Peoria Speaks Discussions Launched at Peoria Public Library

Peoria Speaks is a new monthly community discussion program meeting on the second Thursday of each month at North Branch at 6:00 p.m., which will focus on topics of interest to Peorians. Funding for Peoria Speaks is being provided by Illinois Humanities through their Illinois Speaks program. Illinois Speaks is a small group discussion program founded in November 2015 aimed at strengthening the democratic process through community dialogues across the state of Illinois.

Discussion topics differ from month to month and across regions and are often related to current events, questions and issues arising in a community. At each of the Peoria Speaks monthly discussions, a community “expert” will provide a 10 to 15 minute overview of the topic and then the group will further discuss the topic. The first two topics are about Crime and Policing in Peoria and Human Trafficking.

On Thursday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m., the discussion will center on Human Trafficking. Human trafficking has 24.9 million victims globally who are trapped in modern day slavery. There were 202 cases of human trafficking in Illinois in 2016. What is Human Trafficking and is it happening in Peoria? Carol Merna, Executive Director at the Center for Prevention of Abuse, will explain the types and indications of human trafficking and describe some human trafficking victims’ stories. After her presentation, we will discuss what participants can do about human trafficking, the second largest crime in the world.

On Thursday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m., the discussion will center on Crime and Policing in Peoria. Last fall, the Peoria Police Department, along with the University of Illinois at Chicago, conducted a survey regarding crime and policing in Peoria. The survey would be used to improve policing and develop strategies to reduce violent crime in Peoria. Kathleen Kelly, Management Analyst with the Peoria Police Department, will provide us with information about the survey and the results. After her presentation, we will discuss whether the survey results match the participants’ responses to the survey questions and make suggestions on improving police-community relations in Peoria.

"Illinois Humanities (IH) is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assembly [through the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency], as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed by speakers, program participants, or audiences do not necessarily reflect those of the NEH, IH, our partnering organization or our funders.”

Celebrate the Life and Works of Laura Ingalls Wilder

The entire month of February at Peoria Public Library is dedicated to celebrating the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The beloved author of the Little House on the Prairie series was born in Pepin, Wisconsin on February 7, 1867, and became famous for the fictionalized account of her family’s role in settling the West. The North Branch will host a display from the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum in Mansfield, Missouri February 5 to 28. This panel display contains photographs and information relating to Mrs. Wilder, her famous “Little House” books and America’s westward expansion.

In addition, Peoria Public Library will welcome Laura Ingalls Wilder historian Caroline Fraser for a program about her new book Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Ms. Fraser’s book uses historical records to fill in the gaps in Wilder’s biography to reveal the truth behind the woman who wrote the famous autobiographical novels. The visit by Ms. Fraser to the North Branch on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. will include a talk about the relationship between Laura and her daughter, Rose Wilder Lane. An author herself, Rose encouraged and influenced her mother’s writing, while her own works were of a wildly different nature. Rose’s most famous work was probably Let the Hurricane Roar, but she is also known for writing controversial and fraudulent biographies of famous people. Guests at Ms. Fraser’s program will learn about Laura, Rose, and the role of Yellow Journalism. Copies of Prairie Fires will be available for sale and signing, with proceeds benefitting the Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Join us in celebrating the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder by visiting the North Branch in February.

February 5-28: Laura Ingalls Wilder Travelling Exhibit
February 22, 6:00 pm: “Laura Ingalls Wilder, Rose Wilder Lane, and the Creation of the Little House Books” with author Caroline Fraser
Local Author Event: Tim Pletkovich Talks About *Civil War Fathers: Sons of the Civil War in World War II*  
BY JAMIE JONES
Nationally recognized Peoria author Tim Pletkovich will speak at the Peoria Public Library McClure Branch at 1:30 pm on Saturday, February 10, and at 1:30 pm on Monday, February 12, about his book, *Civil War Fathers: Sons of the Civil War in World War II*. The book is composed of narratives of World War II veterans whose fathers fought eighty years earlier in the American Civil War. In *Civil War Fathers*, the World War II sons talk about their lives growing up with their elderly Civil War fathers during the 1920s and ’30s, and how the difficult years of the Great Depression did much to prepare them for their own military service. Pletkovich’s presentation will focus on the father-son combination of Wisconsin Governor William H. Upham and his son Fred. Currently a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado, Fred was featured three years ago in a National Geographic video concerning his father’s first meeting with President Lincoln during the Civil War. The meeting between Upham and Lincoln led to the former’s appointment to West Point in 1862.

