Peoria Reads! will offer a variety of programs and discussions in March and April to enhance and expand the discussions around *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, this year’s one-city, one-book choice. The book examines a world that has fallen to a pandemic and what happens 20 years after most of the world’s population is wiped out. No ordinary disaster story, this one is seen through the eyes of a troupe of actors and musicians who save Shakespeare and classical music. Complete information about Peoria Reads!, the book, the events and more is available at [www.peoriareads.org](http://www.peoriareads.org) and updates are found on the Peoria Reads! Facebook page as well.

The project launched with an exhibit The Museum of Civilization, in the Main Gallery at Peoria Public Library Main Library. It ends on Saturday, February 24, but is modeled after the museum in the book, that showcases items once highly used daily and now obsolete as civilization changes.

A variety of book discussions will be held at various locations, including on Sunday, March 18 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. A further discussion into plague literature will be lead by Dr. Lirim Neziroski on Thursday, April 19 at North Branch. Other discussion times are listed at peoriareads.org.

On Thursday, March 15 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., experience what it’s like to face a pandemic like the one in *Station Eleven* with an evening at Methodist College, 7600 N. Academic Drive. See a live action simulation of the progression of an epidemic outbreak in a hospital and its effects on the population and health care providers. There will also be an interactive lab on transmission of diseases. Then attend the final “debriefing” discussion while enjoying refreshments. Registration is limited, so please contact (ckarn@methodistcol.edu) to reserve your spot.

Children in grades 3 through 5 are invited to take part as well with the American Red Cross Pillow Case project on April 2, 3 and 4 at various library branches, when they will learn to prepare for a disaster. Since a graphic novel is a key element in *Station Eleven*, a J.M. Hunter Cartoon Workshop will be offered on April 4 at North Branch from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration is required for these events. Please email programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us or call 497-2143.

The Peoria Reads! events wrap up with an examination of severe weather here in Illinois with Chris Miller, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Lincoln, Illinois during which, in a fascinating presentation, he will present the facts about the history, and current statistics about, severe weather in Illinois. See the big picture in a way weather is seldom presented. It takes place on Thursday, April 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at North Branch.

Peoria Reads! is entering its 16th year of asking Peorians to read and discuss the same great book. Peoria Reads is a joint project of Common Place and Peoria Public Library. While funds are not available this year to provide free copies of the book, many copies may be borrowed from Peoria Public Library as books, e-books and audio books.
Nationally Recognized Peoria Author to Present Nuns, Nazis, and Notre Dame

BY JAMIE JONES

Nationally recognized Peoria author Tim Pletkovich will speak at the Peoria Public Library McClure Branch Library at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, and at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, about his new book, Nuns, Nazis, and Notre Dame: Stories of the Great Depression, World War II, and Fighting Irish.

Pletkovich will examine the early life of decorated U.S. Army veteran Gerald A. O’Reilly. The son of a prominent Wall Street banker and grandson of a U.S. ambassador under three presidents, O’Reilly was raised in Brooklyn, New York, during the 1920s and ’30s. His story takes us from the bleachers at Ebbets Field in trolley-car Brooklyn to the hallways of Notre Dame during legendary football coach Frank Leahy’s national championship years, to the innermost thoughts of an elite Tenth Mountain Division soldier thrust into the horrors of battle in Italy’s harsh Apennine Mountains.

A brother-in-law of former United States Senator James L. Buckley and the late William F. Buckley, Jr., O’Reilly provides glimpses into the lives of one of the twentieth century’s most revered political families. His nephew, novelist and humorist Christopher Buckley, recently described his uncle’s narrative as “quietly heroic. His splendid soul is on full display…” Buckley said, “I have known [Gerry] for over half a century, and knew that he had served with valor in World War II in the fabled Tenth Mountain Division. But until I read this memoir, I had no idea what he went through. And why would I have? He was not the kind to talk about it…To quote James Michener: Where do we find such men?” O’Reilly is the last surviving member of his military company.

