Leann Johnson, Executive Director, to Retire July 2

Leann Johnson, Executive Director of Peoria Public Library since 2013, has announced plans to retire on July 2. The 33-year veteran of the Peoria Public Library, has served as a department head, branch manager, was Assistant Director for 17 years and was Interim Director three times before agreeing to serve as Executive Director after a unanimous board vote in February of 2013. She also served as the Staff Liaison to the Building Committee and was heavily involved with the $28 million building project that saw the building of North Branch and renovation and restoration of the other four library branches.

Ms. Johnson is an Illinois native and holds a B.A. in English from Eastern Illinois University and a Master of Library and Information Science from The University of Illinois. She currently serves as President of the Peoria Historical Society Board of Directors.

The Peoria Public Library Board of Trustees began a search for a new Executive Director and plans to have someone in place soon.

Summer Reading is Here for the Whole Family!

Reading Takes You Everywhere: Summer Reading 2018 is right for everyone and sign up is open now! Summer Reading is for all ages and families have a great time reading together and earning weekly prizes as well as the right to attend a fabulous party at Peoria Riverfront Museum.

This year’s theme is all about the mythical places books take us and the magical creatures we meet. Encounter fairies, griffons, mermaids, dragons, unicorns and the magical lands they live in at the library and in the books you read.

All it takes to be a Summer Reader is to stop in at your favorite branch and sign your Summer Reading contract. Then each week from June 3 through July 21, stop back and report that you read for three hours that week. You will get a prize and after six weeks will have earned your Summer Reading Party Pass. Going on vacation? Never fear, you can still claim your reading while out of town, just ask at the desk where you sign up.

The Summer Reading Party will be on Tuesday, July 24 at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. See a Planetarium show and a movie on the Giant Screen Theater. Enjoy the entertainment and see the fascinating new “Mythic Creatures” exhibit – it is all included with your Party Pass. Then finish the night when Grand Prize winners are announced!

Peoria Public Library receives “The Great American Read” grant from ALA and PBS

Peoria Public Library will receive a grant from the American Library Association (ALA) and PBS to host programs around The Great American Read, an eight-part television series and multi-platform initiative that celebrates the joy of reading and the books we love.

More than 220 public libraries applied for the $2,000 grants, which will support public programs around the series. Peoria Public Library was one of just 50 libraries nationwide to be selected.

In addition to the grant money, Peoria Public Library will receive a DVD collection of the series with public performance rights; a hardcover copy of the companion book, The Great American Read: The Book of Books by PBS (Black Dog & Leventhal, August 21, 2018); and other resources.

The two-hour launch episode on May 22 kicked off a summer of reading and voting. In fall 2018, seven new episodes will air, featuring appearances by celebrities, athletes, experts, authors and everyday Americans advocating for their favorite book, culminating with a finale that reveals America’s best-loved novel as chosen by the American public. Peoria Public Library will offer programs and discussions and encourage patrons to read the books and vote for their favorite.
Call for Nominees for 2018 Lincoln Branch Hall of Fame

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the establishment and support of the Peoria Public Library Lincoln Branch?

An individual, family, corporation, foundation or organization may be nominated in recognition of outstanding contributions to the establishment and support of the Peoria Public Library Lincoln Branch over the years, which resulted in its improvement, national recognition as an important historical structure and ability to continue providing library services to the people of Peoria.

Nominations will be accepted each year from January 1 through July 31. To submit a nomination include:

1. The applicant’s name
2. Contact information including address, telephone and email address.
3. Name of individuals, families, corporations, foundations or organizations to be considered
4. Statement of the outstanding services and/or financial contributions toward the development of the Peoria Public Library Lincoln Branch

Each proposal shall contain justification consistent with the criteria listed above and outlined in the Hall of Fame policy. Nominations should be sent to:

Chair, Hall of Fame Selection Committee
c/o Administrative Office
Peoria Public Library
107 NE Monroe
Peoria, IL 61602

For more information, please call (309) 497-2000 or email robertakoscielski@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us.