Mark Your Calendar for Film Noir!  
The Film Noir Festival returns to Peoria Public Library for the 16th year in March! Every Saturday in March at Main Library enjoy some of the best of Film Noir with host Steve Tarter. See gems of the genre on the big screen with digital projection and sound each Saturday at 2:00 p.m. All showings are free.

This year Film Noir focuses on bookstores! Each of these films has a bookstore scene. Right outside the Auditorium you will discover the Friendly Finds Used Bookstore run by the Friends of Peoria Public Library. All proceeds support library programming, so come early and pick up a gently used book to take home. Then settle in for a great Film Noir experience.

**March 3:** *The Big Sleep* starring Bogart and Bacall  
**March 10:** *Ministry of Fear* with Ray Milland  
**March 17:** *Vertigo* starring Jimmy Stewart  
**March 24:** *Man Bait* featuring George Brent  
**March 31:** *The Big Steal* starring Mitchum and Greer

New York Newsday columnist William F.B. O’Reilly has called *Civil War Fathers* “an American treasure” and a “must-read because of Pletkovich’s extraordinary eye for human details.” Pletkovich was also recognized for *Civil War Fathers* at the 2017 Missouri Cherry Blossom Festival in Marshfield, Missouri, with the Ella A. Dickey Award. Past award recipients have included former First Lady Laura Bush, former Texas First Lady, the late Nellie Connally, and 1972 Democratic Party presidential candidate and former United States Senator, the late George McGovern. Pletkovich will be selling ($25) and signing copies of his book at the February 10 and February 12 events. Part of the proceeds from the book sale will benefit the Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Desperate for something new to read? You can download an e-book or audiobook from several different sources on our website with your library card and PIN. You can also stream music from Freegal or find books for bored kids with or without sound and some even have games! Put your time indoors to good use and do some genealogy research with Heritage Quest or start learning a new language with Mango.

While Peoria Public Library rarely closes, it is important to remember that books can be renewed and returned when the blizzard is over and there are plenty of library resources available to you on your computer or mobile device. Keep the number handy – (309) 497-2000 and bookmark the website www.peoriapubliclibrary.org.
February
ALL LOCATIONS
1000 Books Before Kindergarten
Read any 1,000 books to your child before they enter kindergarten and earn prizes for every 100 books they read. Sign up at any Peoria Public Library location. Details are given at the time of signup. Once your child reads 1,000 books, they will be invited to a graduation party in May.

February
ALL LOCATIONS
Winter Reading Treasures
Complete the number of challenges for your age group and return your reading log to any branch to choose your prize from the box of treasures. By turning in your log you’ll also be able to win a $10 gift card and the library-wide grand prize: a Kindle Fire HD tablet.

February
LAKEVIEW BRANCH & MCCLURE BRANCH
Around the Library Reading Challenge
Pick up a challenge sheet at the Information Desk and read a book from each part of the Dewey Decimal System and be entered to win a $10 gift card to Barnes & Noble! One winner from three different age ranges.

February
LAKEVIEW BRANCH & LINCOLN BRANCH
Black History Month Display
February is Black History Month. Lakeview Branch will host a display that takes you on a journey to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. The Carnegie Room display cases at Lincoln Branch will feature “Try Walking in Someone Else’s Shoes – A Walk Down Peoria’s Memory Lane”. Each display case will have unique pieces about Peoria’s African American trailblazers.

February
MAIN LIBRARY
Crafts-to-Go – 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Kids ages 5-12 can pick up a craft at the 1st Floor Information Desk.

February
NORTH BRANCH
Puzzle Table
Stop by the table next to the info desk and help us finish one of our puzzles!

February 1-3
MAIN LIBRARY
National Take Your Child to the Library Day
Bring your child into the Main Library this week, visit the children’s area, and stop at the Information Desk to pick up a free book for you and your child to enjoy together. While supplies last.

February 1-4
NORTH BRANCH
Who Will Win the Super Bowl?
Stop by the information desk and make your prediction – which team will win, and what will the score be? Submit your guesses up until kickoff on the big day! One child and one adult will win a prize!

