Peoria Speaks Talks Elections and New Bellwether Project

On Thursday, April 12th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at North Branch, Dennis Anderson, executive editor of the Peoria Journal Star, will lead a Peoria Speaks community conversation exploring what 2018 election issues participants are concerned about, how they’re reacting to debates and campaign developments, and why. This event is free and open to the public.

At this event, Illinois Humanities and the Peoria Journal Star will launch The Bellwether, a public-opinion storytelling project designed to help Americans better understand one another’s perspectives on politics and the world — and to generate media coverage of politics that starts with what ordinary Americans care about. As the 2018 election kicks into high gear, so does the flood of media coverage. The public will hear from the candidates about why voters should choose them, from the commentators who dissect those candidates’ statements, and plenty of predictions from pollsters about who’s got the edge.

The Bellwether project will follow 10 to 12 participants from April to October. After attending the initial Peoria Speaks discussion, members of the group will receive text messages up to once a week from Journal Star staff to stay in touch about how they’re responding to the election, and the media’s coverage of the election, as it progresses. In October, just before the general election, the group will come together once more and explore how their perspectives have developed since April.

Project participants from all backgrounds and all levels of political engagement — Democrats, Republicans and independents; likely voters as well as non-voters are welcome. No prior experience is needed: the only requirements are a cell phone with text messaging (SMS) capability and a willingness to participate in two community conversations and respond to a text message about once a week.

The Bellwether offers an opportunity to connect with a diverse range of people in the community for open, constructive dialogue about the issues that matter to you. In an age when partisan shouting matches dominate social media and cable news, it’s an opportunity to talk across political divides in a way that’s about listening and building understanding, not winning a debate. It’s also a chance to make your voice heard in the media: your input will help guide the Journal Star’s election and politics coverage.

Those interested in joining the focus group, visit the following link to complete our prospective participant survey:

Anyone may attend the initial Peoria Speaks discussion, it is not necessary to fill out the survey to attend.

Library Journal Names Roberta Koscielski 2018 Mover and Shaker

Library Journal has named Roberta Koscielski, Peoria Public Library Deputy Director, as a 2018 Mover and Shaker! This prestigious national award comes as a result of Roberta’s long history working toward goals that benefit the community with the library and with Common Place Family Learning Center.

Roberta has been involved in helping launch projects such as Don’t Shoot, Peoria Reads!, and educating the community on the skyrocketing opiate epidemic. Roberta believes libraries are “a place to learn about issues, discuss them together, and work on solutions.”

Congratulations, Roberta!

Photo by Mitchell L. Rose
Wilhelm, William, Bill, and Billy...What’s in a name?
BY AMBER LOWERY

I’ve always loved names. As a young adult, I loved going through baby name books to look up meanings and similar names. Perhaps this was an early sign that I was meant to be a genealogist, my love for names. It also gave me a great base of knowledge when I started my genealogy journey.

Many people like to talk about name changes at Ellis Island (which did not usually happen that way). But families forget how our ancestors assimilated to life and culture in America. There was not the legal court process of changing a name that there is in place today. Some immigrants came looking forward to new opportunities; a new country, a new occupation, a new culture, a new language, and a new name. Others changed their names to simplify things.

Wilhelm transitioned to the more English-sounding, more Americanized name of William and quickly got nicknamed to Bill or Will, and for the little ones, Billy and historically, Willie. Even better, they usually liked the name so much or followed traditional naming patterns such that each generation in the family would have more than one William or some derivative of that name.

One of my favorite names to use as an example is Margaret. Maggie, Margie, Megan, Molly, Peggie, Polly, Rita, Greta, Daisy and Maisie are common and, in some cases, historic nicknames for Margaret. I could go on. Just look at the number of nicknames for other well-known names such as Elizabeth, John, Mary Anne, and Robert.

Learning name variations for not only nicknames but other languages can be extremely helpful when it comes to researching your family history. Reading about traditional naming patterns can help identify the next link in your line.

The next time you wonder about your name and the names of your ancestors, come visit us at the Main Library in the Local History and Genealogy section and learn more about your families’ names.

HOT NEW TITLES
BY ROBIN HELENTHAL

Coming in April 2018
The author of Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier, returns to the era of the American Civil War with In Varina: A Novel. Varina Howell has limited choices for marriage and when she marries Jefferson Davis who is older and a widower, she hopes this will give her security as the wife of a Mississippi landowner. Davis decides to pursue a career in politics and becomes the president of the Confederacy which puts Varina in the middle of one of the darkest moments in American history. When the Confederacy begins to fall, her marriage over and the country divided, Varina takes her children and escapes Richmond and travels south. The book is a novel of an American war and its after effects. It is also the story of a woman who finds herself and her family fugitives due to the political activities of her husband. She must suffer the consequences of her involvement in those activities.

