection?
A. Little Golden Book sign.

Q. Name three Little Golden Book favorites you'd want with you on a desert island?
A. The Poky Little Puppy cup, blanket, and watch.

Q. Why did you start collecting Little Golden Books?
A. I like the illustrations by Eloise Wilkin.

Q. If you were to write a Little Golden book, what would it be about?
A. My Little Golden Book would be what happens during the day at school.

Q. What life rule have you learned from Little Golden Books?
A. Always help others.

Q. What Little Golden Book item do you wish you owned? A. Little Golden Book Nurse Nancy, number 346, written in 1952

Q. Words to live by?
A. Help others so they will not feel alone.
The Cabbage Patch Comes to Main Library Gallery
by Amber Lowery

Every year, around this time, the buzz starts... though it is far too early for most, the rumbles start making the rounds for THE TOY OF THE YEAR... You know, THAT one. The one that EVERY kid will want this holiday season. The latest gaming system, the holiday Barbie, Beanie Babies...or the one that started it all, the Cabbage Patch Kid. If you were a child of the 1980’s, you probably had one. If you were a parent in 1982-1983 holiday seasons, you were dreading the waiting in line, the crowds, and the worst case scenario, having to do it all over again, because you were number 81 and they only had 80.

The Cabbage Patch Kids were all the craze for not just holidays, but birthdays and special occasions too. Although this year they celebrate their 35th anniversary, Cabbage Patch Kids have been around for almost 40 years. They first came into being in 1978 as soft-sculpture dolls (no plastic parts). By 1982, their creator, Xavier Roberts had made a deal with Coleco, a thriving toy company, to recreate the adorable dolls and mass produce them. However, even the frantically working factories could not keep up the supply with the demand.

In September, the Main Library Gallery will host pieces of a private collection as a tribute to the dolls that despite manufacturing changes, lawsuits, and time have continued to capture hearts with their chubby cheeks, bright eyes, and one-of-a-kind grins. Come by the Main Library and take a stroll through the Cabbage Patch in the Gallery, open during regular library hours.

Board Book Collection Updated

As Peoria Public Library promotes early literacy with The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, they are helping the littlest readers to find exciting things to read by replenishing and upgrading the board books at all locations.

Board books, bright and colorful and easy for small fingers to handle, are more difficult to damage than regular books, allowing babies and children the opportunity to turn the pages themselves and explore the joy of reading a book. Parents, grandparents and caretakers will find an exciting new variety of board books on the shelves and can read them aloud to little ones as well as let them explore them on their own. Each time you read a book to your little one, it counts for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, whether you read the same book ten times or twenty.

To sign up for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, visit any Peoria Public Library Information Desk and use the log in the provided packet or download the app to your phone or tablet. Then start checking out the new board books for hours of reading!
Caroline: Little House, Revisited written by Sarah Miller is a novel of historical fiction, about the life of Caroline Ingalls, or “Ma” as we all remember her in Laura Ingalls Wilders’ Little House books. The story begins in the February 1870 when the Ingalls family leaves the Big Woods of Wisconsin for a new life in Kansas, which is also Indian Territory. Taking only what they can carry in the wagon, Caroline, her husband Charles and their daughters Mary and Laura head west leaving behind their extended family. Pioneer life is difficult for Caroline, especially having a baby soon after they arrived in the new land with no doctor, mother or sisters to help. She makes the log house that Charles builds into a home for their family and draws on strengths that she did not know she had, to make a life for them all in their Little House in the unpredictable but beautiful west.

A Secret History of Witches by Louisa Morgan is a historical tale that follows five generations of powerful mothers and daughters whose magical inheritance is the extraordinary gift of being a witch. Each woman’s story is told in “books”, starting with the Grandmere Ursule, then those of Nanette, Ursule (the granddaughter), Irene and Morwen. Each of the witches has her own struggles with accepting the gifts she has inherited and with fitting in with the rest of the world. This book captures the love and traditions that are passed down from mother to daughter, which is the greatest magic of all.