February 1-10
MCCLURE BRANCH
Invent a Better World
National Inventors Day is on February 11! Celebrate by coming up with your own simple invention to solve a problem you see. Draw a picture and write a paragraph about what your invention idea is and how it might work. One lucky inventor will win a prize to inspire future inventions! Ages 5 to 10.

February 1-12
NORTH BRANCH
Valentine Workshop
Come get ready for Valentine’s Day – fill out a pre-made card, or make your own with our craft supplies.

February 1-14
MAIN LIBRARY
Book Best Friends
Kids in grades K through 4 can test their knowledge by matching up these well-known best friends with each other. Pick up a game sheet at the Information Desk, match the best friends up, and turn it back in for a fun surprise. While supplies last.

February
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15 & 22
MCCLURE BRANCH
Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, February 1, 8, 15 & 22
NORTH BRANCH
A-Z Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Join us for letter-themed stories, songs, and crafts as we focus on learning the shapes of letters and the sounds they make! Ages 2 to 3.

Thursday, February 1
NORTH BRANCH
Harry Potter Escape Room – 3:00-7:00 pm
In celebration of Harry Potter Book Night, test your skills in our escape room! Can your team solve all the riddles before time runs out? Register your group of up to six people for a 30-minute time slot by calling 309-497-2150. Space is limited, and participants must register.

Friday, February 2
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Art – 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Come for a fun artful activity geared toward toddlers. Let your child explore the world of colors and shapes while learning fine motor skills along the way.

Friday, February 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Baby Playground – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Join us for a special playgroup designed to help explore the world through creative play. Ages 9-24 mo.

Friday, February 2, 9, 16 & 23
NORTH BRANCH
Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Children of all ages.

Friday, February 2
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: LEGO Builders Club–3:00-5:00pm
Drop in any time to play. Parental supervision is required.
**February Calendar**

**February 3-24**  
**MAIN LIBRARY**  
**Peoria Reads! Museum of Civilization**  
Peoria Reads! presents the Museum of Civilization, modeled after the Museum of Civilization described in this year’s selected book *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. The book takes place 20 years after a devastating flu pandemic destroys civilization as we know it. One survivor begins collecting items, once common and now puzzling and foreign, for The Museum of Civilization, housed in a portion of a former airport. Come see objects that would have been familiar just a short time ago but as civilization changes, so do we. Read the book and get involved! Free and open to the public during regular library hours.

**Saturday, February 3, 10, 17, 24**  
**NORTH BRANCH**  
**Busier Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.**  
Children of all ages.

**Saturday, February 3**  
**LINCOLN BRANCH**  
**Black History Month Film – 1:00-3:30 p.m.**  
Ease on down the road for the showing of *The Wiz* starring Diana Ross and Michael Jackson.

**February 5-28**  
**NORTH BRANCH**  
**Laura Ingalls Wilder Travelling Exhibit**  
Celebrate the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder by visiting this display. The traveling display contains photographs and information relating to Mrs. Wilder, her famous “Little House” books and America’s westward expansion. This exhibit is provided courtesy of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum.

