Internationally Known Author and Conservationist Thor Hanson to Speak October 3 At Peoria Public Library North Branch

Thor Hanson, internationally known author, Guggenheim Fellow, Switzer Environmental Fellow, speaker, biologist, researcher and conservationist, will present both a children's program and adult program on Wednesday, October 3 at Peoria Public Library North Branch.

A reception, talk and book signing with Thor Hanson will take place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The public is invited to this free event and will enjoy refreshments and meet the author as well as hear him speak. His books, including his latest, Buzz, will be available for sale and signing. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Friends of the Library.

The main program will be preceded by a children's program at 5:00 p.m. in the Beehive. Thor's book for children, Bartholomew Quill, uses the explorations of a quizzical young crow to explain biodiversity. The book is also available for sale and signing at the event.

Hanson's research and conservation activities have taken him around the globe. Thor's research interests include birds, plants, primates, insects, endangered species, and the interface between human and natural systems. He has studied Central American trees and songbirds, nest predation in Tanzania and served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda where he helped establish the mountain gorilla tourism program in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. He has studied the effects of habitat fragmentation on rare plant communities, avian nest predation, and the reproductive ecology and genetic diversity of rainforest trees. Thor is currently involved in projects on Tufted Puffins and native bees, and his work on the interface between warfare and biodiversity conservation has been covered by news outlets around the world, including Reuters, Scientific American, The New York Times, The Huffington Post, and The Times of India.

Books by Thor Hanson

Buzz: the Nature and Necessity of Bees
Bees lie at the heart of relationships that bind the human and natural world. Buzz shows up why all bees are wonders to celebrate and protect.

The Triumph of Seeds
Explore how seeds have influenced everything from the voyages of Christopher Columbus to the Industrial Revolution to the shape of the human face. Winner of four major book awards.

Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle
Feathers are an evolutionary marvel: aerodynamic, functional, and beguiling. Discover the sweeping history of this common object with uncommon abilities. Winner of five major book awards.

Bartholomew Quill: A Crow’s Quest to Know Who’s Who
Follow the journey of this young crow as he tries to figure out who and what he is. This fun read-aloud for the whole family is a whimsical mix of science and poetry.

The Impenetrable Forest: Gorilla Years in Uganda
Get a rare glimpse into the world of mountain gorillas and the human cultures that surround them. Thor's two year odyssey is a must-read for anyone interested in endangered species.

For more about Thor Hanson's work visit www.thorhanson.net. For more about this program, call (309) 497-2000.
September is Library Card Sign Up Month

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month – a time when the American Library Association and libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Library Card Sign-Up Month, a national observance that was launched in 1987 to ensure every child obtains a library card and uses it. Peoria Public Library works closely with Peoria Public Schools to make sure even children who do not live in the city limits, but attend Peoria Public Schools, have the opportunity to get a library card through a reciprocal agreement. Ask at any Information Desk how to apply. Families often don’t realize that children can have their own cards from birth on, with a parent signature. Having their own library card is a very special and empowering event for a child.

Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show that children who frequently use such a diversity of resources, along with the expert guidance of librarians, are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning. Libraries offer a variety of programs to stimulate an interest in reading and learning. Preschool story hours expose young children to the joy of reading and Summer Reading has been shown to be the most important factor in avoiding the decrease in reading skills that educators refer to as “summer learning loss.”

Online tutoring programs provide one-on-one homework help and practice for students of all ages, all year.

Today’s public libraries are thriving technology hubs that continue to fulfill their role in leveling the playing field for all who seek information and access to technologies. Millions rely on libraries for Internet access and digital content. Libraries are America’s great information equalizers – the only place people of all ages and backgrounds can find and freely use such a diversity of resources, along with the expert guidance of librarians. Peoria Public Library is proud to provide these services to our local community.

Buy Them Books, Send Them to School... BY AMBER LOWERY

And all they do is eat the pages. My grandfather used to say that. It makes me laugh when I hear it and reminds me of back to school time.

