



PASSAGES

DECEMBER 2018 VOL. 27 NO. 12 THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Main Library HVAC Construction to Finish in December



The heating and air conditioning project that has kept the first and second floors of Main Library closed since September is drawing to a close. Unforeseen issues may delay the reopening slightly past the projected December 3 opening date that has been advertised. Watch the Peoria Public Library website and local media for information as to when Main Library will resume full operations.

Several parts of the system that will heat and cool the large five story building must be custom-made. Those custom-configured pieces are key to having heat operational in the building and being able to reopen all floors to the public. The Gallery, which has new exhibits in November and December, as well as Local History and Genealogy, remain open. The Friendly Finds Used Bookstore is also open Monday through Wednesday and Saturday, from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Public computers, books, movies, magazines and other services on the first and second floors will not be available until the HVAC project is finished and those floors reopen. However, a wide selection of materials as well as public computers are available at North Branch, Lakeview Branch, McClure Branch and Lincoln Branch. The Peoria Public Library website at www.peoriapubliclibrary.org is available 24/7 and allows patrons with library cards to perform research searches, download books and music, access local history information, reserve and renew books and much more from anywhere the internet can be accessed. Use the online catalog to reserve books and have them sent to the branch of your choice for pickup. You may also call 309-497-2000 for assistance in having questions answered, renewing materials or finding a new book to read.

Look for all of Main Library to reopen this December!

Veteran Artists Explore Experiences with 22VA Art Show

Art therapy is often used to help people recover from trauma and illness. Veterans have found art to be an effective means to capture their experiences and work through the anguish caused by being in battle. 22VA is a group that was founded to help bring awareness to the issue of the stress our veterans are often under as they adjust to civilian life. For some, it takes a lifetime of work to heal. 22VA has helped publicized the tragedy of veteran suicide, which claims the lives of 22 veterans a day. This equates to around 30 suicides per 100,000 veterans, a rate that is more than double the rate for the civilian population.

Headed by Michael Ragan and Randy Prunty, 22VA is a group of veteran artists who want to help reduce the number of veteran suicides. Again this year they have been recruiting veterans to show the public their talent, their emotion and the importance place art can hold in healing the spirit. Some veterans were artists previous to their service, others have become artists and others are using it as therapy.

Works to be shown include paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, jewelry, models and more. All forms of art work created by veterans are welcome

All veterans are invited to show their work. The show opens December 21 and veterans who want to participate are invited to contact programming@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us or call (309) 497-2150. Memorabilia is also a welcome addition to the exhibit.

The show runs through January and a reception date is to be announced.

Six Degrees of Separation BY AMBER LOWERY

Years ago, there was a popular game called "The Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon." The premise of the game was that, in theory, one could connect the actor, Kevin Bacon, to any other actor or movie in six steps or less due to his prolific career. It's an amusing party trick if you are knowledgeable of all things Kevin Bacon.

So, what does this have to do with genealogy? (Spoiler alert: everything in life has to do with genealogy.)

Amusingly, in my several years of working in Local History and Genealogy, it's become a running joke that I am related to everyone in Peoria. In fact, I have developed my own version of Six Degrees of Separation. Various branches of my family have been in the Peoria area for over 180 years, so I find that I have distant connections to many Peoria families. As such, on more than one occasion, as I have been helping someone with their research, I will recognize a name and make a connection between their family and my own. Thus we have the Six Degrees of Separation to Amber Lowery. At last count, I believe I have had 15 such interactions with patrons. That does not count all the times I have connected people I know and work with to my family tree. My most recent victim, I mean... discovery, was that a coworker and I are 10th cousins.

Now, it is your turn. As families gather to celebrate the winter and yearend holidays, talk to your family members and learn more about your extended tree. Take the opportunity to ask those visiting relatives for information about past and current relatives you may not know. Build your family tree out and make connections to distant members who may have more genealogical information to share. Give yourself the gift of time to come down to the Peoria Public Library and work on your research and ask questions of our knowledgeable staff. And who knows, maybe you'll find you can play the Six Degrees of Separation game with co-workers, neighbors and members of your gym, too! Happy Holidays!