**February 5-16**  
**MAIN LIBRARY**  
**Chinese New Year Good Fortune Envelopes**  
Chinese New Year is February 16 and this year is the Year of the Dog. Children in grades K through 4 can join in the celebration by picking up a red good fortune envelope filled with goodies at the Information Desk. While supplies last.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, February 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAKEVIEW BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bilingual Storytime – 10:15-10:45 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>This Spanish/English storytime features books, games, and songs to build vocabulary in both languages. Children of all ages. Esta hora del cuento bilingue tendrá lectura de libros, juegos y canciones que ayudan a construir vocabulario en Español e Inglés. Para todas las edades.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, February 5, 12 &amp; 26</strong></td>
<td><strong>NORTH BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>10:30-11:00 A.M.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, Feb. 7, 14, 21 &amp; 28</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, February 5 &amp; 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>NORTH BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter Olympic Movie Series – 3:00-5:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Celebrate the return of the Winter Olympics. Each film features a sport to get you ready for the games! February 5: <em>Downhill Racer</em> (1969, PG) February 12: <em>Miracle</em> (2004, PG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, February 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>LINCOLN BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Front &amp; Center: If a Bus Could Talk – 4:30-5:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Listen to stories such as <em>If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks</em>. Instead of the school bus, a strange talking bus takes a girl on a ride through the life of Mrs. Parks. Ages 5 to 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, February 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>LINCOLN BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bibliophiles Book Club – 1:30-2:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>This month: <em>The Plague</em> by Albert Camus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, February 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>NORTH BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>STEAM Explorations – 4:30-5:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Discover the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math topics that are all around us! This month we will explore blood and the heart. Ages 5-8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, February 6, 20 &amp; 27</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAKEVIEW BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.</strong></td>
<td>Ages 3 to 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, February 6, 13, 20, 27</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAKEVIEW BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Busier Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, Feb. 7, 14, 21 &amp; 28</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, February 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>LINCOLN BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Brainy Baby Storytime – 1:30-2:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>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. Caregivers will be encouraged to engage their child, making reading time fun. Age 0 to 23 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, Feb. 7, 14, 21 &amp; 28</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAKEVIEW BRANCH</strong></td>
<td><strong>Drop In: Sensory Art – 6:15-7:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>This non-structured art session allows you to choose the materials of your preference to create your own unique masterpiece. Lights will be dimmed, and ear muffs and fidgets are available if desired. Designed with our patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder in mind, but inclusive to everyone.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Wednesday, February 7** | **NORTH BRANCH** | **Campfire Mystery Book Club – 7:00-7:45 pm** | Bring your PJs, sleeping bags, flashlights, and listen to the first chapter of a book under the stars in the Beehive. Then take home a copy to finish on your own! Ages 8 to 12.
Thursday, February 8
NORTH BRANCH
Teen Craft: Friendship Bracelets – 4:00-4:45 p.m.
Begin making bracelets with basic knots, learn a new pattern, or show off your masterpieces. Ages 11 to 18.

Thursday, February 8
NORTH BRANCH
Black History Month Film – 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Black History Month with the movie The Pursuit of Happyness, a true story of a salesman struggling to build a future for himself and his son.

Thursday, February 8
NORTH BRANCH
Peoria Speaks: Human Trafficking – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Peoria Speaks is a new monthly community discussion program which will focus on topics of interest to Peorians. Funding is being provided by Illinois Humanities through their Illinois Speaks program, a small group discussion program founded in November 2015 aimed at strengthening the democratic process through community dialogues across Illinois. Topics differ from month to month and across regions and are often related to current events, questions and issues arising in a community. **Illinois Humanities (IH) is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assembly (through the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency), as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed by speakers, program participants, or audiences do not necessarily reflect those of the NEH, IH, our partnering organization or our funders.**

Saturday, February 10
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: Valentine's Day Craft – 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Stop in to pick up a Valentine's Day magnet craft kit! Ages 5 to 10.

Saturday, February 10
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: Crafts-to-Go – 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Come make a cute owl Valentine card holder. Children of all ages.

Saturday, February 10 & Monday, February 12
MCCLURE BRANCH
Meet the Author: Civil War Fathers – 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Nationwide recognized Peoria author Tim Pletkovich will speak about his book, Civil War Fathers: Sons of the Civil War in World War II. The book is composed of narratives of World War II veterans whose fathers fought eighty years earlier in the American Civil War. Books will be available for sale and signing. A portion of sales will support the Friends of Peoria Public Library.

February 11-17
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
1000 Books Before Kindergarten Presents: Blind Date with a Picture Book
Little ones can visit our Blind Date display to check out a mystery book, take it home, unwrap it, and enjoy reading a new story they can add to their list of 1,000 books!

Sunday, February 11
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Friendly Family Film–2:00-4:00pm
Join us for this sensory friendly showing of Big Hero 6. The room will be lighter, the volume will be lower, and audience members will be welcome to move around, talk, and sing. Noise canceling ear muffs and fidgets will be supplied. Rated PG

Sunday, February 11
NORTH BRANCH
Biography & Non-fiction Book Club – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
This month: Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

Sunday, February 11
MCCLURE BRANCH
Front & Center: History Makers Posters – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Celebrate the contributions to African American history by creating a collage of many famous inventors, musicians, athletes and more. Ages 5 to 10.

Monday, February 12
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 pm
This month: Red Sister by Mark Lawrence

Tuesday, February 13
MCCLURE BRANCH
Mardi Gras Celebration – 4:30-5:00 p.m.
Join us for a family-friendly Mardi Gras celebration! Learn about the culture and history of this holiday, and enjoy some traditional food and fun. All ages.

Tuesday, February 13
NORTH BRANCH
Front & Center: History Makers Posters – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Celebrating the contributions to African American history by creating a collage of many famous inventors, musicians, athletes and more. Ages 5 to 10.