The Salt Line by Holly Goddard Jones is a futuristic story of the United States borders that have receded to an area of scorched earth behind a salt line which protects those living there from ticks carrying a deadly disease. If you stay in the zone, you can live a safe but limited life in a society restricted to an area dominated by a common fear. Then there are the adrenaline junkies who pay a lot of money to go on tours of what is left of nature on the other side of the salt line. This novel tells the story of three members of the latest expedition, Edie, Wes and Marta, who once out of the zone find themselves at the mercy of the ticks and a band of outer-zone survivors who have formed a society called the Ruby City that are bound to protect their hard earned way of life. How far are Edie, Wes and Marta willing to go to get to the right side of the salt line?

The Child Finder by Rene Denfeld is a suspenseful novel about an investigator who must use her extraordinary insights to find a missing little girl. Madison Culver disappeared three years ago when her family went hunting for a Christmas tree in Oregon’s Skookum National Forest. Her family hires Naomi, a private investigator, known to police as “the Child Finder” because of her mysterious talent for locating those lost and missing. As she searches for Madison in the Pacific Northwest forest, she understands what it is like to be lost because she was once a lost girl, too. As she finds out the truth behind Madison’s disappearance, she may also uncover the secrets of her own life.
September
ALL LOCATIONS

1000 Books Before Kindergarten
The Peoria Public Library is proud to introduce 1000 Books Before Kindergarten as an ongoing program at all locations to foster a love of reading in children before they start kindergarten. This free program encourages and rewards your children for the books that are read to them. Stop by any Peoria Public Library location to sign up for the program and pick up a reading log, or track your progress using the app in iTunes and the Google Play Store. Complete directions on the program will be given to you at the time you sign up. After each 100 books read, bring in completed logs or show us your progress on the app when you visit and we’ll give your child their reading reward. Once your child reads 1000 books before entering kindergarten, they’ll be invited to a special graduation party!

September
ALL LOCATIONS

Library Card Sign-Up Month
September is Library Card Sign-Up Month! Come in and sign up for a new card or renew your expired card and you can enter to win an iPad! Do you have fines you need to take care of? We will clear $5 off your record and renew your card. Library materials must have been returned. If an item is lost or damaged, costs and fees will still apply, however you may have $5 credit toward the overdue fine portion of your bill. When you sign up for your new card, make sure you look for the Library Card Sign-Up Month Selfie Station, take your picture, and post it on Instagram or Facebook with the hashtags #librarycardsignupmonth and #peoriapubliclibrary. Also, look for book displays in all locations.

September
MAIN LIBRARY AND NORTH BRANCH

75 Years of Little Golden Books
Rick Everetts will share his extensive collection of Little Golden Books and memorabilia. Rick, who owns every Little Golden Book published from 1-600, is passionate about these books that brought the joy of reading to children and their families over the past 75 years.

September
MAIN LIBRARY

Crafts-to-Go – 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Kids ages 5 through 12 can pick up a craft packet at the 1st Floor Information Desk any time we’re open.

September
MAIN LIBRARY

It’s in the Jar Contest – 9:00 am-6:00 pm
Guess how many school supplies are in our jar, and you could win it all (except the jar) plus a backpack to put it in. Kindergarteners through 4th grade are invited to take a guess. Visit the 1st Floor Information Desk to make a guess and fill out the entry form.

September
LAKEVIEW BRANCH & MCCLURE BRANCH

Get Caught Reading Challenge
Are you ready for a new reading challenge? Pick up a challenge sheet that lists different people to read to and places to read. For each challenge item you complete, you will receive an entry into a prize drawing. Challenge sheets need to be returned to the Lakeview Branch or McClure Branch by October 31.

September
LAKEVIEW BRANCH

1 to 1 Tech Help
Have you ever wished you had your own personal technology guru to help you? Schedule a “1 to 1 Tech Help” session at the library! You pick a time slot that works with your schedule and provide some information about the computer or device you would like help with. At the meeting, a librarian will be ready to help and focus on you. Drop in or call the Lakeview Branch to schedule your session in advance.