The Female Persuasion by Meg Wolitzer begins with Greer Kadetsky, a shy college freshman, madly in love with her boyfriend Cory, but still trying to figure out her purpose in life. When she meets Faith Frank, a woman who has been a leader in the women’s movement for decades and is also a great motivational speaker, she feels her inner world light up. As Faith mentors Greer to make something more out of her life, it begins to take her away from her love story with Cory and point her toward a future she has only dreamed about. This is a novel about ambition, friendship, mentorship and power. It is not just about who we want to be, but also who we want to be with.
April
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. Once your child reaches 1,000, they will be invited to a graduation party in May.

April
ALL LOCATIONS
Illinois Reads Contest
Each year the state of Illinois runs a statewide project to promote reading 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 November 15 to be entered to win our drawing for a $20 Barnes & Noble gift card. One winner per age group.

April
ALL LOCATIONS
#PeoriaStoryChallenge
Explore the rich history of Peoria by visiting five sites and monuments from a list of twenty provided. Share photos of yourself posing at those sites on to promote #PeoriaStoryChallenge. Submit your photos and trivia answers to programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us by May 31. Adults 18+ will have the opportunity to win an Ancestry DNA test or tickets to a Peoria Historical Society tour, and participants 17 and under will have their name entered into a drawing to win an Instax mini-camera.

April
NORTH BRANCH
Puzzle Table
Stop by the table next to the info desk and help us finish one of our jigsaw puzzles! All ages.

April
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.

April
MAIN LIBRARY
Shelf Poetry – 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Search the shelves in the Children's Area for hidden poems. Each poem will be printed on cardstock and stuck between two books on a shelf. Pull it out to read it then stick it back for the next person. Did you like the poem you read? Draw a smiley face on the back to show that you liked it.

April
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
One-on-One Resume Writing Assistance
Do you have a copy of your resume 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? Please call Fran at 309-497-2200 to schedule a one-hour session to help you write your resume.

Monday, April 2
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
1000 Books Before Kindergarten Presents: Picture Book Tasting – 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Join us for a book tasting designed for our littlest bookworms. You'll get to sample the newest picture books in our collection and make notes on your menu of what books your child liked, didn't like, or wasn't sure about. At the end, you can check books out, place holds, and take your list with you.

Monday, April 2 – NORTH BRANCH
Tuesday, April 3 – LINCOLN BRANCH
Wed. April 4 – MCCLURE BRANCH
Peoria Reads 2018: Emergency Preparedness Training: The Pillowcase Project – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
The Pillowcase Project teaches kids how they can best prevent, prepare for and escape from a home fire and what causes natural hazards like tornadoes. Kids will learn how they can prepare for and stay safe when a disaster becomes an emergency. Attendees will receive the My Preparedness Workbook and a sturdy pillowcase to hold their own emergency supply kit. Pre-Registration is recommended by March 26 by contacting 497-2150 or programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us.

April 2-7
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: National Find a Rainbow Day Scavenger Hunt – 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Pick up your rainbow log at the desk anytime during library hours and find 5 rainbows to receive your reward!

Monday, April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
NORTH BRANCH – 10:30-11:00 A.M.
Wednesday, April 4, 11, 18 & 25
LAKEVIEW BRANCH – 10:15-10:45 A.M.
Tiny Tots Storytime
Ages 12 to 23 months.

April 3-25
MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY
The 37th Annual Congressional Art Show
High school students from the 18th Congressional District will display their work in this annual show. Congressman Darin LaHood will announce the winners at a reception in the Gallery on Monday, April 23 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The first place winner will have their work exhibited in the U.S. Capitol for one year. Free and open to the public.

Monday, April 3, 10 & 24
LINCOLN BRANCH
Terrific Tattletale Storytime–10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.
**APRIL CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, April 3**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bibliophiles Book Club – 1:30-2:30 p.m.
This month: *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende

**Tuesday, April 3, 10, 17 & 24**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Tales – 2:00-2:30 p.m.
Ages 2 to 4.

**Tuesday, April 3**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: Build and Create Session – 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Build with our collection of Lego and Keva Planks. Ages 7 to 14.