Check Out a Pass to Peoria Riverfront Museum with your Library Card

Thanks to sponsorship from the Peoria Riverfront Museum’s Visionary Society, Peoria Public Library cardholders are enjoying free passes to Peoria Riverfront Museum! The popular passes have been available since May. Each branch of Peoria Public Library has one pass which is available to be checked out on a first-come, first-served basis to patrons with a valid Peoria Public Library library card. The pass can be used on the day of checkout or the following day. The pass includes general admission to all exhibits, galleries, and daytime planetarium shows for two adults and their children or grandchildren. The pass covers admission to the galleries and planetarium. Additional charges for special exhibits or giant screen theater shows may apply. Children and grandchildren must be under age 18.

Passes cannot be reserved or checked out online or over the phone. Passes must be checked out in person at the Information Desk at any of our locations. Please visit Peoria Public Library to find out current pass availability. Library staff will be able to check if it is available and also check out the pass.

Please note that passes are non-transferable. Borrowing patrons will be asked for photo identification and their library card to gain admission to the museum.

Read to the Rhythm Gala Celebrates Reading Friday, June 22

The Read to the Rhythm Gala will be held at Lincoln Branch on Friday, June 22 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. and will benefit the Friends of Peoria Public Library. This year’s event is the fourth year for the elegant evening of celebrating books and reading. Funds raised go to support the Friends who provide funding for a wide variety of library programs and events.

This year’s event theme is “In the Secret Garden” and will include a silent auction showcasing amazing and fun items, 50/50 tickets, music by Three and ½ Men, the battle of the DJs and wonderful food stations catered by Tongue & Cheek Catering. Semi-formal attire is requested. Contact Cynthia at 309-497-2600 to reserve your ticket. Tickets are $25.

Coming in June 2018

Between You and Me by Susan Wiggs takes place in the heart of Amish country. Caleb Stoltz is caught between two worlds being bound by a deathbed promise to raise his orphaned niece and nephew in Middle Grove. Life in Middle Grove revolves around four things: family, farm, faith and mistrust of outsiders. When a terrible accident happens, Caleb is thrown into an arena of high-tech medicine and urban life. Dr. Reese Powell is about to join her families’ medical practice. When Caleb comes into her life, she is forced to deal with circumstances that make her reconsider everything she thinks she knows and her beliefs. With one impulsive act, a clash of cultures heads for the courtroom where justice and the delicate threads of faith and family are challenged.

Bring Me Back is the latest psychological suspense book by B.A. Paris. Finn and Layla are on vacation. Finn stops at a gas station to use the restroom, locks the doors and when he returns Layla is gone. That is the story Finn told police but it is not the complete story. Ten years later, Finn is engaged to Layla's sister Ellen. They became close over their shared grief for Layla but there is something about Ellen that Finn does not trust. Just before the wedding, odd things start to happen to Finn. He gets a phone call that Layla has been seen and items that belonged to her are turning up around Finn and Ellen's house. He also is getting emails with secret messages and warnings. If Layla is alive, what does she want, what does she know and why is she on his trail now?
June 3–July 21
ALL LOCATIONS
Summer Reading: Reading Takes You Everywhere!
Readers of all ages! Sign up for Summer Reading 2018 at your favorite branch! Read 3 hours per week, then visit your library to report your reading and earn a weekly prize. If you read 6 of the 7 weeks, you will earn a pass to the Summer Reading Party at the Peoria Riverfront Museum on July 24.

June
ALL LOCATIONS
Illinois Reads Contest
Each year Illinois runs a statewide project to promote reading for Illinois citizens by selecting six books in each of six different age categories. Pick up a reading log and read any four books from your age group. Turn it in by Family Reading Night, November 15, to be entered to win our drawing for a $20 Barnes & Noble gift card. Drawing will be held on November 17. Reading also counts for Summer Reading.

June
ALL LOCATIONS
Walk to Mordor
One does not simply walk into Mordor... but one can try! Download the “Walk to Mordor” app and follow the Fellowship through Middle Earth. Anyone who makes it to the Council of Elrond will receive a prize, and the walker with the greatest overall distance will get a Lord of the Rings Funko Pop! figurine. Check in by sending a screenshot of your progress to ProgrammingDept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us.

June
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 reads 1,000 books, they will be invited to a graduation party in May. Reading also counts for Summer Reading!

June
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
I Can Read 1000 Books
Draw a slip from our mystery box with a title on it and we’ll help you locate the book or place it on hold. It’s an exciting way for you to find new books to read, and if you’re participating in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, you can include these books on your reading logs and for Summer Reading!