Pletkovich will be autographing copies of both Nuns, Nazis, and Notre Dame and his award-winning debut work, Civil War Fathers, at the March 15 and March 17 events.

Celebrate the Illinois Bicentennial with #PeoriaStoryChallenge

BY MARY SPENGLER AND PAT ENGLAND

Calling history lovers of all ages! Peoria Public Library is offering an exciting challenge to celebrate Illinois’ 200th birthday. From April 1 to May 31, email “selfies” or other photos of yourself visiting five historical sites and monuments around Peoria from a list of the twenty we provide, and you will be entered into a drawing to win some amazing prizes.

Participants 18 and up have the opportunity to win one of two prizes. The first prize is an Ancestry DNA kit, perfect for exploring your roots and using alongside Ancestry Library Edition, free at all Peoria Public Library locations. The second prize is a Peoria Historical Society sponsored tour, for the winner and a friend, of two of Peoria’s most famous homes, the Flanagan House Museum, constructed in 1837, and the Pettengill-Morron house, once home to abolitionist Moses Pettengill who was close friends with Abraham Lincoln.

Teens or children 18 and under who take part will be entered into a drawing to win an Instax mini-camera.

Participants who provide photos of themselves visiting a minimum of five locations may also complete our local history trivia sheet to have two extra tickets entered into the prize drawing.

#PeoriaStoryChallenge is the perfect opportunity for children and adults to learn more about Peoria’s rich history. Giant Oak Park, Peoria Public Library Lincoln Branch and Richard Pryor’s hometown statue are just a few of the fun destinations that will be listed. All photo entries and trivia answers must be submitted by email to programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us no later than 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 31, and may be posted to the Peoria Public Library website and social media to promote #PeoriaStoryChallenge. Be sure to check the website at peoriapubliclibrary.org for more information.

Coming in March 2018

As You Wish by Jude Deveraux

Begins with three very different women who meet by chance in Summerhill, Virginia and find they have much more in common than they could have ever thought. Olivia is a 60-year-old newlywed whose first marriage was unhappy and long and she is excited to be starting a new life with a man she has always loved. Kathy is a 40-year-old woman, married to a handsome and successful businessman, who she finds out, is in love with someone else. The youngest of the trio is Elise at twenty plus who is married to a man her parents picked for her. She finds out he has a pregnant mistress and is willing to go to any lengths to get Elise out of the picture. Even though all three women are at the summerhouse for different reasons, they share their regrets, wishes and dreams. When they get a chance to fix the wrongs from their past, they find that dreams really can come true.

In The Woman Left Behind: A Novel by Linda Howard, Jina Modell works in communications for a paramilitary organization. She loves her job but when she shows a skill for spatial awareness she gets reassigned to a 60-team as an on-site drone operator. Levi, the team leader of the unit that Jina has been assigned to does not have a lot of confidence that she will make it through training because she is not especially athletic but she works hard and becomes an important part of the team. Behind the scenes, a Congresswoman with an agenda to destroy the 60-teams has set a trap to ambush the squad in Syria. When the base is attacked with explosives, the rest of the team is out on their mission, and Jina who had stayed behind to control the surveillance drone escapes to the desert. Somehow she has to make it to her crew before they are sent out of the country, and Levi not knowing whether she is alive or dead goes back to search because you never leave a soldier behind, especially one that you are in love with.
March
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 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.

March
LAKEVIEW BRANCH & MCCLURE BRANCH
Around the Library Reading Challenge
Pick up a challenge sheet at the Information Desk and read your way through the non-fiction side of the library! Read a book from each part of the Dewey Decimal System and be entered to win a $10 gift card to Barnes and Noble! One winner from three different age ranges. Open to readers of all ages!