September
LAKEVIEW

Butterflies in the Library
Come watch the life cycle of the Painted Lady Butterfly. A butterfly habitat will be on display at the Information Desk along with informational sheets and coloring pages. When the time comes, we will announce a butterfly release and send our friends on their way!

Friday, September 1
MCCLURE BRANCH

Drop In: What Is Labor Day? – 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Have you ever wondered just why we celebrate Labor Day? Stop in anytime to learn about the history of this holiday honoring America’s workers, and to make a thank you card for a laborer that makes a difference in your life.
Calendar Continued

September 1-October 15
LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Banned Book Bingo
In Celebration of Banned Books Week and Teen Read Week, you can pick up a Banned Book Bingo sheet anytime from our display and read banned books to complete a BINGO. Once completed, turn your sheet in to be entered to win a $10 gift card. For ages 13 and up.

September 5-29
BOOKMOBILE

Do You Know the Answers?
Visit the Bookmobile to pick up a “Do You Know the Answers?” worksheet. Answer all the questions to see if you know the basic facts about your library and how to get the most out of it. Return the completed sheet to the Bookmobile no later than September 29 and receive a prize! Grades K through 4.

September 5-27
MAIN LIBRARY

Gallery Exhibit: A Stroll through the Cabbage Patch
Cabbage Patch Kids are celebrating! From the private collection of Amber Lowery, Cabbage Patch *Kids of every era will be displayed Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26
LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Preschool Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, September 5
LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Bibliophiles Book Club – 1:30-2:30 pm
This month: Delights and Shadows by Ted Kooser

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26
MCCLURE BRANCH

Pirates of the Caribbean Movie Series – 3:00-5:30 p.m.
Prepare for Talk Like a Pirate Day (Sept 19) – or simply enjoy some swashbuckling action – with the Pirates of the Caribbean movie series! Popcorn and water provided, or feel free to bring your own snacks.
September 5: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG 13)
September 12: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest (PG 13)
September 19 (Pirate Day!): Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End (PG 13)
September 26: Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (PG 13)

Tuesday, September 5
LINCOLN BRANCH

Front & Center: Toothpick Sculptures – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Build geometric shapes with toothpicks, marshmallows and gumdrops. Design models of domes and more. Grades 7-8.

Monday & Tuesday, September 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26
LINCOLN BRANCH

Project Next Generation–5:00-7:00 pm
It’s All About the Kids! (5th through 12th grades) Participants work with project mentors who provide technological experiences and life skills vital for lifelong success. Students will research the Internet, keep track of their findings, and create a design from the 3D printers. Funding for this grant was awarded by the Illinois State Library, a Department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Sign-up is required. For more information, call 497-2600.

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27
LAKEVIEW BRANCH – 10:15-10:45 A.M.
Monday, Sept. 11, 18 & 25
NORTH BRANCH – 10:30-11:00 A.M.

Tiny Tots Storytime
Ages 12 to 23 months.

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27
NORTH BRANCH

Brainy Baby Storytime – 1:30-2:00 p.m.
Develop your baby’s pre-literacy skills with books, songs, rhymes and finger plays that will help them understand new concepts and enhance their love of learning. Age 0 to 23 months.

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27
MAIN LIBRARY

Walk-In E-reader Assistance–4:00-5:00 pm
Need some help learning how to download ebooks from the library? Free one-on-one help is available.

Thursday, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28
MCCLURE BRANCH

Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28
NORTH BRANCH

A-Z Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Join us for stories, songs, and crafts as we focus on learning the shapes of letters and the sounds they make! Ages 2 to 3.

Friday, September 8
LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Toddler Play Zone – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Toddlers can interact with other kids, play with educational toys, and read books with their parents. Ages 2 to 4.

Friday, Sept. 8
MCCLURE BRANCH

Friday, Sept. 22
LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Baby Playground – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Join us for a special playgroup designed to help you explore your world through creative play. Ages 9 months to 24 months.

Friday, Sept. 8, 15, 22 & 29
NORTH BRANCH

Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Children of all ages.