June
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Blind Date with a Book
Browse our display of wrapped up books, check one out, take it home, unwrap it, and be surprised by your book date! Will it be short, a mystery, something from another world, old fashioned, or long and drawn out? You’ll have to check it out to find out!

June
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Caldecott and Newbery Reading Challenge
Stop by to pick up a Caldecott or Newbery Challenge sheet. You can do one challenge or both. Return your challenge sheet for a chance to win a $10 Barnes and Noble gift card. One prize per age level.

June
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.

June
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Search for the Roaming Gnome
The Summer Reading Gnome is on the move! Each day he will be hiding somewhere different in the Children’s Department. After you’ve found the gnome, bring him to the desk to claim a prize. Check back every day!

June
MAIN LIBRARY
Summer Storytime Kits
Do you need something to do with your kids this summer? We’ve put together several books, songs, fingerplays and craft ideas into a theme-based bundle for you to check out. Do the storytime, return the books, keep the idea sheets, and repeat with another theme.

June
MAIN LIBRARY & LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Crafts-to-Go
Kids ages 5 through 12 can pick up a craft packet at the Information Desk any time we’re open. Ask for a Craft-to-Go, take it home and the fun begins.

June
MAIN LIBRARY
Reading Takes You Everywhere Summer Reading Fun Booklet
Stop in the Children's Area and pick up a Reading Takes You Everywhere Fun Booklet. There will be a booklet designed for 4 to 7-year-olds and for 8 to 12-year-olds. Bring in your finished booklet to the 2nd Floor Information Desk, show it to the librarian and receive a prize. While supplies last.

June
NORTH BRANCH
Recommend a Great Book
Do you have a favorite book that you think others should read? Fill out a “Recommend a Great Book” bookmark! We’ll display recommendations so that other patrons can enjoy your favorites.

June
NORTH BRANCH
Puzzle Table
Stop by the table by the info desk and help us finish one of our jigsaw puzzles!

Friday, June 1
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Art – 10:15–11:00 a.m.
Let your child explore the world of colors and shapes while learning fine motor skills. Dress for a mess.
June 2-28
MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY
Pieces of Peoria
This exhibit showcases objects and photos from the collection of the Peoria Historical Society, which has over 40,000 items from Peoria’s 300 plus years as the oldest, permanently-inhabited, European settlement in Illinois. The display will showcase a few of the items in the collection from the earliest history of the area as well as examples of how Illinois and Peoria developed over the years. Some highlights will be a wedding dress from 1859, reunion ribbons from a Central Illinois Civil War regiment, coal mining and distilling artifacts, and the retirement uniform of General Wayne A. Downing. A public opening reception will be held on Saturday, June 2 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

June 3-9
ALL LOCATIONS
Summer Reading starts today. Sign in for Week One.

June 3-July 21
ALL LOCATIONS
Where Has Reading Taken YOU?
Reading really can take you anywhere! Whether you’ve been to Mars, Middle Earth, New York, or somewhere a little closer, tell us where your summer reading has taken you to enter the drawing for a chance to win a $10 Barnes & Noble gift card (one per branch). Stop in any location to enter. We will share responses throughout Summer Reading so you can see just where reading has taken our patrons. For extra fun, share a picture of where reading has taken you on our Instagram page. Tag @peoria_public_library and use #whereiread. All ages!

Monday, June 4
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bilingual Storytime – 10:15-10:45 a.m.
This Spanish/English storytime features books, games, and songs to help build vocabulary in both languages. Children of all ages. In the hour 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.

Tuesday, June 5
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 bad days and outside in the nice weather. Members who complete 24 weeks will be entered into a drawing for a prize!

Tuesday, June 5
MAIN LIBRARY
Intercontinental Readers – 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Join members of Peoria’s Friends of Clonmel as they engage in a book discussion with friends from the library in Clonmel, Ireland. The discussion is conducted via video call. All are welcome. This month’s book is Days Without End by Sebastian Barry.

Tuesday & Thursday, June 5, 12, 19 & 26
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Summer Math Mania – 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Basic Math tutoring will be provided for students in grades K-4. This seven-week program will provide resources to enhance basic concepts of Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division and Fractions. This program is designed to help students who struggle with the basics of math.