HOT NEW TITLES

BY ROBIN HELENTHAL

Coming in December 2018

Of Blood and Bone is the title of the second book in the planned trilogy, *Chronicles of the One*, by Nora Roberts. This title follows *Year One* but this book can also be read on its own. After *The*

Doom which takes place in *Year One*, the world has settled into its new normal. This story focuses on the training phase of the girl who will be *The One*. At the age of thirteen, Fallon Swift is expected to leave her family and train with a mysterious mentor named Mallick for two years in the mystical forest where the elves and fairies live. During this time, she will be learning spells, training with swords and sparring with ghostly figures in order to build her strength and abilities. While doing this she will find allies to prepare with for the war to come. She also meets a shadowy figure in her dreams which becomes more real as she becomes able to travel through spaces in a flash. This person is a son of *New Hope* and along with his twin sister, will be Fallon's partner as the *Change* is coming and they will try to create a better world. This book bridges the time between *The Doom* and the war to come between the *New Hope* and the *Uncannys*.

The Three Secret Cities is the latest Jack West Jr.

novel by Matthew Reilly. After Jack won the *Great Games*, he threw the four legendary kingdoms into disorder. The shadow world that has its own history, rules and prisons and which exists beyond the real world is about to explode into our world. To stop this from happening, Jack must find *The Three Secret Cities* which are the lost cities of legend all while being hunted by the greatest hunters in history who must make sure he does not finish this task.

Moondust Lake by Davis Bunn is a story about searching for the things in life that matter, embracing them and never letting go. Buddy Helms works for his father and has proven himself time and time again, even saving the company from financial ruin. For six years, he has tried to earn his father's love and respect and after being told again how unworthy he is, he leaves the company. On the recommendation of his church counselor, he goes to a retreat at *Moondust Lake*, located outside of *Miramar Bay*. Kimberly Sturgiss is a psychotherapist who has survived her own tragic past and has the ability to help her patients let go of what burdens them. She is acquainted with the Helms family and knows what challenges Buddy faces because many are similar to ones she has faced in her heartbreaking past. Together they help each other learn to let go of past emotions and to trust again.



All locations of Peoria Public Library will be closed

Sunday, December 23 through Tuesday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday



Monday, December 31 (at 3:00 pm) through Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year's Holiday

North Branch always closed Tuesday



DECEMBER CALENDAR

December

ALL LOCATIONS

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Read any 1,000 books to your child before they enter kindergarten and earn prizes for every 100 books they read. Sign up at any Peoria Public Library location. Details are given at the time of signup. Once your child reads 1,000 books, they will be invited to a graduation party.

December

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Catch the Gingerbread Man

Our gingerbread man is trying to run away! Every night while we're closed he finds a new place to hide. If you catch him and bring him back to his gingerbread house, you can choose a prize from our prize box! Children of all ages.

December

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

One-on-One Resume Writing Assistance

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

December

MAIN LIBRARY

Gifts-to-Go December Holidays Edition

In a hurry? Can't stay and craft but you need a gift for the holidays? Kids ages 5 through 12 can pick up a holiday gift craft packet at the 1st Floor Information Desk any time we're open. Just ask for a December Holiday Gifts-to-Go, take it home and make that special gift. While supplies last.

December

MAIN LIBRARY

Winter Holidays Booklet

Get rid of the winter blahs with a Winter Activity Booklet full of recipes, game and craft ideas, coloring pages, poems, and jokes centered around the December holidays. Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade can pick one up in the Children's area and start some winter fun.

December

MCCLURE BRANCH

Holiday Reading Tree

Help us decorate our holiday tree with titles of books you've read this month! Just write the title on a paper ornament and hang it on the tree to receive a treat.

