**Peoria Public Library to host “The Vietnam War” film screening programs as part of ALA grant award**

Peoria Public Library 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 began airing on PBS stations on September 17. 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.

While the library will not show the documentary, it is presenting several programs to expand understanding of the war. On Thursday, October 26 at 6:00 p.m. at North Branch in the McKenzie Room, Dr. Sharon MacDonald will present “The Vietnam War: The Big Picture.” This program will give an overview of why and how we fought the Vietnam War, and why we lost, to help viewers gain a broader understanding as they watch individual episodes on PBS or on DVD. Dr. MacDonald is retired from the Department of History, Illinois State University and received her PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Watch for more programs on this topic and visit the 22VA Art Show during November and December in the Main Library Gallery. This show exhibits the work of veterans, many of the Vietnam era.

Peoria Public 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. The Peoria Public Library has received 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. Peoria Public Library has purchased additional copies of the DVD and book, available for checkout.

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

**Lincoln Branch Moving Books**

Lincoln Branch is undertaking a major move of materials on Wednesday, October 4. On the branches’ regular day of closure, staff will be moving all the fiction from upstairs to downstairs and taking the non-fiction and research material upstairs.

The swap is expected to make fiction easier to find, as those books are checked out and taken home, while the restored Carnegie Library reading area will provide a quiet place to use non-fiction and research materials. The original Carnegie Library may be reached by an elevator and provides a meeting room as well as soft seating, a display area and study tables.

For help finding books at Lincoln Branch, be sure to ask the staff for assistance.
Hot New Titles Coming in October
by Robin Helenthal

The holiday books are starting to come out and one of the first is Debbie Macomber’s *Merry and Bright*. Merry Knight is a busy person getting ready for the holidays. She has cookies to bake, decorating to do and is trying to stay out of the way of her stressed out boss at the consulting firm where she works as a temp. A social life is not something she is concerned about, but her mom and brother have other ideas. They fill out an on-line dating profile for her without her photo and the matches start coming in. Merry halfheartedly decides to give it a chance. She soon finds herself chatting online with a man who has similar interests but when they meet face-to-face, he is not what she expects or wishes for. This is a story of first impressions and second chances and what our hearts can see that our eyes cannot.

Winter Solstice by Elin Hilderbrand is the story of the Quinn family of the Winter Street Inn. The family is all going to be home for the holidays for the first time in years. Bart is back from Afghanistan. Kevin and Isabelle are doing well in their married life. After paying his debt to society, Patrick is starting to get back on his feet. Ava may have found her true love and Kelly is happy to have all the family together. But the Quinn’s family gatherings never go smoothly and this one is no exception. This is a story to celebrate families and of things that we are willing to tolerate during the holiday reunions.

Seven Days of Us: A Novel by Francesca Hornak is about what happens when a family is required to spend a week in quarantine together over the holidays. This is the first Christmas that the Birch family will all be together under one roof. Olivia the oldest daughter in the family is a doctor who is just coming home after treating an epidemic abroad and she has been told she must stay in quarantine for a week and so should her family. So for seven days the family is forced to reconnect with each other. Younger sister Phoebe is obsessed with her upcoming wedding, Olivia is dealing with the culture shock of what she dealt with out of the country and Emma and Andrew the parents are dealing with secrets and problems of their own. When an unexpected guest arrives, the whole family gets a surprise.

Lincoln Branch Hall of Fame Winner to Be Announced

The Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees will name this year’s Lincoln Branch Hall of Fame Honoree on Tuesday, October 17 during a reception at 4:00 p.m. at Peoria Public Library Lincoln Branch. An individual, family, corporation, foundation or organization may be nominated in recognition of outstanding contributions to the establishment and support of the Peoria Public Library Lincoln Branch over the years, which resulted in its improvement, national recognition as an important historical structure and ability to continue providing library services to the people of Peoria.

The public is invited to attend the reception and meet the honoree.

Bequest from Joyce Johnson Will Preserve History

Long-time Peoria Public Library employee Joyce Johnson passed away on February 18, 2017. She left a generous bequest to the library which will be ear-marked for the preservation of historic materials. A lover of historical research, she would be delighted with the idea of making Peoria history more accessible. Joyce began her 34-year career at Peoria Public Library in 1967 as a Reference Assistant in the Reference Department. She left in 1969 for library school and returned upon completion of her degree in 1971 as Librarian in the Business, Science and Technology Department. Joyce later became Reference Librarian in the Reference Department and eventually Head of the Reference Department. Prior to retiring in 2003, Joyce was the Conservation/Preservation Librarian. Many long-time patrons will remember Joyce and her enthusiasm for historical research. Peoria Public Library is most grateful for this gift.