Just recently, I went out and bought some school supplies for some of my younger cousins and it reminded me of when I got my supply lists years ago. I mentioned to my mom how different it was from when I was that same age. To which, she replied that my list from years ago was just as different from her list when she was a child. And that got me to thinking about my ancestors and their schooling and education.

Did my grandparents like going to school? Were they a class clown or a serious student? Did they have a favorite subject? What about their parents? What was their education and schooling like? What supplies did they need for school?

Peoria has a proud history of education and the Peoria Public Library has several resources that share that history. The Local History and Genealogy collection has a great collection of yearbooks from local high schools such as Peoria Central, Manual, Woodruff, Spalding, Richwoods, and others. While we do not have a complete collection, it is a sizable one. We also have histories, pictures, and newspaper clippings for area schools. Most of our school related collection is housed in a staff only area, but our staff will gladly retrieve portions for your viewing pleasure.

Make time to come by Peoria Public Library and use your most important supply, your LIBRARY CARD. Then stop by the Local History and Genealogy collection at the Main Library to look at our wonderful treasures. We look forward to seeing you.

Coming in September 2018

Cross Her Heart is the latest thriller by Sarah Pinborough. Everyone has secrets from teenage Ava to her mom, Lisa, and also Lisa’s best friend and coworker, Marilyn. Lisa is a single mom who works for a small recruiting company and lives in fear of someone from her past. Sixteen-year-old Ava feels smothered by her mom’s monitoring her every move because she is sneaking around with her first boyfriend and is obsessed with a man that she has been communicating with online. Marilyn seems to have the perfect life, marriage, and husband but does she? When Ava, who is a competitive swimmer, rescues a toddler who had fallen into the river at a fair, Lisa’s face is published in a newspaper along with Ava’s, exposing her location to her tormentor. Lisa, Ava and Marilyn will soon find that someone else in their lives has a darker secret than any they carry. Perhaps the person they have feared is not the real threat and is in danger themselves!

Summer at the Garden Café: A Novel is the sequel to Felicity Hayes-McCoy’s The Library at the Edge of the World and the second book in her Finfarran Peninsula series. The Garden Café is next door to the Lissbeg Library, where you can stop, have a cup of tea and a sandwich, make plans and share secrets with friends. Jazz is the daughter of the town librarian Hanna Casey. She was involved in a car accident and, still recovering, finds out that her father has been involved in a long-time affair. At the same time she herself is starting to develop feelings for a man who is off limits. In the meantime, Hanna, involved in her relationship with architect Brian Morton, does not realize that her ex-husband Malcom is trying to rebuild a relationship with her daughter that Jazz does not want. Malcom returns to London but his mother Louisa and his former mother-in-law Mary are working together to try to bring the family together so that they can mend the broken relationships. Hanna discovers a journal that reveals secrets that it will take the wisdom of four generations of women to move past.
September
ALL LOCATIONS
Library Card Sign Up Month Guessing Game
September is Library Card Sign Up Month. Enter our drawing for a $20 Barnes & Noble gift card. You can enter by guessing how many new or renewed cards will be issued this month or when you get your own new or renewed card. The winner will be notified by Oct. 10.

September
ALL LOCATIONS
Banned Great American Read Books Bingo
Celebrate Banned Books Week (Sept 23-29) and The Great American Read 2018 by playing Banned Books Bingo! Turn in a completed bingo sheet for a participation prize, and to enter the drawing for a $10 gift card. Ages 13+

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

September
MAIN LIBRARY
Crafts-to-Go
In a hurry? Can’t stay and craft? Get your 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. While supplies last.

September
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Passive Book Club
Stop by our Information Desk for a sheet with the current book selection and activities to do while you’re reading. If you really like the book, ask a parent to post a picture on social media with a photo of one of the activities or a comment about why you enjoyed the book. Use #PPLPassiveBookClub in your photos. Ages 6 to 8.

September 4-26
MAIN LIBRARY
Johnny Appleseed’s Apple Tree Birthday Read
Johnny Appleseed was born September 26, 1774. To celebrate his birthday and the apples he loved and shared across the country, we’re having an Apple Tree Birthday Read. Read a book, show it to the person at the Information Desk and you’ll get a paper apple to fill in with the title and author of your book. Your apple will be added to a tree in the Children’s Room.