Saturday, Sept. 9, 16, 23 & 30
NORTH BRANCH

Busier Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 am
Children of all ages.

Saturday, September 9
MCCLURE BRANCH

Drop In: The Kindness Rocks Project – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Join The Kindness Rocks Project by stopping in to create your own inspirational rock to hide in the community! Learn about the project, then create your own rocks to hide! For children of all ages.

Saturday, September 9
NORTH BRANCH

Drop In: Math Challenge – 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Experience the joy of math by visiting the Beehive for a fun self-guided math challenge. Challenges will be geared toward students in grade three and up.

Saturday, September 9
LINCOLN BRANCH

Drop In: Crafts-to-Go – 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Make a Fall craft. Children of all ages.

Saturday, September 9
MAIN LIBRARY

Pinktastic Celebration Sensation! – 3:00-4:00 p.m.
We’ll read a book and have fun activities relating to each Pinkalicious story. This month: Emeraldalicious

Saturday, September 9
MCCLURE BRANCH

Grandparents’ Day Gift Making – 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Make some homemade gifts for Grandparents Day! We’ll be making personalized wall art and oven mitts.
Sunday, September 10 & 24
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sunday Crafternoon – 12:00-5:00 p.m.
The storytime room will be open for families to relax and read books, color, and work on projects.

Music in the McKenzie
Sunday, September 10
NORTH BRANCH
Music in the McKenzie Presents: The Sweet Potatoes – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
The Sweet Potatoes come out of Southern California to dish up their own unique blend of country, folk and homespun Americana. Featuring acoustic guitars, ukulele, accordion and harmonica, this trio will bring a smile to your face with their sweet harmonies and finely crafted songwriting. A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Monday, September 11
NORTH BRANCH
STEAM Adventures – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
If you enjoy Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, then this is your chance to dig a little deeper! This month we will be investigating geology. Ages 9 to 12.

Monday, September 11
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
SciFi & Fantasy Book Club–6:30-7:30pm
This month: The Family Trade by Charles Stross

Monday, September 11
NORTH BRANCH
Pajama Storytime – 7:00-7:45 p.m.
We’ll enjoy stories, songs, and a craft! Wear your pajamas ~ you’ll be ready for bed when you head home!

Tuesday, September 12, 19 & 26
LINCOLN BRANCH
Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, September 12
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: A Mystery in the Library – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Join us to piece together the mystery of the missing books from the library. Gather all your clues to figure out who the sneaky culprit is. Ages 10 to 12.

Wednesday, September 13
MCCLURE BRANCH
Bully Busters – 4:00-5:00 p.m.
The Girl Scouts of Central Illinois want you to join in on this combination of song, story, and fun activities to help you learn how the words you say can have a lasting impact on the people around you! Bring your friends or come make some new ones and learn what you can do to help solve the problem of bullying!

Thursday, September 14 & Tuesday, September 19
LINCOLN BRANCH
Puppet Show – 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Friday, September 15
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Art – 10:15-10:45 a.m.
Let your child explore the world of colors and shapes while learning fine motor skills along the way. Please dress for a mess. For ages 2-4 with a caregiver.

Saturday, September 16
MAIN LIBRARY
Autism Resource Group: Transition from School to Adulthood–10:00 am-1:00 pm
Join us for a Special Edition of the Autism Resource Group when we invite Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center to lead the Transition from School to Adulthood. This workshop covers information about setting a transition plan, transfer of parental rights, services from outside agencies, and transition IEPs. This workshop is free but Family Matters does require 20 people to register for the event. To register please call Elise Hearn at 309-497-2204.

Saturday, September 16 & 30
MAIN LIBRARY
Tabletop Gaming – 2:00-5:30 p.m.
Join us in the Monroe Room for Tabletop Role Playing Gaming. We will be exploring a variety of systems. Dice will be provided and beginners are welcome. For young adults to senior citizens.

Saturday, September 16
MCCLURE BRANCH
Guacamole Taste Testing–3:00-4:00 pm
It’s Guacamole Day and there’s no better way to celebrate than testing out different kinds of guacamole and choosing your favorite! When you’re done, take home some recipes for guacamole to try out on your own! While supplies last.