December

NORTH BRANCH

Snowman Scavenger Hunt

Our poor snowman has lost all of his pieces, and he needs your help! Find his hat, scarf, buttons and everything else he dropped when he came in to get warm! Participants who locate all of the items can turn in their findings to be entered to win a winter family movie night package.

December

NORTH BRANCH

Vegetable Observation Garden

How does our garden grow? We're growing three different types of root vegetables at the information desk, and you'll be able watch the entire process through the clear viewing tubes! You can also submit your estimate for milestones like appearing above the soil, plant height, and size of the veggies, and win a prize if you're right!

December

NORTH BRANCH

Puzzle Table

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

December 1-13

MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY

Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience

The American government incarcerated Japanese Americans in concentration camps not long after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. "Loyal" incarcerates were allowed to "resettle" in areas away from the West Coast provided they had employment opportunities. Peoria was one such destination that welcomed Japanese Americans into the community, offered employment opportunities, and provided educational resources. Through use of images, audio and interactive elements, *Courage and Compassion* provides a 360-degree perspective of the WWII experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry while exploring its relevance today. The exhibition honors everyday people in cities and towns across America who rose above the wartime hysteria to recognize Japanese Americans as friends, neighbors and fellow citizens. *Courage and Compassion* is made possible through a collaboration between Go For Broke National Education Center and select communities across the country. Each community, including Peoria, has researched its local history and provided local content for the exhibit.

December 1-20

LINCOLN BRANCH

The Adults' New Year New Card Bash

Start out the New Year right with a new library card! When you sign up for or renew your library card or check out materials at the Lincoln Branch, you will be entered to win one of two \$25 Pitch Karaoke gift cards! Not only that, but we will be celebrating the new year with a Karaoke party on December 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., so come get a new card and sing your favorite song! You must be 21 years or older to be entered to win the Pitch Karaoke gift card.



DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 1-21

LINCOLN BRANCH

The Kids' New Year New Card Bash

Start out the New Year right with a new library card! When you sign up for or renew your library card or check out materials at the Lincoln Branch, you will be entered to win one of two \$30 Elevate Trampoline Park gift cards! Not only that, but we will be celebrating the new year with a game party on December 21 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., so come play some classic carnival games like Balloon Pop or Ring Toss! Children of all ages welcome.

December 1-22

MCCLURE BRANCH

Elf on the Bookshelf

Dewey the Library Elf is hanging out in the Children's Department. Come see what he's up to each day (but be sure not to touch him so he doesn't lose his magic), and report back to the library staff at the desk to collect your reward. He'll be up to something new each day!

Saturday, December 1

MCCLURE BRANCH

Christmas Cookie Recipe Exchange - 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Do you have a favorite cookie recipe? Bring your cookie recipe with you, and join in on a morning of cookie fun! There will be games, snacks (cookies, of course), and prizes. Be ready to go home with some great cookie recipes! For adults only.

Saturday, December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

NORTH BRANCH

Busier Bees Storytime - 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Children of all ages.

Saturday, December 1

LINCOLN BRANCH

Holiday Adult Craft: Bath Salts - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Join us for a festive afternoon making colorful and scrumptious smelling bath salts. This DIY project is perfect for holiday gift giving. Supplies are limited so reserve your spot soon. Registration is required. Please call 309-497-2600.

Saturday, December 1

NORTH BRANCH

Drop In: Giant Board Game - 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Come play a game where YOU are the game piece. Stay the whole time, or join a game in progress. This month we will be playing Twister. Children of all ages.

Sunday, December 2

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Hanukkah Craft - 1:30-2:15 p.m.

Make a sand art menorah craft. While supplies last. Children of all ages.

December 3-7

MCCLURE BRANCH

Disney through the Decades Movie Series - 3:45-5:30 p.m.

Enjoy these Disney films through the decades to celebrate Walt Disney's Birthday (December 5)!
December 3: *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937)
December 4: *Cinderella* (1950)
December 5: *Robin Hood* (1973)
December 6: *Lion King* (1994)
December 7: *Moana* (2016)

December 3-8

NORTH BRANCH

Computer Science Education Week

Monday, December 3

Kiddie Coding - 1:30-2:00 p.m.