September 4-22
MCCLURE BRANCH
Lord of the Rings Trivia Challenge
Celebrate Bilbo and Frodo Baggins’ birthday this month with some Lord of the Rings Trivia. Complete your trivia sheet to enter for your chance to win! The prize will be a winner’s choice: box set of the books or the movies!

Tuesday, September 4
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Bibliophiles Book Club – 1:30-2:30 p.m.
This month: What She Left Behind by Ellen Marie Wiseman

Tuesday, September 4
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: DIY Light Bulb & Sharpie Art – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Let your creativity shine using clear light bulbs and Sharpies. Ages 10 to 13.
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 5
NORTH BRANCH
Famous Faces, Famous Places
How well do you know famous Illinois faces and Illinois places? Pick up our trivia sheet before embarking on a scavenger hunt where you will learn more about famous people and sites from around the state. Whiskey City Architectural Salvage will have a display showcasing architectural pieces from Central Illinois' past.

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26
LAKEVIEW BRANCH – 10:15-10:45 A.M.
Monday, September 10, 17 & 24
NORTH BRANCH – 10:30-11:00 A.M.
Tiny Tots Storytime
Ages 12 to 23 months.

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26
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 through one-on-one interactions, making reading fun. Age 0-23 months.

Wednesday, September 5
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Storytime – 4:00-4:45 p.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 Spectrum Disorder or other special needs. Fidgets and ear muffs are available. Geared for patrons ages 4 to 8 with special needs.

Thursday, Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27
MCCLURE BRANCH
Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, Sep. 6, 13, 20 & 27
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, September 7
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Toddler Art – 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Join us for a fun artful activity. Let your child explore the world of colors and shapes while learning fine motor skills along the way. Dress for a mess.

Friday, September 7
MCCLURE BRANCH
Friday, September 14
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, September 7, 14, 21 & 28
NORTH BRANCH
Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Children of all ages.

Friday, September 7
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: LEGO Builders Club–3:00-5:00pm
Calling all LEGO fans! Drop in any time to play. Parental supervision is required.

Saturday, Sept. 8, 15, 22 & 29
North Branch
Busier Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.
Children of all ages.

Saturday, September 8
NORTH BRANCH
Antique Appraisal Event – 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Peoria Public Library is once again hosting an antiques and collectibles appraisal event featuring author and antiques expert Mark F. Moran of Iola, Wisconsin. Moran bought and sold antiques for more than 30 years, specializing in vintage folk art, Americana, and fine art. He has been active as an appraiser of antiques and fine art for more than 20 years. Visit Moran’s website at markfmoran.com for his credentials, a listing of objects Moran will evaluate, and more! Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please contact the Programming Department at ProgrammingDept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us or 309.497.2143 for registration or for more information. Spectators are welcome – it’s always entertaining!

Saturday, September 8, 15 & 22
MCCLURE BRANCH
Happy Birthday, Bagginses! Lord of the Rings Movie Series – 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Enjoy the movie adaptation of this classic series (nominated for the 2018 Great American Read) on Saturdays this month. The series will wrap up on Bilbo and Frodo's birthday! September 8: The Fellowship of the Ring September 15: The Two Towers September 22: The Return of the King

Sunday, September 9
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sensory Friendly Family Film – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Join us for a sensory friendly showing of The BFG. The room will be lighter, the volume will be lower, and audience members will be welcome to move around, talk, and sing. The intended audience is children with special needs accompanied by siblings and caregivers, although everyone is welcome. Noise canceling ear muffs and fidgets will be supplied. Rated PG

Sunday, September 9
NORTH BRANCH
Biography and Nonfiction Book Club – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
This month: Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance

Monday, September 10
MCCLURE BRANCH
The Book Was First Movie Series – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Join in a viewing of the 2014 film Unbroken based on the book Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand. Read the book to see how the film measures up or just come to enjoy a movie and light refreshments!