Saturday, September 16
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Afternoon Art History – 3:00-4:00 p.m.
To celebrate the start of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15), tweens are invited to learn about famous Hispanic artists such as Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and José Guadalupe Posada, as well as work on a project inspired by Mexican folk art.

Monday, September 18
NORTH BRANCH
STEAM Explorations – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Discover the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math topics that are all around us! This month we will explore rocks and earth science. Ages 5 to 8.

Monday, September 18
MCCLURE BRANCH
Rosh Hashanah Celebration – 4:00-4:30 p.m.
Enjoy a snack and create a craft as you learn about this holiday and ways it is celebrated in the Jewish Community.

Monday, September 18
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Security Awareness Workshop: Retirement Planning – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
When should I retire? What are my health insurance options? These questions and more will be answered during the presentation by Steve Buttice, Living By Your Design, Inc with help from Fadi Rustom of Hall, Rustom & Fritz, also a VA Accredited Attorney, and Beth Cooper, Living By Your Design, Inc. For more information, call Fran at 309-497-2200.
Tuesday, September 19
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Monarch Book Club – 4:00-4:45 p.m.
We’ll read books from the 2018 Monarch Award reading list. At our December meeting we’ll each vote for the book we want to win the Monarch Award. This month: Glow by W.H. Beck, Mother Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins, and Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy. Grades K-3.

Tuesday, September 19
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Magnetic Slime Experiment – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Do you love all things ooey and gooey? Learn how to make your very Magnetic Slime by joining us here at the library. Ages 10 to 12.

Wednesday, September 20
NORTH BRANCH
Genre Evolution Book Club–6:30-7:30 pm
This month, we’re discussing early works in the western genre. Please read any of the following: Any novel by Zane Grey, Hondo by Louis L’Amour, Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry, True Grit by Charles Portis, No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy

Thursday, September 21
NORTH BRANCH
Third Thursday Film Fest–2:00-4:00 pm
This month: Alfred Hitchcock’s Strangers On a Train (1951)

Friday, September 22
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: LEGO Builders Club – 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Drop in any time to play. Parental supervision is required.

Saturday, September 23
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Storytime – 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Books, activities, and music designed to engage the senses, with part of each session reserved for sensory play and socialization for children with autism or other special needs. Geared for ages 4 to 8, but children of all abilities, families, and siblings are encouraged to attend. Fidgets and ear muffs are available.

Saturday, September 23
NORTH BRANCH
Are You Art Smart?–11:00 am-3:00 pm
Join us for a fun introduction to the world’s great art. Using library resources, identify the masterpiece, then create your own great work of art inspired by the classic. Participants’ creations will be displayed at the library and one master artist will win a special prize.

Sunday, September 24
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Silver Screen Sunday – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
This month: The Philadelphia Story starring Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant

September 25-30
MCCLURE BRANCH
Banned Books Week
Shredded Books
What would happen if all banned books were shredded so that no one could ever read them again? Can you guess which book has been shredded in the jar? Take your guess and enter for a chance to win a gift card so you can buy your own copy of a banned book! While you’re here checkout a Banned Book from the display for another chance to win!

Monday, September 25
MCCLURE BRANCH
Monday Morning Movie – 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Enjoy movie time with these timeless classics! We’ll provide the popcorn! Sit back and be mesmerized with a different movie each month. This month: Field of Dreams

Monday, September 25
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Apple-cano Experiment – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Do this easy erupting apple-cano experiment with simple household items. Get ready for the explosion! Ages 5 to 7.

Tuesday, September 26
LINCOLN BRANCH
Read On Book Club – 5:30-7:00 p.m.
This month: I Almost Forgot About You by Terry McMillan

Tuesday, September 26
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Family Game and Puzzle Night – 6:00-7:45 p.m.
Unplug your family from all the screens and gadgets in your life, and spend some time together playing a game or putting together a puzzle. Choose from our large collection of board games and puzzles with a wide variety of age ranges. All families are invited.