March
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
One-on-One Resume Writing Assistance
Do you have a copy of your resume on hand and need someone to look over it? Or are you having a hard time writing your resume and you feel like you are not getting anywhere? The Lakeview Branch has a One-On-One Resume Writing Assistance Program for job seekers. Please call Fran at 309-497-2200 to schedule a one-hour session to help you write your resume.

March
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. Ask for a Craft-to-Go, take it home and the fun begins.

March
NORTH BRANCH
Puzzle Table
Have a few extra minutes before you check out? Stop by the table next to the info desk and help us finish one of our jigsaw puzzles! All ages.

March
NORTH BRANCH
Illinois Bicentennial Scavenger Hunt and Trivia Walk
Celebrate 200 years of Illinois history with a state-themed scavenger hunt and trivia walk. Participants of all ages can walk the library, finding objects of interest and answering questions to earn a prize. Have fun learning about your state and its exciting history!

March 1 & 2
MAIN LIBRARY
Find That Cat Scavenger Hunt
To celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday we’ve hidden 10 Cats in the Hat around the Children’s Area. How many do you think you can find? Children in grades K-4 can pick up an entry form at the front desk, then write down the special word that is on each Cat in the Hat. Turn it in for a special prize. While supplies last.

Thursday, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
MCCLURE BRANCH
Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, March 1
LINCOLN BRANCH
Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration – 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Come join us for a fun-filled day of Dr. Seuss stories, games, crafts and various “Seussical” treats! Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
NORTH BRANCH
A-Z Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
We’re learning the alphabet! 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.

March 2-29
MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY
Seeking Light: Shedding Light
Art has always been a means for finding and expressing meaning, shedding light on the human experience. Four artists will address the theme of the exhibit through their individual mediums—oil painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, textiles and book arts. Visitors to the exhibit will be provided with an opportunity to share the experiences that bring Light into their lives by posting their inspirations on postcards that will be displayed on the wall. A public reception for the exhibit will be held on Saturday, March 10, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Gallery.

March 2-30
MCCLURE BRANCH
Read Across America
It’s a month-long celebration of diverse books! If you turn in a completed Read Across America challenge sheet, you’ll receive a prize, and will be entered into the drawing for a $10 Amazon or Barnes & Noble gift card. Ages 0 to 12.

Friday, March 2
BOOKMOBILE
One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Goldfish!
Help the Bookmobile celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday! Pick up a goldfish snack, Dr. Seuss bookmark or check out your favorite Dr. Seuss book!

Friday, March 2
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Art – 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Join us once a month for a fun artful activity geared towards toddlers. Let your child explore the world of colors and shapes while learning fine motor skills along the way. Dress for a mess.

Friday, March 2
MCCLURE 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 9-24 mo.
**March Calendar**

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

**Friday, March 2**  
**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**  
**Drop In: LEGO Builders Club – 3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
Calling all LEGO fans! Join us at Lakeview Branch for our Lego Builders Club. Drop in any time to play. Parental supervision is required.

**March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**  
**NORTH BRANCH**  
**Busier Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.**  
Children of all ages.

**Saturday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
**MAIN LIBRARY AUDITORIUM**  
**Film Noir – 2:00-4:00 p.m.**  
Join us for the 16th annual Film Noir series, hosted by Steve Tarter. Free.  
March 3: The Big Sleep (1946) Humphrey Bogart & Lauren Bacall  
March 10: Ministry of Fear (1944) Ray Milland  
March 17: Vertigo (1958) Jimmy Stewart  
March 24: Man Bait (1952) George Brent  
March 31: The Big Steal (1949) Robert Mitchum & Jane Greer

**March 5-10**  
**MAIN LIBRARY**  
**Create It! Lite-Brite Pixel Art**  
Teens, stop in the children's storytime room anytime during Teen Tech Week, March 5-10, to create a picture using our giant lite-brite for pixel art. Take a picture and share your creation with us at the Information Desk to receive a pair of earbuds for participating. For questions or ideas call us at 309-497-2000. Ages 12 to 18.