Monday, September 10
NORTH BRANCH
Storytime Lab – 1:30-2:00 p.m.
Join us for stories about early concepts in science, technology, engineering, art, and math followed by hands-on exploration! Ages 3 to 6.
Monday, September 10
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club–6:30-7:30 p.m.
This month: The Big Sheep by Robert Kroese

Tuesday, September 11
MAIN LIBRARY
Intercontinental Readers – 1:00–2:00 p.m.
Join the 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: Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance.

Tuesday, September 11
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Paracord Bracelet Making – 5:00–6:00 p.m.
Join the fun and make a colorful paracord bracelet. Ages 10 to 13.

Wednesday, September 12
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 explore animal adaptations. Ages 6–11.

Thursday, September 13 & Tuesday, September 18
LINCOLN BRANCH
Puppet Show: The Boy Who Cried Wolf – 10:00–10:30 a.m.
Come help the little boy learn to watch his sheep! Ages 3 to 6.

Saturday, September 15
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Autism Resource Group–10:00 am–1:00 pm
Are you a parent with a tween or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us for resource sharing and support.

Saturday, September 15
MCCLURE BRANCH
National Play Dough Day – 10:30–11:00 a.m.
Celebrate National Play Dough Day by making a batch of homemade play dough to take home! Ages 4 to 8 and their caregivers.

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 15 & 16
LINCOLN BRANCH
Craft-to-Go: Fall – 12:00–5:00 p.m.
While supplies last. Children of all ages.

Saturday, September 15
NORTH BRANCH
Teen Craft: Cassette Tape Upcycling – 2:00–2:45 p.m.
Come make a craft with some throwback style! Ages 11 to 18.

Saturday, September 15
NORTH BRANCH
Judgment Free Art Night – 4:00–6:00 p.m.
Mood Board Day! Put together a collage reflecting yourself, your family, or your favorite fast food restaurant. There are no rules! Adults only.

Sunday, September 16
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Book ’Em Mystery Book Club–2:00–3:30pm
This month: Dying for Mercy by Mary Jane Clark

Monday, September 17
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Financial Exploitation Workshop – 6:00–7:30 p.m.
The Peoria County Sheriff’s Victims Services Coordinator and Director of Adult Protective Services with The Center for Prevention of Abuse will provide information to help keep you safe. They will explain how people can protect themselves against financial exploitation from someone they know, identity theft, and how to avoid falling victim to common scams. They will discuss how to recognize abusive behaviors and learn about resources that can help victims of abuse.

Wednesday, September 19
NORTH BRANCH
Ken Zurski: Unremembered – 6:00–7:30 pm
Join us as Ken Zurski talks about his recent book, Unremembered: Tales of the Nearly Famous and the Not Quite Forgotten. Mr. Zurski’s book will be for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to the Friends of the Library.

Wednesday, September 19
NORTH BRANCH
Family Activity Night – 6:30–7:30 p.m.
Get some quality family bonding time. Every month, the library will host a different activity to engage parents and children of all ages to play a game or make a project. Children and adults of all ages. This month: Decorate a box to turn into a family time capsule.

Thursday, September 20
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 to make! Bring a snack and enjoy a movie on the big screen. Free and open to all ages. This month: Friday Night Lights (2004)

Friday, Sept. 21
MCCLURE BRANCH
Friday, Sept. 28
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.

Friday, September 21
NORTH BRANCH
The Great American Read: What We Do For Love – 1:00–2:15 p.m.
Jane Hense will lead a discussion of one of America’s most treasured authors and two of her novels Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson, and its companion, Home. Gilead is one of the books on The Great American Read list with the theme of “What We Do For Love.” Both stories tell of enduring love for family, the great tenderness of old friendships, and the need for forgiveness. Despite the inevitable hardships of aging and misunderstandings, the characters’ faith and trust in providence and one another carry them through.
Saturday, September 22
MAIN LIBRARY
Elephant Appreciation Day
Today is Elephant Appreciation Day, and to celebrate we’re giving out paper elephant puppets with fun elephant facts on the back of them. Kids in preschool through 5th grade can pick one up at the Information desk.