Wednesday, September 27
NORTH BRANCH
Drop In: DIY Day for Peoria Students – 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Peoria schools are out early today! Come by for some DIY craft activities, including jewelry making and origami!

Thursday, September 28
NORTH BRANCH
Sherlock Holmes Story Society – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Whether you’ve read the classic Sherlock Holmes stories a million times or none at all, all are welcome to experience The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in this new reading discussion group. Each month, we’ll tackle another short story. This month: “The Engineer’s Thumb”

Saturday, September 30
MAIN LIBRARY
Picnic with the Poky Little Puppy – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
The program will include stories, snacks, pictures with Poky Little Puppy, and prizes.

Saturday, September 30
MAIN LIBRARY
Little Golden Books at 75: An Afternoon with Leonard Marcus and Diane Muldrow – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Join us for an exciting afternoon with Little Golden Books Historian Leonard Marcus and Little Golden Books Editoral Director Diane Muldrow, with special guest the Poky Little Puppy. As a special addition to the program, participants are encouraged to bring their favorite, most-loved, or oldest Little Golden Book for a chance to win a prize. Books will be available for sale and signing, with proceeds going to the Friends of Peoria Public Library.
Join a book club at Peoria Public Library this month. New members are always welcome!

**Club Read** will meet on Wednesday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss *The Book That Matters Most* by Anne Hood. Ava’s twenty-five-year marriage has fallen apart, and her two grown children are pursuing their own lives outside of the country. Ava joins a book group, not only for her love of reading but also out of sheer desperation for companionship. The group’s goal throughout the year is for each member to present the book that matters most to them. Ava rediscovers a mysterious book from her childhood—one that helped her through the traumas of the untimely deaths of her sister and mother. Alternating with Ava’s story is that of her troubled daughter Maggie, who, living in Paris, descends into a destructive relationship with an older man. Ava’s mission to find that book and its enigmatic author takes her on a quest that unravels the secrets of her past and offers her and Maggie the chance to remake their lives.

**Sherlock Holmes Story Society** will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 26 at North Branch to discuss “The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor.” Lord St. Simon’s bride, Hatty, has vanished on the day of their marriage, shortly after the ceremony ends. The events of the wedding day are most perplexing to Lord St. Simon as it seemed to him that his bride, Miss Hatty Doran of San Francisco, was full of enthusiasm about their marriage. St. Simon tells Holmes that he noticed a change in the young lady’s mood just after the wedding ceremony. She was uncharacteristically sharp with him. The only thing out of the ordinary at the church where the wedding took place was Hatty’s little accident: she dropped her wedding bouquet and a gentleman in the front pew picked it up and handed it back to her. After the bridal party entered Hatty’s father’s house for the wedding breakfast, a former companion of St. Simon, the dancer Flora Millar, caused a disturbance at the door and was ejected. Ten minutes into the wedding breakfast, Hatty claimed “a sudden indisposition” and retired to her room. A short time later, it was discovered that she had left the house. Then Hatty’s wedding dress and ring are found washed up on the shore of the Serpentine. Holmes and Watson are on the case.

**The Read on Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, October 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Lincoln Branch to discuss *The Doctor Is In* by Carl Weber & Brenda Hampton. Dr. Kasen Phillips has the magic touch when it comes to helping his patients who are in dire need of counseling services, but when the love of his life winds up missing in action, Kasen’s life takes a horrific turn for the worse. His office manager, Voncile Harper, is there to lend a helping hand. She’s on a mission to shake Kasen from his misery, by offering him her sweet heat that he can’t resist. It’s not long before Kasen finds himself caught up in a web of Voncile’s lies, and when he realizes that he may have bitten off more than he can chew, he wants out of their reckless relationship for good. Unfortunately for Kasen, walking away may be difficult to do. Voncile is deep in love, and any man who refuses to play by her rules may be forced to suffer dire consequences.