**March 5-10**  
**MAIN LIBRARY**  
**Create It! Stop Motion Animation**  
It’s Teen Tech Week! Teens - create a stop motion movie using your tablet or smart phone. Just install the app, gather a pile of craft supplies and/or toys to film and share it with us if you wish to receive a flash drive for participating. For questions or ideas call us at 309-497-2000. Ages 12 to 18.

**Monday, March 5**  
**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**  
**Bilingual Storytime – 10:15-10:45 a.m.**  
This Spanish/English storytime features books, games, and songs to build vocabulary in both languages. Children of all ages. En la hora del cuento bilingüe habrá lectura de libros, juegos y canciones que le ayudarán a aumentar su vocabulario en Español e Inglés. Para todas las edades.

**Monday, March 5, 12 & 26**  
**NORTH BRANCH – 10:30-11:00 a.m.**  
**Tiny Tots Storytime**  
Ages 12 to 23 months.

**Monday, March 5**  
**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**  
**PAWS to Read – 2:00-3:00 p.m.**  
Meet and read to therapy dog buddies! Children ages 7+ will partner with a special dog friend to read their favorite books out loud. Registration suggested. To register, please call Peoria Humane Society at 672-2447.

**Monday, March 5**  
**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: wheels and inclined planes. Ages 5 to 8.

**Tuesday, March 6, 13, 20 & 27**  
**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**  
**Bookin’ It Walking Club – 10:00-11:30 a.m.**  
Need help starting a consistent fitness routine? Join the Bookin’ It Walking Club and get a little support! We will walk inside on yucky days and outside in the nice weather. We will keep track of goals and milestones. Members who complete 24 weeks will be entered into a drawing for a prize!

**Tuesday, March 6**  
**LINCOLN BRANCH**  
**Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.**  
Ages 3 to 6.

**Tuesday, March 6, 13, 20 & 27**  
**LAKEVIEW BRANCH**  
**Toddler Tales – 2:00-2:30 p.m.**  
Ages 2 to 4.
The worst artist will win a crown…made or decoupage, just make sure it’s awful. Imaginable…on purpose! Sculpt, paint, just plain silly. This month: “Bad Art” – the whimsical, the A-for-effort, and the window and just have fun – celebrating We’re going to throw technique out the ing artwork, but never had the nerve? Have you always wanted to try mak

Judgment Free Art Night – 4:00-6:00 p.m. NORTH BRANCH Saturday, March 10

Join us for a book-themed round of Kahoot! Trivia – 3:00-3:30 p.m. Bring your own device and join in the fun! Ages 11 to 18.

Saturday, March 10

MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY Seeking Light: Shedding Light Art Reception – 2:00-4:00 p.m. Meet the artists at this public reception. Art has always been a means for finding and expressing meaning, shedding light on the human experience. Four artists will address the theme of the exhibit through their individual mediums—oil painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, textiles and book arts. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, March 10

NORTH BRANCH Coat Storytime – 7:00-7:45 p.m. – Lab Science in the library! Monday, March 12

NORTHB RANCH Science Week Science in the library! Monday, March 12, 7:00-7:45 p.m. – Lab Coat Storytime – Dress up as your favorite scientist or come in your pajamas. Wednesday, March 14, 4:00-5:00 p.m. – Cooking Science Demonstration – What makes baked goods rise? What are starches and emulsifiers? Find out the answers to these questions and more, and take home some fun recipes.

Thursday, March 15

LINCOLN BRANCH Puppet Show – 10:00-10:30 a.m. “Leprechaun’s Gold.” Come help Leprechaun hide his gold. Ages 3 to 6.

March 10-31

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. Read any four books from your age group. Turn it in by November 15, 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.

Saturday, March 10

LINCOLN BRANCH Drop In: St. Patrick’s Day Crafts-to-Go – 12:00-5:00 p.m. Make something fun and green for St. Patrick’s Day. While supplies last. Children of all ages.