Calling Local Authors!

Are you a local author interested in joining the Local Author Fair on Saturday, November 4? Please contact ProgrammingDept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us

Greater Peoria Dining Tour Books

Available at:
Lakeview Branch
North Branch
& Main Library

$30

$10 of each book sold goes to The Friends of Peoria Public Library.
October ALL LOCATIONS
1000 Books Before Kindergarten
This free program encourages and rewards your children for the books that are read to them. Stop by any location to pick up a reading log, or track your progress using the app in iTunes and the Google Play Store. 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!

October ALL LOCATIONS
Illinois Reads Contest
Each year the state of Illinois runs a statewide project to promote reading for Illinois citizens by selecting six books in each of six different age categories ranging from read-to books for infants to adult readers. Pick up a reading log and read any four books from your age group. Turn it in by Family Reading Night, November 16, to be entered to win our drawing for a $20 Barnes & Noble gift card. Drawing will be held on November 17. One winner per age group.

October ALL LOCATIONS
Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin
Stop by any location to see our pumpkin and make your guess. The winner will be contacted on Monday, October 23rd and will get to take the pumpkin home, just in time for Halloween.

October LAKEVIEW BRANCH & MCCLURE BRANCH
Alphabet Soup Reading Challenge
In this reading challenge, you’ll have a reading log with all the letters of the alphabet. Earn one entry into a prize drawing for each letter.

October LAKEVIEW BRANCH & MCCLURE BRANCH
Get Caught Reading Challenge
Pick up a challenge sheet that lists different people to read to and places to read. For each item you complete, you will receive an entry into a prize drawing.

October LAKEVIEW BRANCH & MCCLURE BRANCH
1 to 1 Tech Help
Pick a time slot 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 to schedule your session in advance.

October 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.

October 1-15 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.

Sunday, October 1 NORTH BRANCH
Music in the McKenzie Presents: Pint & A Half – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Pint & A Half is the Colorado-based Americana/Roots music duo of Duke and Jamie Sheppard, whose powerful, nuanced vocal harmonies and inspired songwriting is gaining fans in folk/american/singer-songwriter/roots circles across the region. A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Monday, October 2 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 be exploring bones. Ages 5 to 8.

Monday & Tuesday, October 2, 3, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 & 31 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 skills vital for lifelong success. Students will learn to use the 3-D Printer, as well as build their own models. 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.
Monday, October 2
NORTH BRANCH
Pajama Storytime – 7:00-7:45 p.m.
We’ll enjoy stories, songs, and a craft! Wear your pajamas and bring a blanket or stuffed friend to snuggle -- you’ll be ready for bed when you head home!

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
LINCOLN BRANCH
Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Preschool Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, October 3
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bibliohives Book Club – 1:30-2:30 pm
This month: The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman

Tuesday, October 3
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: I AM Collages – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Pull a topic from the “Conversation Jar” and speak your mind. Tweens and teens spend time bonding with conversation.

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25
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, Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25
MAIN LIBRARY
Walk-In E-reader Assistance – 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Need some help learning how to download ebooks from the library? Free one-on-one help is available. Sessions are first come, first served.

Wednesday, October 4
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
From the Screen to the Stage – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Join us for a viewing of the film version of The Woman in Black (2012, PG-13). Enter to win a pair of tickets to see the stage version at Peoria Players Theatre! The stage production opens October 6!

Thursday, Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26
MCCLURE BRANCH
Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26
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, October 6, 13, 20 & 27
NORTH BRANCH
Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 am
Children of all ages.

Saturday, October 7
NORTH BRANCH
Geomteric Art Design – 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Use rulers and geometry to craft an attractive chevron painting for your wall. For middle school and high school ages.

Sunday, October 8 & 22
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sunday Crafternoon – 12:00-5:00 pm
The storytime room will be open for families to read, color, and work on projects. Some crafting supplies provided.

Monday, October 9
OFF-SITE LOCATION
SciFi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 pm
This month: Ghost Talkers by Mary Robinette Kowal. Call Jamie at 309-497-2700 for the location.

October 10-13
MCCLURE BRANCH
Teen Read Week: Book to Movie Marathon – 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Celebrate Teen Read Week by viewing these young adult book-to-film adaptations! October 10: It’s Kind of a Funny Story (PG-13); October 11: The Host (PG-13); October 12: Lord of the Flies (R); October 13: Before I Fall (PG-13)

Tuesday, October 10
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: I AM Collages – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Describe who you are by creating an “I AM Collage”. Find the perfect words and pictures that express who you are.