Little computer scientists can learn how to code using our robot mouse toy! Ages 4-6.

Wednesday, December 5

Computer Science Unplugged - 5:00-5:45 p.m.

You don't need a computer to learn the foundations of computer science! Ages 6-11.

Thursday, December 6

Introduction to Scratch - 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Scratch is a free programming language and online community for creating and sharing your own interactive stories, games, and animations. Come learn the basics. Please call 497-2100 to register. Ages 8-16

Friday, December 7

Hour of Code - all day

Pick up an information sheet and participate in the Hour of Code on the library's computers or on any computer with an internet connection. All ages.

Saturday, December 8

Computer Science Movie - 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Join us in the Beehive room to watch *Tron* (1982, rated PG). All ages.

Monday, December 3, 10, 17, 31

NORTH BRANCH - 10:30-11:00 A.M.

Wednesday, December 5, 12, 19

LAKEVIEW BRANCH - 10:15-10:45 A.M.

Tiny Tots Storytime

Ages 12 to 23 months.

Tuesday, December 4 & 11

LINCOLN BRANCH

Terrific Tattletale Storytime - 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Ages 3 to 6.

Tuesday, December 4

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Bibliophiles Book Club - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

This month: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

Tuesday, December 4 & 11

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Community Cards - 4:00-7:45 p.m.

Help bring holiday cheer to kids and seniors in our community. Make a greeting card to send to children at OSF Children's Hospital and OSF Almost Home Kids or to seniors at Buehler Home, Independence Village, and Rosewood. Snacks will be provided. Children and adults of all ages are invited to help spread holiday cheer.

Tuesday, December 4

LINCOLN BRANCH

Front & Center: Holiday Jenga - 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Play the game of Jenga with a Holiday twist. Pull your square without tipping the tower! Answer the questions attached to the square, sing a chord from a favorite holiday song or just share your favorite memories. Ages 5 to 12.

Tuesday, December 4

LINCOLN BRANCH

Holiday Adult Craft: Strainer Pour with a Twist – 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Adult only are invited to this canvas painting project. Some of the most beautiful paintings have been created by pouring over a strainer, colander or similar item. Amazing patterns form as you slowly and methodically add color! Registration is required. Please call 309-497-2600.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12, 19 & 26

NORTH BRANCH

Brainy Baby Storytime – 1:30-2:00 p.m.

Develop your baby's pre-literacy skills with this lapsit program, designed to introduce children and their caregivers to 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 time fun. Age 0 to 23 months.

Wednesday, December 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, Dec. 6, 13, 20 & 27

MCCLURE BRANCH

Fun Time Storytime – 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, Dec. 6, 13, 20 & 27

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, December 6

LINCOLN BRANCH

CD Ornaments – 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Make some ornaments from bits of recycled CDs and ribbon. Ages 6 to 12.

Friday, December 7

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Toddler Art – 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Join us once a month for a fun artful activity geared towards toddlers. Let your child explore the world of colors and shapes while learning fine motor skills along the way. Dress for a mess.

Friday, Dec. 7 – MCCLURE BRANCH

Friday, Dec. 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, December 7, 14, 21 & 28

NORTH BRANCH

Busy Bees Storytime – 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Children of all ages.

Friday, December 7

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Drop In: LEGO Builders Club–3:00-5:00 pm

Calling all LEGO fans! Join us at Lakeview Branch for our Lego Builders Club. Drop in any time to play. Parental supervision is required.

Friday, December 7

LINCOLN BRANCH

Christmas Pictionary & Headbandz – 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Come challenge your friends to a game of Christmas-themed Pictionary and Headbandz, where you try to guess what Christmas themed picture is on your head based on the hints that your friend gives you! The winners will be the ultimate Christmas champions! Ages 6 to 12.