Saturday, March 10

NORTH BRANCH Slime Craft – 4:00-4:30 p.m. – Get your hands messy and discover the power of polymers as we make different kinds of slime!

Friday, March 16, 4:00-5:45 p.m. – Join us in the Beehive room to watch Flubber, starring Robin Williams. PG.

Saturday, March 17, 3:14-4:00 p.m. – How many digits of Pi can you recite? The winner gets a pie!

Tuesday, March 13

LINCOLN BRANCH Front & Center: Youth Art Month Button Art – 5:00-6:00 p.m. Glue colorful buttons into shapes such as bowls, colorful eggs and so much more. While supplies last. Ages 5 to 10.

March 12-17


Tuesday, March 13

MCCLURE BRANCH Meet Author Tim Pletkovich–1:30-2:30 pm

This month: The Collapsing Empire by John Scalzi

March 15 & 17

MCCLURE BRANCH Meet Tim Pletkovich–1:30-2:30 pm

Nationally recognized Peoria author Tim Pletkovich will speak about his new book, Nuns, Nazis, and Notre Dame: Stories of the Great Depression, World War II, and Fighting Irish. Pletkovich will examine the early life of decorated U.S. Army veteran Gerald A. O’Reilly. Pletkovich will be autographing copies of both Nuns, Nazis, and Notre Dame and Civil War Fathers. A portion of sales will benefit the Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Thursday, March 15

LINCOLN BRANCH

Third Thursday Film Fest: Books into Movies – 2:00-4:30 p.m. This month: The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)
**March Calendar**

**Friday, March 16**
MCCLURE 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.

**Saturday, March 17**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Autism Resource Group–10:00am-1:00pm
Are you a parent with a tween or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us for resource sharing and support.

**Saturday, March 17**
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Luck of the Irish Movie Showing – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day by snacking on green treats while enjoying The Luck of the Irish, a 2001 Disney Channel Original Movie about a basketball star turned leprechaun! All ages welcome.

**Sunday, March 18**
NORTH BRANCH
Peoria Reads 2018: Discussion of Station Eleven – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Join us for a discussion of the Peoria Reads 2018 selection Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel. This discussion will be facilitated by Colleen Karn, Instructor of English & Humanities at Methodist College.

**Monday, March 19**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Introduction to Assistive Technology – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
What is Assistive Technology (AT)? Learn where you can find it and how it can help. You will also learn about the Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) and the services they offer.

**Tuesday, March 20**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Front & Center: Youth Art Month Craft Sticks Art – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Show your creativity with designs using craft Popsicle sticks. Ages 5 to 10.

**Tuesday, March 20**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
YA for Adults Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Are you in your 20s or 30s and enjoy reading Young Adult books? Join this fun group to discuss the best in YA literature. As a bonus, there are always snacks! This month: Turtles All the Way Down by John Green

**Wednesday, March 21**
NORTH BRANCH
Family Activity Night – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Get some quality family bonding time. Children and adults of all ages. This month: Build your own board game.

**Thursday, March 22**
NORTH BRANCH
I Spy Library – 4:00-4:30 p.m.
Celebrate 25 years of the I Spy books! Tell us what you can spy in the library, and make your own I Spy picture to take home and share with your friends. Ages 4 to 10.

**Thursday, March 22**
LAKEVIEW 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. This month: The Adventure of the Yellow Face

**Monday, March 26**
MCCLURE BRANCH
Monday Morning Movie–10:30am-12:30pm
Enjoy a classic movie with popcorn! Let’s return to yesteryear! We’ve found some timeless treasures that are at least fifty years old. This month: The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)

**Monday, March 26**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Movies by Decade – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
This month: The Big Sleep (1946)

**Thursday, March 27**
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop-In: Flower Mobile Craft – 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Create a flower mobile to remind you of the bright colors of spring that are on the way! Ages 6 to 10.