**Tuesday, April 3**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: Sensory Art – 6:15-7:30 p.m.
This non-structured art session allows you to choose materials of your preference to create your own unique masterpiece. Lights will be dimmed, and ear muffs and fidgets are available.

**Tuesday, April 3, 10, 17 & 24**
MCCLURE BRANCH
After School Chess Club – 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Come learn how to play the game or grab a friend and test the skills you already have! Ages 10-13.

**Tuesday, April 3, 10, 17 & 24**
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 inclement 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!

**Wednesday, April 4**
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. Caregivers will be encouraged to engage their child, making reading time fun. Age 0 to 23 months.

**Wednesday, April 4**
NORTH BRANCH
Peoria Reads 2018: J.M. Hunter Cartoon Workshop – 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Ages 8 and up are invited to learn fun cartooning and drawing basics, as well as color theory. Participants will work together with the instructor to learn a few applications in the cartooning process and how to complete a piece that they can take home. Registration required. Call 309-497-2150 or email programmingdept@pll.peoria.lib.il.us

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

**Thursday, April 5, 12, 19 & 26**
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.

**Friday, April 6**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Baby Playground – 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.

**Friday, April 6**
MCCLURE BRANCH
Baby Playground – 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.

**Friday, April 6**
NORTH BRANCH
Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Children of all ages.

**Friday, April 6**
NORTH BRANCH
Children’s Choice Award Storytimes – 4:00-4:30 p.m.
Want to read some of the best picture books from the past year? Come to these storytimes featuring the finalists for the Children’s Choice Book Awards. Once we’re done, you can cast your vote for the winner! Ages 4 to 8.

**Friday, April 6**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: LEGO Builders Club – 3:00-5:00 pm
Parental supervision is required.

**Saturday, April 7**
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Becoming a Successful Self Advocate – 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Join us as Family Matters Parent Training and Resource Center leads a workshop about how to become a self advocate. This workshop will give individuals with special needs the tools to advocate in school and the workplace. For high school and up or caregivers. To register please call 309-497-2200.

**Saturday, April 7**
NORTH BRANCH
Teen Craft: Magnetic Poetry – 2:00-2:45 pm
April is National Poetry Month. Celebrate by making your own magnetic poetry set. Ages 11 to 18.

**Saturday, April 7**
NORTH BRANCH
Peoria Reads 2018: Film Warm Bodies – 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Join us for a showing of Warm Bodies followed by discussion led by Colleen Karn, Instructor of English & Humanities at Methodist College. Based on Isaac Marion’s novel of the same name. For high school ages and up.

**April 8-14**
ALL LOCATIONS
National Library Week: Instagram Your Library
Check out our list of challenges and post a picture of yours on Instagram! Tag @peoria_public_library and use #instagramyourlibrary to be entered into a drawing for a gift card.

**April 8-14**
ALL LOCATIONS
National Library Week Scavenger Hunt
Come see what your library has to offer! Complete the scavenger hunt during National Library Week and be entered to win a gift card.
Sunday, April 8
NORTH BRANCH
Biography and Nonfiction Book Club – 3:00-5:00 p.m.
This month: All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation by Rebecca Traister

Sunday, April 8
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Friendly Family Film – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Join us for this sensory friendly showing of Inside Out. Rated PG

April 9–14
MAIN LIBRARY
Book Reviews in the Shelves – 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
During National Library Week, watch for reviews and recommended book tags scattered throughout the children's collection.

Monday, April 9
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Book Was First Movie Series – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Monday, April 9
NORTH BRANCH
National Library Week Edible Book Contest – 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Individuals, families, and community groups are encouraged to create an edible entry based on a book. The public will be invited to view and vote on the creations. Contestants may use only edible materials to create an entry that is somehow related to any book title of their choice. Entries should be dropped off in the McKenzie Room between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on April 9. After 6:00 p.m., the winner will be announced, prizes will be awarded and entries can be eaten. Categories: Best Depiction of a Classic; Most Appetizing; Funniest/Punniest; Best Entry Based on Book for Children or Teens

Monday, April 9
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 weather. Ages 5 to 8.

Monday, April 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: Family Game & Puzzle Night – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Choose from our collection of puzzles & games to work on or play as a family.

Monday, April 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
This month: Every Heart a Doorway by Seanan McGuire (participants are also encouraged to read Down Among the Sticks and Bones by Seanan McGuire)

Tuesday, April 10
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Peoria Reads Discussion of Station Eleven – 6:30-7:45 p.m.
Join us for a discussion of this year's Peoria Reads! Selection, Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel, led by Dr. Melinda McBee-Orzulak, Assistant Professor, Department of English at Bradley University.