Tuesday, June 5
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bibliophiles Book Club – 1:30-2:30 p.m.
This month: The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women by Kate Moore

Tuesday, June 5
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Tales – 2:00-2:30 p.m.
Come see special guest Magician Tim Stolba on June 12. Ages 2 to 4.

Tuesday, June 5
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: Sensory Art – 6:15-7:30 p.m.
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.
Wednesday, June 6
NORTH BRANCH
Brainy Baby Storytime – 1:30-2:00 p.m.
We’re learning the alphabet! Join us for stories, 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 through one-on-one interactions, making reading time fun. Ages 0–23 mo.

Thursday, June 7, 14, 21 & 28
MCCLURE BRANCH
Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, June 7, 14, 21 & 28
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.

Thursday, June 7, 14, 21 & 28
NORTH BRANCH
World of Fairy Tales – 2:30-3:00 p.m.
Summer Reading is all about myths and fantasy. You probably know Cinderella and Snow White, but do you know Yeh-Shen or Marigo of the Forty Dragons? Join us as we discuss the stories we know and learn similar stories from across the globe. Ages 6–10.

Thursday, June 7 & 28
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Family Movie Night – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Bring the family for a movie at the library. Snacks and drinks provided. June 7: Ferdinand
June 28: Peter Rabbit

Saturday, June 9
MCCLURE BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 pm
This month: The Guns Above by Robyn Bennis

Sunday, June 10
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Stuffed Animal Slumber Party – 12:00-8:00 p.m.
If your stuffed friends or dolls are ready to have a party all their own, bring them to our Stuffed Animal Slumber Party! Drop your stuffed animals off on Tuesday, June 12. Come back to pick them up anytime on June 13. If you come between 11:00 a.m. and noon, you can enjoy a craft and a snack. Children of all ages.

Sunday, June 10
NORTH BRANCH
Biography and Nonfiction Book Club – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
This month: Success and Luck: Good Fortune and the Myth of Meritocracy by Robert H. Frank

Monday, June 11
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Book Was First Movie Series – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Join in a viewing of the 2005 film The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy based on the book of the same name by Douglas Adams. Read the book before you come to see how the film measures up or just come to enjoy a movie and light refreshments.

Monday, June 11
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Paws to Read – 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Children ages 7 and up 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.

Wednesday, June 13
NORTH BRANCH
PAWS to Read – 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Children ages 7 and up 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, June 11
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 pm
This month: The Guns Above by Robyn Bennis

Tuesday, June 12
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Stuffed Animal Slumber Party – 12:00-8:00 p.m.
If your stuffed friends or dolls are ready to have a party all their own, bring them to our Stuffed Animal Slumber Party! Drop your stuffed animals off on Tuesday, June 12. Come back to pick them up anytime on June 13. If you come between 11:00 a.m. and noon, you can enjoy a craft and a snack. Children of all ages.
JUNE CALENDAR

Friday, June 15 – MCCLURE BRANCH
Friday, June 22 – LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Play Zone – 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Join us for a special playgroup for toddlers to interact with other kids, play with educational toys, and read books with their parents. Ages 2 to 4.

Saturday, June 16
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, June 16
LINCOLN BRANCH
Drop In: Father’s Day Crafts-to-Go – 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Make a fun craft for your dad! While supplies last. Children of all ages.

June 17–23
ALL LOCATIONS
Reading Takes You Everywhere Summer Reading. Sign in for Week Three.

Sunday, June 17
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club – 2:00-3:30 p.m.
This month: One Step Behind by Henning Mankell

Monday, June 18
NORTH BRANCH
Dragon Egg Craft – 2:00-3:30 p.m.
If you’ve ever wished to be the Mother (or Father) of Dragons, now’s your chance! Come to the Beehive to make your very own dragon egg. Ages 10-17.

Tuesday, June 19
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
YA for Adults Book Club – 6:30-7:45 p.m.
Are you in your 20s or 30s and enjoy reading Young Adult books? Join this group to discuss the best YA literature. This month: Winterfolk by Janel Kolby

Monday, June 20
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 sound. Ages 6 to 11.

Wednesday, June 20
NORTH BRANCH
Family Activity Night – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Get some quality family bonding time. This month: Build and decorate a bird feeder.