Thursday, October 12 & Tuesday, October 31
LINCOLN BRANCH
Puppet Show – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
“The Pumpkin Thief.” Come help the farmer find out who is stealing his pumpkins. Ages 3 to 6.

Friday, October 13
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. Art projects might leave something to be desired but it’s the process that really counts. Please dress for a mess. For ages 2 to 4 years old with a caregiver.

Friday, Oct. 13
MCCLURE BRANCH
Friday, Oct. 27
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Baby Playgroup – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Calling all babies! Join us for a special playgroup designed to help you explore your world through creative play. Ages 9 months to 24 months.

Saturday, October 14
MCCLURE BRANCH
Prevent Crime In Your Neighborhood – 10:00-11:00 a.m.
October is Crime Prevention Month! Learn how you can help prevent crime in your neighborhood from local experts, including Jennifer Engelbrecht from the Neighborhood Services Unit of the Peoria Police Department. A local police officer and Neighborhood Watch representatives will also be in attendance to share their experiences.

Saturday, October 14
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. Drop in any time. While supplies last.

Saturday, October 14
MAIN LIBRARY
Tabletop Gaming – 2:00-5:30 p.m.
We will be exploring a variety of systems through the year. Dice will be provided and beginners are welcome. For young adults to senior citizens.
October 14-19
MCCLURE BRANCH
Celebrate Spider-Man Day–3:00-5:30 p.m.
Did you know that October 14 is Spider-Man Day? Enjoy a Spider-Man movie marathon, and vote for your favorite Spider-Man to enter the drawing for your own copy of the Spider-Man movie of your choice. October 14: Spider-Man; October 16: Spider-Man 2; October 17: Spider-Man 3; October 18: The Amazing Spider-Man; October 19: The Amazing Spider-Man 2.

Sunday, October 15
NORTH BRANCH
Joy is the Journey with Suzette Boulais – 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Suzette Boulais, MS, is offering a free discussion session, “Joy is the Journey,” aimed at enhancing personal growth and development. The session focuses on a spiritual approach to making peace with life changes, based on both Eastern and Western principles, including those offered in the profound and spiritual thought system presented in A Course in Miracles. The only requirements are an open mind and a willingness to perceive things differently to live more peacefully.

Monday, October 16
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: The Taxidermist’s Daughter by Jeff Zentner.

Monday, October 16
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Financial Exploitation Workshop – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Holly Kozinski, Director of the Adult Protective Services Department with The Center for Prevention of Abuse, will be conducting a B-Safe training which will inform you about financial exploitation of seniors in Illinois, and how to safeguard yourself. For more information, call Fran at 309-497-2200.

Tuesday, October 17
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Monarch Book Club – 4:00-4:45 p.m.
In Monarch Book Club 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: Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena, Maya’s Blanket by David Diaz, and One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree by Daniel Bernstrom. If you’d like to read these titles prior to the meeting, feel free to call us to request a copy. Grades K-3.

Tuesday, October 17
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Halloween Taboo Game – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Can you describe Halloween without mentioning candy, costumes or ghost? Taboo, it’s the game of unspoken fun. Middle school and high school.

Tuesday, October 17
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
YA for Adults Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
This month: The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner.

Wednesday, October 18
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
DIY Trick or Treat Bag – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Halloween by decorating your own tote to take home and use to collect your candy on Halloween Day.

Wednesday, October 18
NORTH BRANCH
Genre Evolution Book Club–6:30-7:30 p.m.
This month, we’re discussing early works in the horror genre. Please read any of the following: The Invisible Man by H.G. Wells, The Beetle by Richard Marsh, The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson, Carrie by Stephen King, American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis.

Thursday, October 19
NORTH BRANCH
Third Thursday Film Fest –2:00-4:00 p.m.
This month: House of Wax (1953)

Friday, October 20
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Play Zone – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Join us for a special playgroup for toddlers to interact with other kids, play with educational toys, and read books with their parents. Ages 2 to 4.

October 21-23
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Fall Used Book Sale
Join us for a joint book sale at Lakeview Branch and the Peoria Park District. Hardbacks are $1.00 and paperbacks are $.25 or 5 for $1.00. You can also purchase a Peoria Public Library tote bag for $3.00. All proceeds from Lakeview Branch go to the Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Saturday, October 21
MCCLURE BRANCH
Pet Safety Month Celebration – 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Kitty Yanko from the Peoria Humane Society will teach you how to keep your pet safe, happy, and healthy, and that they are always safe, happy, and healthy, and that you are always safe, happy, and healthy around animals, whether they’re your pet or not! A registered training dog will be in attendance for demonstrations.