Friday, February 16
MCCLURE BRANCH
Third Thursday Film Fest: Books into Movies – 2:00-4:30 p.m.
Which was better — the movie or the book? Bring a snack and enjoy a movie on the big screen. Free and open to all ages. This month: Me Before You (2016)

Saturday, February 17
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Autism Resource Group–10:00 am-1:00 pm
Are you a parent with a tween or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us for resource sharing and support. We will show a movie for children whose parents are attending.

Saturday, February 17
LINCOLN BRANCH
Black History Month Film – 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Celebrate Black History Month with the movie Dreamgirls. Beyonce Knowles, Jennifer Hudson, and Anika Noni Rose star as a musical group who face the challenges of fame.
Saturday, February 17
MCCLURE BRANCH
Which Was Better? Book Club – 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Have you ever had one of your favorite books turned into a movie and it didn't turn out the way you imagined it? Join us as we discuss Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Honor Book Because of Winn-Dixie, and enjoy a viewing of the 2005 film of the same name. Be sure to check out and read a copy of the book before that date! Ages 8-12.

Sunday, February 18
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Book 'Em Mystery Book Club–2:00-3:30pm
This month: Deep Dark by Laura Griffin

Tuesday, February 20
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: History is Fun Timeline – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Research and examine key historical events and people throughout the history of our country. Ages 5 to 10.

Tuesday, February 20
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
YA for Adults Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Join this fun group to discuss the best in YA literature. This month: The Darkest Minds by Alexandra Bracken

Wednesday, February 21
NORTH BRANCH
Family Activity Night – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Get some quality family bonding time. This month: Play chess or checkers.

Thursday, February 22
LINCOLN BRANCH
Black History Month Film – 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Celebrate Black History Month with the movie The Secret Life of Bees. Lily Owens, haunted by memories of her late mother and abused by her father, runs away to South Carolina where Lily finds out about her mother’s past.

Thursday, February 22
NORTH BRANCH
Laura Ingalls Wilder Historian Caroline Fraser – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Author Caroline Fraser brings her book Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder to Peoria. Ms. Fraser will discuss the mother-daughter relationship and surrounding events that led to the books so many people love. Books will be available for sale and signing. A portion of the sales will support the Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Thursday, February 22
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.

Sunday, February 24
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Music in the McKenzie Presents: Flatland Harmony Experiment – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Flatland Harmony Experiment is a high octane four piece vocally driven string band from Indianapolis, Indiana. The quartet trades lead vocal and lead instrumental responsibilities through a large and diverse original musical selection. The instrumental mix of mandolin, banjo, guitar and upright bass allows ample space for musical experimentation and expression. A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Monday, February 26
MCCLURE BRANCH
Monday Morning Movie–10:30am-12:30pm
This month: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954)

Monday, February 26
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Snowstorm in a Jar – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Make a snowstorm in a jar. Join us for this fun educational activity for the little ones this winter. Ages 5 to 10.

Monday, February 26
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Movies by Decade – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
This month: The Women (1939)

Tuesday, February 27
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: National Polar Bear Day – 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Celebrate National Polar Bear Day with us! Learn about the world’s largest carnivore and make some “Polar Bear” cups with cool goodies for a snack! Ages 5 to 10.

Tuesday, February 27
LINCOLN BRANCH
Read On Book Club – 5:30-7:00 p.m.
This month: The Devil You Know by Mary Monroe

Wednesday, February 28
MAIN LIBRARY
Black History Month Film – 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Celebrate Black History Month with the movie Hidden Figures, the untold story of three brilliant African American women mathematicians who helped win the space race.

Wednesday, February 28
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 candy. Ages 9 to 12.
Join a book club at Peoria Public Library this month. New members are always welcome!

The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club will meet on Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss Surviving Survival: The Art and Science of Resilience by Laurence Gonzales. Gonzales looks deeply into the mental processes that enable us to cope with the trauma that often sets in during and after a challenge to our survival. Gonzales narrates plenty of grim and gruesome tales, not all of them elective; his survivors are those who have suffered war and terrorism as well as falls off mountains and into choppy surf. The best parts are not those harrowing stories, though, but instead the author’s contemplative explanations of the science behind, for instance, how the amygdala works, a blend of inheritance and hard-won education. Those who adapt well to the post-traumatic stress share points in common. One characteristic of success, writes Gonzales, is the ability to step outside oneself to help others, which is “one of the most therapeutic steps you can take.” Survivors of traumatic events often do not recover without help from others, and Gonzales’ book is an education for those wishing to be of use in a stressful, often frightening world. Drawing on gripping cases across a wide range of life-threatening experiences, Laurence Gonzales fashions a compelling argument about fear, courage, and the adaptability of the human spirit.