Thursday, June 21
NORTH 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. This month: Swiss Family Robinson (1960)

Friday, June 22
LINCOLN BRANCH
Read to the Rhythm Gala – 7:00-11:00 p.m.
Join us for the 4th Annual Read to the Rhythm Gala. The evening will include a silent auction showcasing amazing and fun products, 50/50 tickets, music by Three and ½ Men, the battle of the DJs and wonderful food stations catered by Tongue & Cheek Catering. The theme this year will be "In the Secret Garden." Tickets are $25 per person. Semi-formal attire is requested. Contact Cynthia at 309-497-2600 to reserve your ticket. Proceeds support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Saturday, June 23
NORTH BRANCH
Sensory Storytime – 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Sensory Storytime features 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. Ages 4 and up.

Saturday, June 23
NORTH BRANCH
Sports Memorabilia with Michael Osacky – 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Called the “Dean of Cracker Jack Baseball Cards” by Forbes Magazine, sports appraiser Michael Osacky returns to Peoria for another free appraisal opportunity. To register for a 5-minute spot, call 309-497-2150 or email programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us. Go to baseballintheattic.com for more information about the types of items you can have appraised.

Saturday, June 23
NORTH BRANCH
Drop In: Crafting Free-for-All – 4:00-5:30 p.m
All the cabinets are open, and all the craft supplies are available. Come and make whatever you can dream up! Ages 7 to 14.

June 24-30
ALL LOCATIONS
Reading Takes You Everywhere Summer Reading. Sign in for Week Four.

Monday, June 25
MCCLURE BRANCH
Monday Morning Movie – 10:30am-12:30pm
Enjoy a classic movie with popcorn! We’ve found some timeless treasures that are at least fifty years old. This month: The Treasure of the Sierra Madre with Humphrey Bogart (1948)

Monday, June 25
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Movies by Decade – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
See a movie from a different decade starting with the 1920s. This month: American Graffiti (1973)

Wednesday, June 27
NORTH BRANCH
Drop In: Magic Wand Craft – 2:30-4:00 p.m
Would you rather defend against dark magic, or do you prefer unforgivable curses? Either way, a wizard needs a proper wand. Come make one with us! Ages 10 to 17.

Thursday, June 28
NORTH BRANCH
Sherlock Holmes Story Society – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Whether you’ve read the classic Sherlock Holmes stories a million times or none at all, all are welcome to experience The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in this new reading discussion group. Each month, we’ll tackle another short story. This month: ‘The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual’.
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, July 8 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies by Jason Fagone. This is the incredible true story of the greatest codebreaking duo that ever lived, an American woman and her husband who invented the modern science of cryptography together and used it to confront the evils of their time, solving puzzles that unmasked Nazi spies and helped win World War II. Fagone chronicles the life of this extraordinary woman, who played an integral role in our nation's history for forty years. After World War I, Smith used her talents to catch gangsters and smugglers during Prohibition, then accepted a covert mission to discover and expose Nazi spy rings. As World War II raged, Elizabeth fought a highly classified battle of wits against Hitler's Reich, cracking multiple versions of the Enigma machine used by German spies. Meanwhile, William worked furiously to break Purple, the Japanese version of Enigma—and eventually succeeded, at a terrible cost to his personal life. Fagone unveils America's code-breaking history, bringing into focus the unforgettable events and colorful personalities that would help shape modern intelligence.

The Book 'Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, July 15 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware. In this tightly wound, enthralling story reminiscent of Agatha Christie's works, Lo Blacklock, a journalist who writes for a travel magazine, has just been given the assignment of a lifetime: a week on a luxury cruise with only a handful of cabins. The sky is clear, the waters calm, and the veneered, select guests jovial as the exclusive cruise ship, the Aurora, begins her voyage in the picturesque North Sea. At first, Lo's stay is nothing but pleasant: the cabins are plush, the dinner parties are sparkling, and the guests are elegant. But as the week wears on, frigid winds whip the deck, gray skies fall, and Lo witnesses what she can only describe as a dark and terrifying nightmare: a woman being thrown overboard. The problem? All passengers remain accounted for—and so, the ship sails on as if nothing has happened, despite Lo's desperate attempts to convey that something (or someone) has gone terribly, terribly wrong.