Saturday, October 21
MAIN LIBRARY
Autism Resource Group – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Are you a parent with a toddler or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us for resource sharing and support.

Saturday, October 21
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: Halloween Craft – 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Calling all monsters! Pick up a “boo”tiful craft to make. While supplies last.

Saturday, October 21
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Puppet Show – 10:15-10:45 a.m.
Enjoy a few short stories and songs performed by puppets.

Saturday, October 21
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Afternoon Art History – 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Tweens are invited to learn how the holiday is celebrated in different cultures around the world. Work on Halloween-themed crafts and grab some candy!

Saturday, October 21
NORTH BRANCH
Teen STEM Challenge – 3:00-4:00 p.m.
There’s a puzzle in the library, and all you have to solve is your brain and a box of scraps. The most successful team will get a prize! Grades 6 to 12.
MCCLURE BRANCH

**Drop In: Make a Difference Day**

You can make a difference by turning Make a Difference Day into a week-long event! Pull a slip of paper out of the jar at the desk and complete the task listed. A kind action DOES make a difference!

**Monday, October 23**

MCCLURE BRANCH

**Monday Morning Movie** – 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Enjoy movie time with these timeless classics! This month: *Stagecoach*

**Tuesday, October 24**

LINCOLN BRANCH

**Front & Center: Halloween Jeopardy & Puzzles** – 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Join us for a game of Halloween Jeopardy and Anagrams. Middle school ages.

**Tuesday, October 24**

LINCOLN BRANCH

**Read On Book Club** – 5:30-7:00 p.m.

This month: *The Doctor Is In* by Carl Weber & Brenda Hampton

**Wednesday, October 25**

NORTH BRANCH

**Drop In: Halloween Prep for Peoria Students** – 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Peoria schools are out early today! Come by and enjoy an afternoon of fun Halloween preparations! We’ll have crafts and activities to help you get yourself, your costume, and your home ready for the big day. For school-aged children.

**Wednesday, October 25**

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

**Club Read** – 6:30-7:30 p.m.

This month: *The Book That Matters Most* by Anne Hood

**Thursday, October 26**

NORTH BRANCH

**The Vietnam War: The Big Picture** – 6:00 p.m.

Presented by Dr. Sharon MacDonald.

**Thursday, October 26**

NORTH BRANCH

**Sherlock Holmes Story Society** – 6:30-7:30 p.m.

This month: “The Noble Bachelor”

**Friday, October 27**

NORTH BRANCH

**Homeschool Meet-up** – 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Friday, October 27**

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

**Drop In: LEGO Builders Club** – 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Parental supervision is required.

**Saturday, October 28**

MCCLURE BRANCH

**Drop In: Abracadabra!** – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Learn magic tricks that you can use to amaze your friends and family. You’ll receive supplies to create your own magic show at home! Grades 2-6.

**Saturday, October 28**

NORTH BRANCH

**Are You Art Smart?** – 11:00 am-3:00 pm

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.

**Saturday, October 28**

LINCOLN BRANCH

**Crafts-to-Go: Halloween Craft** – 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Come make a “not so scary” Halloween craft. Children of all ages.

**Sunday, October 29**

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

**Sensory Friendly Family Film** – 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Join us for this sensory friendly showing of *Hocus Pocus*. The room will be lighter, the volume will be lower, and audience members will be welcome to move around, talk, and sing. Rated PG

**Monday, October 30**

NORTH BRANCH

**Storytime Lab** – 1:30-2:00 p.m.

Join us for stories about early concepts in science, technology, engineering, art, and math followed by hands-on exploration! Ages 3 to 6.

**Monday, October 30**

NORTH BRANCH

**Halloween Party and “Spooky” Mini Golf** – 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Dress up in your favorite costume and join us for a hauntingly fun evening featuring “spooky” stories, movies, treats and games for children ages 1 to 4.

**Tuesday, October 31**

LINCOLN BRANCH

**Lincoln Branch Annual Haunted House** – 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for our annual haunted house, with special guest The Unique Twist Balloon Artists. Wear your Halloween costume to really enjoy this event!

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As of December 2017, paper copies of Passages will no longer be mailed. They will be available at every location and a digital issue will arrive in your inbox monthly when you subscribe online.
November Book Clubs at Peoria Public Library

Join a book club at Peoria Public Library this month. New members are always welcome!

Club Read has decided to retire! Thanks for many years of great books and discussions.