Saturday, September 22
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Drop In: Sensory Art – 10:15-11:30 a.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. Designed with our patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder in mind, but inclusive to everyone.

Saturday, September 22
NORTH BRANCH
The Great American Read: Trivia – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Test your knowledge of the books on the Great American Read list. Sign up your team of 4 to 6 people to participate in this trivia afternoon. Drinks and light snacks will be provided. Contact the Programming Department at programmingdept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us or 309-497-2150 to register your team. High school and up.

Sunday, September 23
NORTH BRANCH
Music in the McKenzie Presents: Blackest Crow – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Chicago-based Blackest Crow draws its inspiration from a wide range of traditional American music, especially Early Country and Old Time. The band offers traditional and fresh approaches to crowd favorites as well as lesser-known musical gems. Blackest Crow performances feature a rich mixture of tragic love songs, sweet waltzes, and driving fiddle tunes. A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Monday, September 24
MCCLURE BRANCH
Monday Morning Movie – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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 Naughty Nineties with Abbott and Costello (1945)

Monday, September 24
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Movies by Decade – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Each month we will screen a movie from a different decade starting with the 1920s and moving towards modern films. This month: Lost in Translation (2003)

Tuesday, September 25
LINCOLN BRANCH
Terrific Tattletale Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, September 25
LINCOLN BRANCH
Front & Center: Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall Poetry – 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Write beautiful poems inspired by the changing seasons. Ages 6 to 10.

Tuesday, September 25
LINCOLN BRANCH
Read On Book Club – 5:30-7:00 p.m.
This month: Her Secret Life by Tiffany L. Warren

Tuesday, September 25
LAKEVIEW BRANCH
Board in the Library – 6:00-7:45 p.m.
Bring a friend or meet a new friend while playing a board or card game. Select one from our collection or feel free to bring one of your own. Soft drinks will be available. Ages 18 and up.

Wednesday, September 26
MCCLURE BRANCH
After School Storytime: Johnny Appleseed – 4:00-4:30 p.m.
It’s Johnny Appleseed’s Birthday! Help in the celebration by coming to do a craft, listen to a story, and have a small snack.

Thursday, September 27
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. Like our hero bid his loyal companion over one hundred years ago, we invite you to “Come at once if convenient – if inconvenient come all the same”! This month: “The Adventure of the Resident Patient”

Saturday, September 29
MCCLURE BRANCH
PAWs to Read – 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Meet and read to therapy dog book buddies! 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.

Greater Peoria Dining Tour Books
$30
Available at: MCCLURE BRANCH, NORTH BRANCH, MAIN LIBRARY & FRIENDS BOOKSTORE
$10 of each book sold goes to The Friends of Peoria Public Library.
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, October 14 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss The Defender: How the Legendary Black Newspaper Changed America From the Age of the Pullman Porters to the Age of Obama by Ethan Michaeli. Giving voice to the voiceless, the Chicago Defender condemned Jim Crow, catalyzed the Great Migration, and focused the electoral power of black America. Robert S. Abbott founded The Defender in 1905, smuggled hundreds of thousands of copies into the most isolated communities in the segregated South, and was dubbed a “Modern Moses,” becoming one of the first black millionaires in the process. His successor wielded the newspaper’s clout to elect mayors and presidents, including Harry S. Truman and John F. Kennedy, who would have lost in 1960 if not for The Defender’s support. Along the way, its pages were filled with columns by legends like Ida B. Wells, Langston Hughes, and Martin Luther King. Drawing on dozens of interviews and extensive archival research, Ethan Michaeli constructs a revelatory narrative of race in America and brings to life the reporters who braved lynch mobs and policemen’s clubs to do their jobs, from the age of Teddy Roosevelt to the age of Barack Obama.

Friends of Clonmel Intercontinental Readers will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27 at Main Library on LL1 to hold a Skype discussion with the group in Clonmel, Ireland about Spill Simmer Falter Wither by Sara Baume. Two outcasts—a man ignored, even shunned by his village, and the one-eyed dog he takes into his quiet, tightly shuttered life—find each other and forge an unlikely connection. As their friendship grows, their small, seaside town falsely perceives menace where there is only mishap—and the duo must take to the road.