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, July 10 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Little Man, What Now? by Hans Fallada. First published in Germany in 1932, Fallada's documentary novel is a portrait of Germany during its period of economic and political breakdown prior to the advent of Hitler. This is the book that led to Hans Fallada's downfall with the Nazis. The story of a young couple struggling to survive the German economic collapse was a worldwide sensation and was made into an acclaimed Hollywood movie produced by Jews, leading Hitler to ban Fallada's work from being translated. Nonetheless, it remains, as The Times Literary Supplement notes, “the novel of a time in which public and private merged even for those who wanted to stay at home and mind their own business.”

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Chaotic Good by Whitney Gardner. Cameron's costume portfolio falls by the wayside—and her feelings for Lincoln threaten to make a complicated situation even more precarious.

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26 at North Branch to discuss "The Adventure of the Reigate Squire." Watson takes Holmes to a friend's estate near Reigate in Surrey to rest after a rather strenuous case in France. His host is Colonel Hayter. There has been a burglary at the nearby Acton estate in which the thieves stole a motley assortment of things, even a ball of twine, but nothing terribly valuable. Then one morning, the Colonel's butler tells news of a murder at another nearby estate, the Cunninghams'. The victim is William Kirwan, the coachman. Inspector Forrester has taken charge of the investigation, and there is one physical clue: a torn piece of paper found in William's hand with a few words written on it. One of the first facts to emerge is that there is a longstanding legal dispute between the Actons and the Cunninghams involving ownership of about half of the estate currently in the Cunninghams' hands. Holmes puts his recent illness to use and fakes a fit just as Forrester is about to mention the one clue to the Cunninghams. Can Watson and Holmes solve the case with just one clue?
When I heard about Peoria Public Library’s Summer Reading theme this year, several thoughts burst to life in my head. Every day that I work on genealogy, either for the library or for myself, I am reading something that takes me somewhere. I read over records that give me information that lead me to another record, and hopefully to another record. I find locations on Google Earth and virtually wander down streets in the towns my family once lived in. If I am lucky, I find an old document that shows the world through my ancestors’ eyes. Then, I wonder about those same ancestors and the journeys they took.

I will be the first to admit that while I know when my families arrived in the United States, I do not know why they came. I tend to believe the usual assumptions of Irish Famine, “New World” propaganda, and even religious freedom. But what made them choose to leave everything they knew and venture out on a brave and dangerous journey? Was there a notice posted in a newspaper, advertising opportunities available in the growing industries in the fledgling country? Was it a letter from a relative who had made the journey already, recommending a new and exciting start?

Working on genealogy has opened my eyes to the places around me. It gives me insight and a new understanding of the past and how it connects to the present and even the future. The Peoria Public Library is available to help you with your journey! Check out a book on the founding of the American Colonies or the great famine of Ireland. Read a few books from our travel selection to plan a trip to ancestors’ native lands. Browse our CD collection for music from their homelands. Come in to use our databases to find more information about ships they sailed on, the ports they left through, and the dangers they faced. Sign up for Summer Reading while you are here and count your genealogy reading toward your goal. “Reading Takes You Everywhere,” even when you don’t leave your hometown.

“Reading Takes You Everywhere”…especially when you are a genealogist…

BY AMBER LOWERY

Bergner’s Donates Memorabilia to Peoria Public Library

Bergner’s at Sheridan Village has donated framed pieces of memorabilia to Peoria Public Library, including framed newspaper clippings, a proclamation acknowledging 100 years of business from the City of Peoria and an Elmer King print of the original store in downtown Peoria.

The items will be catalogued and added to the Local History and Genealogy Collection of Peoria Public Library. Documents and records pertaining to Peoria history and the surrounding area are kept at Main Library, on Lower Level 1 in the Local History and Genealogy Room.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Edward J. Barry, Jr.
Patricia A. Barton
Stephen M. Buck
Norman H. Burdick
Margaret E. Cousin
Tiffanie Duncan
Lucy D. Gulley
Jeanne Williamson
Barbara Van Auken

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Leann Johnson

EDITOR
Trisha Noack

Peoria Public Library
107 NE Monroe St
Peoria, IL 61602–1070
www.peoriapubliclibrary.org