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

Thursday, April 12
MAIN LIBRARY
Drop In: D.E.A.R. Booklet – 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
It's Drop Everything and Read Day! In honor of children's author Beverly Cleary's birthday, pick up a D.E.A.R. booklet at the Information Desk. Also, check out some amazing books to read from our collection. Ages 5 to 13.

Thurs. April 12 & Tues. April 17
LINCOLN BRANCH
Puppet Show – 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 14
MCCLURE BRANCH
Titanic Remembrance Day Movie Showing – 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Honor Titanic Remembrance Day by enjoying a viewing of the 2003 Disney film, Ghosts of the Abyss.

Sunday, April 15
NORTH BRANCH
All Castles, No Hassles: Planning a Stress-Free UK Holiday – 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Join Anglophile and former UK resident Claire Evans for a slice of Victoria sponge, a proper cup of tea, and a lively discussion about planning travel to the UK. She'll give tips on transportation, destinations, everyday living, food, accommodation, and culture. Please reserve your spot by calling 309-497-2143 or emailing programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us

Monday, April 16
NORTH BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
This month: And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Monday, April 16
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Identity Theft: How to Protect Yourself Online and Offline – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Gary Chatham, Founder of Peoria-Based Data Security Company Intelisec, will present simple strategies that everyone can use to protect their identity in the face of increased threats.

Tuesday, April 17
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
YA for Adults Book Club – 6:30-7:45 p.m.
This month: Genuine Fraud by E. Lockhart

Wednesday, April 18
NORTH BRANCH
Family Activity Night – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Get some quality family bonding time. This month: Play one of our cards games or make up a new one.

Thursday, April 19
NORTH BRANCH
Third Thursday Film Fest: Books into Movies – 2:00-4:30 p.m.
Which was better: the movie or the book? It's your decision! This month: Around the World in 80 Days (2004)
Thursday, April 19
NORTH BRANCH
Plague Literature, a Peoria Reads! Discussion – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Join us for a discussion of the genre of plague literature led by Dr. Lirim Nezirioski, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, Methodist College.

Friday, April 20
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.

April 21 & 22
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Spring Used Book Sale – 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. & 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Hardbacks are $1.00 and paperbacks are $.25 or 5 for $1.00. Proceeds go to the Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Saturday, April 21
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Autism Resource Group: Assistive Technology – 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Nora Bardi will lead a discussion on the uses and benefits of Assistive Technology. Nora has her B.S. in education and her M.Ed. in special education. She also holds a graduate certificate/LBSII in Assistive Technology. She is currently the Assistive Technology Coordinator for McLean County Unit District No. 5 in Normal, Illinois.

Saturday, April 21
LINCOLN BRANCH
Drop In: Crafts-to-Go – 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Make a beautiful Spring Butterfly!

Saturday, April 21
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In:Earth Day Suncatcher–3:00-4:00pm
Celebrate Earth Day by creating a beautiful suncatcher.

Sunday, April 22
NORTH BRANCH
Earth Day Tree Giveaway–12:00-5:00 p.m.
Pick up a free tree seedling in honor of Earth Day.

Sunday, April 22
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: National Superhero Day – 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Wear your favorite superhero shirt, come do a craft and pick up a prize.

Monday, April 23
MCCLURE BRANCH
Monday Morning Movie–10:30am-12:30pm
This month: Harvey (1950)

Monday, April 23
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Estate Planning Workshop–6:00-7:30 pm
Mr. Fadi Rustom, partner at the Hall & Rustom, LLC law firm, will be giving a presentation on wills, trusts, probate, and power of attorney.

Tuesday, April 24
LINCOLN BRANCH
Read On Book Club – 5:30-7:00 p.m.
This month: Blonde Faith by Walter Mosley

Thursday, April 26
MAIN LIBRARY
Poem in Your Pocket Day–9:00am-6:00pm
To celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day, pick up a poem at the Information Desk to carry in your pocket. Read it, put it in your pocket or purse, pull it out, and share it with all your friends.

Thursday, April 26
NORTH BRANCH
Is Severe Weather Really Getting Worse? – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Get the facts in this presentation by Chris Miller, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Lincoln, Illinois.

Thursday, April 26
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In: Monster Bookmarks – 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Make a monster bookmark to celebrate Children's Book Week. While supplies last. Children of all ages.