**Tuesday, March 27**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Puppet Show – 10:00-10:30 a.m.

**Saturday, March 31**
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop-In: Flower Mobile Craft – 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Create a flower mobile to remind you of the bright colors of spring that are on the way! Ages 6 to 10.

**Saturday, March 31**
LINCOLN BRANCH
Annual Easter Egg Hunt – 2:30-3:00 p.m.
Come help us find the eggs the Easter Bunny hid! Bags for collecting eggs will be provided! For children in preschool through middle school.
Join a book club at Peoria Public Library this month. New members are always welcome!

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende. The unforgettable first novel that established Isabel Allende as one of the world's most gifted and imaginative storytellers. The House of the Spirits brings to life the triumphs and tragedies of three generations of the Trueba family. The patriarch Esteban is a volatile, proud man whose voracious pursuit of political power is tempered only by his love for his delicate wife, Clara, a woman with a mystical connection to the spirit world. When their daughter Blanca embarks on a forbidden love affair in defiance of her implacable father, the result is an unexpected gift to Esteban: his adored granddaughter Alba, a beautiful and strong-willed child who will lead her family and her country into a revolutionary future. One of the most important novels of the twentieth century, The House of the Spirits is an enthralling epic that spans decades and lives, weaving the personal and the political into a universal story of love, magic, and fate.

The Read on Book Club will meet at Lincoln Branch on Tuesday, April 24 to discuss Blonde Faith by Walter Mosely. For more information please call (309) 497-2601. Easy Rawlins, L.A.'s most reluctant detective, comes home one day to find Easter, the daughter of his friend Christmas Black, left on his doorstep. Easy knows that this could only mean that the ex-marine Black is probably dead, or will be soon. Easter's appearance is only the beginning, as Easy is immersed in a sea of problems. The love of his life is marrying another man and his friend Mouse is wanted for the murder of a father of 12. As he's searching for a clue to Christmas Black's whereabouts, two suspicious MPs hire him to find his friend Black on behalf of the U.S. Army. Easy's investigation brings him to Faith Laneer, a blonde woman with a dark past. As Easy begins to put the pieces together, he realizes that Black's disappearance has its roots in Vietnam, and that Faith might be in a world of danger.

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 26 at North Branch to discuss "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk." A young clerk, Hall Pycroft, consults Holmes with his suspicions concerning a company that has offered him a very well-paid job. Pycroft explains that he was recently made redundant from a stockbroking house. He eventually secured a new post with another stockbrokers, Mawson and Williams. Before taking up the job, he was approached by Arthur Pinner, who offered him a manager- ship with a newly established hardware distribution company, to be based in France. Pycroft is sent to Birmingham to meet Pinner's brother and company co-founder, Harry Pinner. He is offered a very well-paid post with £100 in advance, and is asked not to send a letter of resignation to his would-be employers. He immediately commences his duties, but he is concerned about the unprofessional aspects of the business and their sparse offices, as well as the suspicious fact that the two Pinners have a distinctive gold filling in their teeth in the same place, suggesting that they might be the same man. Why should Pycroft not resign from Mawson and Williams and why do brothers have the same gold filling? Holmes and Watson are on the case!

The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club will meet on Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation by Rebecca Traister. In 2009, award-winning journalist Rebecca Traister started All the Single Ladies about the twenty-first century phenomenon of the American single woman. It was the year the proportion of American women who were married dropped below fifty percent; and the median age of first marriages, which had remained between twenty and twenty-two years old for nearly a century (1890–1980), had risen dramatically to twenty-seven. But over the course of her vast research, Traister discovered a startling truth: the phenomenon of the single woman in America is not a new one. And historically, when women were given options beyond early heterosexual marriage, the results were massive social change—temperance, abolition, secondary education, and more. Today, only twenty percent of Americans are married by age twenty-nine, compared to nearly sixty percent in 1980. “An informative and thought-provoking book for anyone—not just single ladies” (The New York Times Book Review). All the Single Ladies is a remarkable portrait of contemporary American life and how we got here, through the lens of the unmarried American woman.