**The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club** will meet on Sunday, October 8 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss *Billion Dollar Spy: A True Story of Cold War Espionage and Betrayal* by David E. Hoffman. While driving out of the American embassy in Moscow on the evening of February 16, 1978, the chief of the CIA’s Moscow station heard a knock on his car window. A man on the curb handed him an envelope whose contents stunned U.S. intelligence: details of top-secret Soviet research and developments in military technology that were totally unknown to the United States. In the years that followed, the man, Adolf Tolkachev, an engineer in a Soviet military design bureau, used his high-level access to hand over tens of thousands of pages of technical secrets. His revelations allowed America to reshape its weapons systems to defeat Soviet radar on the ground and in the air, giving the United States near total superiority in the skies over Europe. One of the most valuable spies to work for the United States in the four decades of global confrontation with the Soviet Union, Tolkachev and his handlers succeeded for years in eluding the feared KGB in its own backyard, until the day came when a shocking betrayal put them all at risk. Stirring, unpredictable, and at times unbearably tense, this is a brilliant feat of reporting that unfolds like an espionage thriller.
The Genre Evolution Book Club will meet on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Branch to discuss the evolution of the horror genre. Selections include The Beetle by Richard Marsh, which initially outsold Bram Stoker’s Dracula, published at the same time. Or try Carrie by Stephen King, his first published novel. Other selections include The Invisible Man by H.G. Wells, The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson, and American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis. Choose from the list, or read them all!

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner. Dill has had to wrestle with vipers his whole life at home, as the only son of a Pentecostal minister who urges him to handle poisonous rattlesnakes, and at school, where he faces down bullies who target him for his father’s extreme faith and very public fall from grace. The only antidote to all this venom is his friendship with fellow outcasts Travis and Lydia. But as they are starting their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him. Dill’s only escapes are his music and his secret feelings for Lydia, neither of which he is brave enough to share. Graduation feels more like an ending to Dill than a beginning. But even before then, he must cope with another ending—one that will rock his life to the core.

The Bibilophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman. After four years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby’s cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. Tom wants to report the man and infant immediately. But Isabel insists the baby is a “gift from God,” and against Tom’s judgment, they claim her as their own and name her Lucy.

Friends of Clonmel Intercontinental Readers will meet Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m. at Main Library on LL1 to hold a Skype discussion with the group in Clonmel, Ireland about The Spinning Heart by Donal Ryan. In the aftermath of Ireland’s financial collapse, dangerous tensions surface in an Irish town. As violence flares, the characters face a battle between public persona and inner desires. Through a chorus of unique voices, each struggling to tell their own kind of truth, a single authentic tale unfolds. The Spinning Heart speaks for contemporary Ireland like no other novel. Wry, vulnerable, all-too human, it captures the language and spirit of rural Ireland and with uncanny perception articulates the words and thoughts of a generation. Technically daring and evocative of Patrick McCabe and J.M. Synge, this novel of small-town life is witty, dark and sweetly poignant.

The Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, October 15 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The Taxidermist’s Daughter by Kate Mosse. This is a wonderfully crafted mystery/thriller in the gothic tradition. This novel, set in England, is as much about the setting and environment as the story itself. It is about a fresh murder and some disappearances which may be associated with long-hidden events. The two lead characters, Connie and Harry, lend intrigue to the story plot.

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, October 9 at Calvary Baptist Bible Church, 2200 W Nebraska, Peoria, 61604 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Ghost Talkers by Mary Robinette Kowal. In this entrancing alternate history, Kowal introduces the Spirit Corps, a group that communicates with recently killed soldiers to gather important wartime information. It’s the summer of 1916, and American medium Ginger Stuyvesant works with the British Army at Le Havre to coordinate and lead spirit circles. When her intelligence officer fiancé uncovers a German plot to target the Spirit Corps and is sent to the front soon after, Ginger must use every power at her disposal to track down a traitor and protect the corps. Kowal’s depiction of spiritualism is richly imagined, and its complications and consequences are thoughtfully considered. Her depiction of the Western Front includes diverse characters often neglected in wartime stories: the many people who help Ginger include women young and old, people of color, and disabled veterans. The well-drawn characters and the story’s gripping action and emotion will captivate readers.