The Read on Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Lincoln Branch for a holiday dinner and Christmas tree ornament exchange. For more information please call (309) 497-2601.

Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16 (please note change of date) at North Branch to discuss “The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet.” A banker, Mr. Alexander Holder of Streatham, makes a loan of £50,000 to a socially prominent client, who leaves a beryl coronet — one of the most valuable public possessions in existence — as collateral. Holder feels that he must not leave this rare and precious piece of jewelry in his personal safe at the bank, and so he takes it home with him to lock it up there. He is awakened in the night by a noise, enters his dressing room, and is horrified to see his son Arthur with the coronet in his hands, apparently trying to bend it. Three beryls are missing from it. In a panic, Mr. Holder travels to see Holmes, who agrees to take the case.

The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club will meet on Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss Ten Restaurants That Changed America by Paul Freedman. Combining a historian’s rigor with a foodie’s palate, Ten Restaurants That Changed America reveals how the history of our restaurants reflects the history of America itself. Whether charting the rise of our love affair with Chinese food through San Francisco’s fabled The Mandarin, evoking the richness of Italian food through Mamma Leone’s, or chronicling the rise and fall of French haute cuisine through Henri Soulé’s Le Pavillon, Freedman uses each restaurant to tell a wider story of race and class, immigration and assimilation.

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 7 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance. Hillbilly Elegy is a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town in which white working class families struggle to survive. Hillbilly Elegy is a personal analysis of a subculture in crisis. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside.

The Book ’Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The Bricklayer by Noah Boyd. FBI deputy assistant director Kate Bannon tracks down Steve Vail, a maverick FBI agent who left the bureau for life as a Chicago bricklayer. A criminal gang, with a grudge against the FBI, murders an L.A. reporter and demands money to forestall future killings. An FBI agent disappears while making a payoff, and becomes the prime suspect. Vail must find him before the gang kills again. This is a fast paced action thriller with a character who is allowed to operate outside the rules - fun, exciting, non-stop action.

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. Syne, this novel of small-town life is witty, dark and sweetly poignant.

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss American Street by Ibi Zoboi. On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find une belle vie—a good life. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola’s mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit’s west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, November 13 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Crosstalk by Connie Willis. Briddy Flannigan, an executive at Apple rival Commspan, knows that keeping secrets is futile when social connectivity is a global obsession. Hours after boyfriend Trent Worth proposes, they undergo the hip new “minor enhancement procedure,” called an EED, that links lovers emotionally. Only her meddlesome Irish American family and C. B. Schwartz, Commspan’s eccentric, basement-dwelling genius, object. Naturally, the EED misfires: instead of Trent, Briddy gets connected to C. B., and instead of emotions, she gets telepathy. With C. B. in her head, Briddy has more secrets than ever. Briddy’s persistent internal monologue is funny, vulnerable, and skeptical, but as she tosses off lie after lie, she reveals the gulf between surface connections and true intimacy we all struggle to fill. Willis lampoons such diverse elements as helicopter parenting, corporate espionage, and Internet dating.

The Genre Evolution Book Club will meet on Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the North Branch to discuss the evolution of the genre that was voted for the American dream? on last month. Please check the library calendar at www.peoriapubliclibrary.org for a list of this month’s selections!
Undertakers’ Records in Local History and Genealogy
by Amber Lowery

If you are involved in genealogy in the Peoria area at all, you may have heard about some records that were recently rediscovered by the County Clerk’s office. These records, known at the Undertakers’ Records, were found after spending years, probably decades, in storage. They have not aged well and their information was in danger of being lost forever. But through the persistence of one man, Bob Hoffer, and the dedication of a group of volunteers from the Peoria County Genealogical Society, these records were photographed in high resolution and carefully transcribed for posterity. They are now being made available to the public.

So what exactly are these records and what can they do for your genealogy? The Undertakers’ Records contain a significant amount of information. Not only names and dates of death, but burial locations, addresses at the time of death, ages, birth places, undertaker, doctor, and cause of death! These records start in 1872 and continue through 1915. The first volume, covering 1872-1881, arrived a couple of weeks ago and is now available at the Main Library in the Local History and Genealogy collection. Just ask the staff member on duty to see it. While it is certainly not complete, it offers approximately eight more years of information into early Peoria burials.

Are you stuck on a brick wall of where a long deceased ancestor is buried? Have you wondered if they were buried in a long forgotten cemetery that was later removed? Perhaps it is time to take a trip to Peoria Public Library Local History and Genealogy collection and look into the Undertakers’ Records. We know you are “dying” to see them.