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, April 9 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Every Heart a Doorway by Seanan McGuire. An additional optional read is the second book in the series Down Among the Sticks and Bones. Children have always disappeared from Eleanor West’s Home for Wayward Children under the right conditions: slipping through the shadows under abed or at the back of a wardrobe, tumbling down rabbit holes and into old wells, and emerging somewhere else. But magical lands have little need for used-up miracle children. Nancy tumbled once, but now she’s back. The things she’s experienced... they change a person. The children under Miss West’s care understand all too well. And each of them is seeking a way back to their own fantasy world. But Nancy’s arrival marks a change at the Home. There’s a darkness just around each corner, and when tragedy strikes, it’s up to Nancy and her new-found schoolmates to get to the heart of the matter. No matter the cost.
BOOK CLUBS

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Genuine Fraud by E. Lockhart. This is the story of a young woman whose diabolical smarts are her ticket into a charmed life. But how many times can someone reinvent themselves? You be the judge. Imogen is a runaway heiress, an orphan, a cook, and a cheat. Julie is a fighter, a social chameleon, and an athlete. An intense friendship. A disappearance. A murder, or maybe two. A bad romance, or maybe three. Blunt objects, disguises, blood, and chocolate. The American dream, superheroes, spies, and villains. A girl who refuses to give people what they want from her. A girl who refuses to be the person she once was.

The Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie, one of the most famous and beloved mysteries from the queen of suspense. Ten people, each with something to hide and something to fear, are invited to a isolated mansion on Indian Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. On the island they are cut off from everything but each other and the inescapable shadows of their own past lives. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts. And one by one, they die. Which among them is the killer and will any of them survive?

Friends of Clonmel Intercontinental Readers will meet at 1:00 p.m. on June 5 at Main Library on LL1 to hold a Skype discussion with the group in Clonmel, Ireland about Days Without End by Sebastian Barry. Moving from the plains of Wyoming to Tennessee, Sebastian Barry’s latest work is a masterpiece of atmosphere and language. An intensely poignant story of two men and the makeshift family they create with a young Sioux girl. Winona, Days Without End is a fresh and haunting portrait of the most fateful years in American history and is a novel never to be forgotten.

The Luck of the Irish...DNA

BY AMBER LOWERY

When it comes to St. Patrick’s Day (March 17), suddenly everyone you know becomes Irish. It once read there are more people who claim to be descendants of Ireland in the United States than there are actually Irish people in Ireland. But nowadays that is easy to prove with DNA.

Ads for commercial DNA testing from some of the top companies in the United States spout beautiful commercials with picturesque scenery about discovering where your ancestors came from. But this is only the tip of the iceberg of what you can learn with DNA. For much like said iceberg, DNA goes deep.

A few weeks ago I used DNA matching results to break a reinforced brick wall in one of my Irish lines. Even with extensive research, all information stopped at my great-great-grandparents. As far as I knew, they left Ireland around the time of the Great Potato Famine, but HOW? Did they come alone? What part of the massive wave of Irish immigration were they? Did they know each other long before they married in 1863 and settled down in Peoria to start a family?

Recently a DNA match contacted me and using mutual matches provided with our DNA results it was quickly apparent which family lines matched and that the match was further back than my records went. I dove into research using AncestryLibrary edition and then, with all my gathered information, I laid out my evidence for my match, showed my work and drew my conclusion. My DNA match agreed with my conclusions. After six years of searching, my reinforced genealogical brick wall went down without a fight.

With access to AncestryLibrary at Peoria Public Library, I was then able to track down and find baptismal records for my great-great-grandmother, which included her parents’ names, baptismal records for her older siblings, her parents’ marriage record, and more.

Do you have questions about doing a DNA test or what to do with the results? Want to learn more of your Irish (or not-Irish) heritage? Come to the library. We are here to help you discover more about you. Perhaps the luck of the Irish will be with you, too.