The Bibliophiles Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 2 at 1:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Mudbound by Hillary Jordan. It is 1946, and city-bred Laura McAllan is trying to raise her children on her husband's Mississippi Delta farm—a place she finds foreign and frightening. In the midst of the family's struggles, two young men return from the war to work the land. Jamie McAllan, Laura's brother-in-law, is everything her husband is not—charming, handsome, and haunted by his memories of combat. Ronsel Jackson, eldest son of the black sharecroppers who live on the McAllan farm, has come home with the shine of a war hero. But no matter his bravery in defense of his country, he is still considered less than a man in the Jim Crow South. It is the unlikely friendship of these brothers-in-arms that drives this powerful novel to its inexorable conclusion. The men and women of each family relate their versions of events and we are drawn into their lives as they become players in a tragedy on the grandest scale.

The Book ‘Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss Dark Places by Gillian Flynn. Libby Day was seven when her mother and two sisters were murdered in “The Satan Sacrifice of Kinnakee, Kansas.” She survived—and famously testified that her fifteen-year-old brother, Ben, was the killer. Twenty-five years later, the Kill Club—a secret society obsessed with notorious crimes—locates Libby and pumps her for details. They hope to discover proof that may free Ben. Libby hopes to turn a profit off her tragic history: She'll reconnect with the players from that night and report her findings to the club—for a fee. As Libby’s search takes her from shabby Missouri strip clubs to abandoned Oklahoma tourist towns, the unimaginable truth emerges, and Libby finds herself right back where she started—on the run from a killer.

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, October 8 at Calvary Bible Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Haven by Tom Deady. In 1961, the small town of Haven thought they’d gotten rid of their monster. After a series of child killings, Paul Greymore was caught carrying a wounded girl. His face, disfigured from a childhood accident, seemed to confirm he was the monster the community hoped to banish. With Paul in prison, the killings stopped. For seventeen years, Haven was peaceful again. But Paul served his time and has now returned to Haven—the town where he grew up, and the scene of his alleged crimes. Paul insists he didn’t commit those crimes, and several townspeople believe him including the local priest, a young boy named Denny, and his best friendBilly. Trouble is, now that Paul is back home, the bizarre killings have started again—and the patterns match the deaths from Haven’s past. If Paul isn’t the killer, who is? Or WHAT is?

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives by Dashka Slater. If it weren’t for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.
HVAC Project at Main Library Proceeds

Main Library has been chugging along on the original 1960s HVAC system, even though the rest of the building was remodeled about seven years ago, and now a complete new system is to be installed. A new system has been designed and a contractor has been hired to accomplish the complicated work of how to install the new system in the old building. At times construction may temporarily disrupt library service at Main Library, so be sure to watch the website at peoriapubliclibrary.org and check library social media sites and local news outlets for updates this fall.

Register Now for Mark Moran Antique Appraisal Event

Popular antiques appraiser and author Mark Moran returns to Peoria Public Library this fall for another appraisal event on Saturday, September 8 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at North Branch. Call ahead for an appointment to have your antique or collectible appraised or just come and watch the show.

Space for appraisals is limited and pre-registration is required. Please contact the Programming Department at ProgrammingDept@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us or 309.497.2143 for registration or for more information. The event is free and open to the public. If you would like to learn more about antiques, come and watch.

Formerly senior editor of Antiques and Collectibles Books for Krause Publications, Mark has also been a contributing editor for Antique Trader magazine. He has served as editor of Antique Review East magazine, and as editorial director of F+W Media's Antiques Group.

He is the author or co-author of more than 25 books on antiques and collectibles, including the 800-page annual Warman's Antiques & Collectibles.

Mark Moran bought and sold antiques for more than 30 years, specializing in vintage folk art, Americana and fine art. He has been an active appraiser of antiques and fine art for more than 20 years and has appraised items for the public at Peoria Public Library several times before. Appraisal spots always fill quickly and if you missed your chance before, register now!