Thursday, April 26
MCCLURE BRANCH
Drop In:Children's Book Week Craft
Celebrate Children's Book Week by stopping at the Information Desk for supplies to make your own version of a book character—Mo Willems's Pigeon!

Thursday, April 26
MAIN LIBRARY
Poem in Your Pocket Day–9:00am-6:00pm
To celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day, pick up a poem at the Information Desk to carry in your pocket. Read it, put it in your pocket or purse, pull it out, and share it with all your friends.

Saturday, April 28
NORTH BRANCH
Earth Day Tree Giveaway–12:00-5:00 p.m.
Pick up a free tree seedling in honor of Earth Day.

Saturday, April 28
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.

Saturday, April 28
NORTH BRANCH
What's the Buzz? How Well Do You Know Honeybees? – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Janet Hart, beekeeper for the observation hive at the North Branch, will share a presentation on The Changing World of Honeybees. The presentation will be followed by a short quiz “How Well Do You Know Honeybees?” for children 8 years old and up and adults.

Saturday, April 28
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Movies by Decade – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
This month: To Catch a Thief (1955)
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, May 20 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss A River Runs Again: India’s Natural World in Crisis, from the Barren Cliffs of Rajasthan to the Farmlands of Karnataka by Meera Subramanian. Crowded, hot, subject to violent swings in climate, with a government unable or unwilling to face the most vital challenges, the rich and poor increasingly living in worlds apart; for most of the world, this picture is of a possible future. For India, it is the very real present. In this lyrical exploration of life, loss, and survival, Meera Subramanian travels in search of the ordinary people and microenterprises determined to revive India’s ravaged natural world: an engineer–turned–farmer brings organic food to Indian plates; villagers resuscitate a river run dry; cook stove designers persist on the quest for a smokeless fire; biologists bring vultures back from the brink of extinction; and in Bihar, one of India’s most impoverished states, a bold young woman teaches adolescents the fundamentals of sexual health. While investigating these five environmental challenges, Subramanian discovers the stories that renew hope for a nation with the potential to lead India and the planet into a sustainable and prosperous future.

The Book ’Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss A Dark and Stormy Murder by Julia Buckley. Camilla Graham’s bestselling suspense novels inspired Lena London to become a writer, so when she lands a job as Camilla’s new assistant, she can’t believe her luck. Not only will she help her idol craft an enchanting new mystery, she’ll get to live rent–free in Camilla’s gorgeous Victorian home in the quaint town of Blue Lake, Indiana. But Lena’s fortune soon changes for the worse. First, she lands in the center of small town gossip for befriending the local recluse. Then, she stumbles across one thing that a Camilla Graham novel is never without—a dead body, found on her new boss’s lakefront property. Now Lena must take a page out of one of Camilla’s books to hunt down clues in a real crime that seems to be connected to the novelist’s mysterious estate—before the killer writes them both out of the story for good.

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, May 14 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss The Space Between the Stars by Anne Corlett. All Jamie Allenby ever wanted was space. Jamie Allenby ever wanted was space. Between the Stars is a bold new story of a young Sioux girl, 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 Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 1 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Love Anthony by Lisa Genova. In an insightful, deeply human story reminiscent of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Daniel Isn’t Talking, and The Reason I Jump, Lisa Genova offers a unique perspective in fiction—the extraordinary voice of Anthony, a nonverbal boy with autism. Anthony reveals a neurologically plausible peek inside the mind of autism, why he hates pronouns, why he loves swinging and the number three, how he experiences routine, joy, and love. In this powerfully unforgettable story, Anthony teaches two women about the power of friendship and helps them to discover the universal truths that connect us all.

The Read on Book Club will meet at Lincoln Branch on Tuesday, May 22 to discuss One House Over by Mary Monroe. Author Mary Monroe returns to the 1930s era of her acclaimed novel The Upper Room with a dazzling portrait of two very different couples whose friendship and fast times are no match for shattering betrayal. A solid marriage, a thriving business, and the esteem of their close–knit Alabama community—Joyce and Odell Watson have every reason to count their blessings. Their marriage has given well–off Joyce a chance at the family she’s always wanted—and granted Odell a once–in–a–lifetime shot to escape grinding poverty. But all that respectability and status comes at a cost. When their new neighbors turn out to be high–steppin’ bootleggers Milton and Yvonne Hamilton, the Watsons plunge headlong into good times and fast living. As much as the Watsons want to get along with their new neighbors, the gradual revelations of Yvonne and Milton’s seedy past make them think twice about how much time they spend together. But the Hamiltons won’t be dismissed so easily. The Watsons soon find them invading every area of their lives and discovering their long–held secrets.