Friends of Clonmel Intercontinental Readers will meet on March 6 at Main Library on LL1 to hold a Skype discussion with the group in Clonmel, Ireland about Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. Ordinary Grace is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 6 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss the Peoria Reads! 2018 selection, Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel. Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel’s fourth novel, won the Arthur C. Clarke Award, was a finalist for the National Book Award and PEN/Faulkner Award, was an Amazon Best Book of the Month, and was named one of the best books of the year by more than a dozen publications. It’s been translated into 27 languages. “Equal parts page-turner and poem" (Entertainment Weekly), the novel is set 20 years after a devastating flu pandemic destroys civilization as we know it. A woman moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians until they encounter a violent prophet who threatens the tiny band’s existence. "Possibly the most captivating and thought-provoking post-apocalyptic novel you will ever read” (The Independent London). “It’s hard to imagine a novel more perfectly suited, in both form and content, to this literary moment” (The New Yorker).

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, March 12 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss The Collapsing Empire by John Scalzi. Faster than light travel is impossible—until the discovery of The Flow, an extradimensional field available at certain points in space-time, which can take us to other planets around other stars. Riding The Flow, humanity spreads to innumerable other worlds. Earth is forgotten. A new empire arises, the Interdependency, based on the doctrine that no one human outpost can survive without the others. It's a hedge against interstellar war—and, for the empire's rulers, a system of control. But when it's discovered that the entire Flow is moving, possibly separating all human worlds from one another forever, a scientist, a starship captain, and the emperox of the Interdependency must race to find out what can be salvaged from an empire on the brink of collapse.

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22 at North Branch to discuss “The Adventure of the Yellow Face.” Mr. Grant Munro tells Holmes and Watson the story of Munro’s deception by his wife Effie. She had been previously married in America, but her husband and child had died of yellow fever, whereupon she returned to England and met and married Munro. Their marriage had been blissful—until she asked for a hundred pounds and begged him not to ask why. Two months later, Effie Munro was caught conducting secret liaisons with the occupants of a cottage near the Munro house in Norbury. Grant Munro has seen a mysterious yellow-faced person in this cottage. Overcome with jealousy, he breaks in and finds the place empty. However, the room where he saw the mysterious figure is very comfortable and well furnished, with a portrait of his wife on the mantelpiece. Holmes, after sending Munro home with instructions to wire for him if the cottage was reoccupied, confides in Watson his belief that the mysterious figure is Effie Munro’s first husband. He postulates that the husband, having been left in America, has come to England to blackmail her. Is it the husband or not? Sherlock is on the case.

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Turtles All the Way Down by John Green. Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there’s a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett’s son, Davis. Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.
Genealogy: A Love Story  

BY AMBER LOWEY

Working on genealogy is a lot like being in a relationship.

When you first start working on your family’s history, everything is beautiful and bright and golden. Names and dates come to you with ease. You spend all your time with genealogy and when you have to do other things, such as eat, sleep, or go to work, you resent that you cannot ignore them to continue working on your tree. You collect pictures and obituaries and records of your family’s history from a number of websites. You go to the Peoria Public Library every day. Everything is GREAT. Genealogy is EASY!

Then you have your first argument. Were Poppa Joe and Nana Marie married in 1919, just like you were always told? Or… were they married in 1920 according to the family bible? You and genealogy fight records are few and/or missing. You and genealogy fight DNA tested.

After a while, there is a rough patch. Times are hard, records are few and/or missing. You and genealogy fight some time apart. Maybe you question why you ever took up genealogy. You have long conversations with the librarians, learning about blogs, societies, and brick walls. You have to work a little harder, but it is worth it. You are being tested… DNA tested.

So if you have hit your rough patch and are not sure if you are ready to start again, come down to the Main Library. We would be happy to help you try to get over your rough patch and fall in love with genealogy all over again. If you are wary of getting into a relationship with genealogy, stop by the Peoria Public Library and let us show you how your family history is worth falling for.