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, 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, 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 Book ’Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss A Dark and Stormy Murder by Julia Buckley. Camilla Graham’s bestselling suspense novels inspired Lena London to become a writer, so when she lands a job as Camilla’s new assistant, she can’t believe her luck. Not only will she help her idol craft an enchanting new mystery, she’ll get to live rent–free in Camilla’s gorgeous Victorian home in the quaint town of Blue Lake, Indiana. But Lena’s fortune soon changes for the worse. First, she lands in the center of small town gossip for befriending the local recluse. Then, she stumbles across one thing that a Camilla Graham novel is never without—a dead body, found on her new boss’s lakefront property. Now Lena must take a page out of one of Camilla’s books to hunt down clues in a real crime that seems to be connected to the novelist’s mysterious estate—before the killer writes them both out of the story for good.

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 1 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Love Anthony by Lisa Genova. In an insightful, deeply human story reminiscent of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Daniel Isn’t Talking, and The Reason I Jump, Lisa Genova offers a unique perspective in fiction—the extraordinary voice of Anthony, a nonverbal boy with autism. Anthony reveals a neurologically plausible peek inside the mind of autism, why he hates pronouns, why he loves swinging and the number three, how he experiences routine, joy, and love. In this powerfully unforgettable story, Anthony teaches two women about the power of friendship and helps them to discover the universal truths that connect us all.

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BOOK CLUBS

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Winterfolk by Janel Kolby. This is a gritty yet beautiful debut novel about a homeless teen who relies on the magic she sees in the world around her to help her find her place, perfect for fans of Laura Ruby's Bone Gap. Rain is a homeless teen living with her father in the woods outside Seattle, near a community of other homeless people called the Winterfolk. She finds safety and sanctuary in this hidden world—until the day that safety is shattered when she learns the city plans to clear the woods of everyone who lives there. Now she's forced to confront Seattle, which is full of strange sights, sounds, people—and memories.

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 24 at North Branch to discuss "The Adventure of the Gloria Scott." In his university days, Holmes spent a month with his friend, Victor Trevor, at his father's estate in Norfolk. While there, Holmes amazed his host, Victor's father, who was a Justice of the Peace and a landowner besides. He had made his fortune in the goldfields in Australia. One of Holmes's deductions was that the elder Mr. Trevor was once connected with someone with the initials J. A. whom he wanted to forget. Holmes perceived that he was making his host uncomfortable and decided to take his leave. The evening before he did this, another old man suddenly appeared at the house causing the elder Mr. Trevor to rush for a shot of brandy before greeting him. They had apparently been shipmates some 30 years earlier, and Mr. Trevor said something about finding him some work. Some weeks later, Holmes, suddenly received a telegram from the younger Trevor begging him to come back to Norfolk. The old man, Hudson, that had been promised work, had in fact been employed by the elder Mr. Trevor and allowed to get away with behavior no employer should have tolerated. As Holmes arrives, Hudson suddenly decides to leave and visit another shipmate but a mysterious coded letter arrives. Does it have anything to do with J.A.? Is Victor in danger? Can Sherlock Holmes decode the message in time?

Embrace leadership at your library: Celebrate National Library Week April 8-14

For National Library Week 2018, libraries nationwide are celebrating the many ways libraries lead their communities through the transformative services, programs and expertise they offer. April 8 to14 is National Library Week, an annual celebration of the life-changing work of libraries, librarians and library workers. Libraries aren't just places to borrow books or study—they're also creative and engaging community centers where people can collaborate using new technologies and develop their skills and passions.

Libraries of all types have long been evolving to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Diverse groups including elected officials, small business owners and students depend upon libraries and the resources they offer. Resources like e-books and technology classes, materials for English-language learners and programs for job seekers are just a few ways libraries and librarians are transforming to lead their communities. Community members can also develop their own leadership skills at the library, with endless opportunity to build skills and confidence through resources and programming.

Peoria Public Library helps lead the community by making sure every Peoria Public School student has the opportunity to have a library card, leading the way with education and resources on the opiate epidemic, providing meeting space for a wide variety of civic and not-for-profit groups, offering free access to the music and art created within our community, and spearheading literacy efforts in areas where the ability to read is life-transforming.

"The library helps lead our community by advocating for widespread access to crucial services and lifelong learning," said Leann Johnson, Executive Director. "Libraries level the playing field for people of any age who seek information and access to technologies to improve their quality of life."

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April.