Sunday, December 9

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Sensory Friendly Family Film – 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Join us for this sensory friendly showing of The Muppet Christmas Carol. 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 to attend. Noise canceling ear muffs and fidgets will be supplied. Rated G

Sunday, December 9

NORTH BRANCH

Biography and Nonfiction Book Club – 3:00-4:30 p.m.

This month: *Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power* by Rachel Maddow

Monday, December 10

MCCLURE BRANCH

The Book Was First Movie Series – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join in a viewing of the 2004 film *Christmas with the Kranks* based on the book *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. Read the book before you come to see how the film measures up or just come to enjoy a movie and light refreshments on a Monday morning!

Monday, December 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, December 10

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Screen-Free Afternoon – 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Give your family a break from technology. Spend your afternoon playing one of our educational board games that help with reading, spelling, and math, or working on one of our puzzles. We'll also have a list of some recommended reading available to continue some screen-free time at home. Ages 6 to 9.

Monday, December 10

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Sci Fi & Fantasy Book Club – 6:30-7:30 p.m.

This month: *The Brotherhood of the Wheel* by R.S. Belcher

Tuesday, December 11

LINCOLN BRANCH

Christmas Minute to Win It – 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Come challenge your friends in Christmas-themed games that you only have a minute to complete! Ages 6 to 12.



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 11

LINCOLN BRANCH

Front & Center: Ornament Crafting - 5:00-6:00 p.m.

As the holidays approach, join us and show your design creativity decorating Christmas ornaments for your tree. Using a variety of paints, snow, beads and other supplies you can bling your ornament to bring bling to your holidays! These can be great keepsakes or a holiday gift. Children of all ages.

Tuesday, December 11

LINCOLN BRANCH

Holiday Adult Craft: Holiday Décor - 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Are you looking for an inexpensive way to lavish a loved one with a gift? Adults are invited to join us for a class designing a simple yet elegant holiday décor piece. Recycle/repurpose a wine bottle to decorate for the holidays. Registration is required. Please call 309-497-2600.

Wednesday, December 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 be exploring math facts with Giant Math Winder. Ages 6 to 11.

Thursday, December 13 & Tuesday, December 18

LINCOLN BRANCH

Puppet Show: Santa Cures a Cold - 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Come help Santa get over his cold before Christmas comes! Ages 3 to 6.

Thursday, December 13

LINCOLN BRANCH

Holiday Cup Decorating - 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Customize your own holiday cup with letters and Sharpie dots. Ages 6 to 12.

Thursday, December 13

NORTH BRANCH

Peoria Speaks: UIC Positive Health Solutions - 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Peoria Speaks is a monthly community discussion program which focuses on topics of interest to Peorians. Funding

for Peoria Speaks is being provided by Illinois Humanities through their Illinois Speaks program which is aimed at strengthening the democratic process through community dialogues across the state of Illinois. This month, our guest speaker will be Lisa Roeder, Supervisor of Medical Social Services at Positive Health Solutions (PHS). PHS is part of the UIC Medical Center in Peoria, where it provides a range of health care and support services for area residents living with HIV/AIDS. She will provide background information about PHS's mission, history, and services, and then the floor will be open for questions and to further discuss the topics she introduces. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, December 15

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Autism Resource Group - 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Are you a parent with a child or teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Join us for resource sharing and support.

Saturday, December 15

NORTH BRANCH

Judgment Free Art - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Have you always wanted to try making artwork, but never had the nerve? Join us for one of our "Judgment Free" art programs! We're going to throw technique out the window and just have fun - celebrating the whimsical, the A-for-effort, and the just plain silly. This month: "Thrift Shop Monsters." We've found some landscapes that are a little...lacking. Let's spice them up a little! For adults only.

Sunday, December 16

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Drop In: Christmas Craft - 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Make a manger scene mosaic. While supplies last. Children of all ages.

Sunday, December 16

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Book 'Em Mystery Book Club - 2:00-3:30 p.m.

This month: *Merry Christmas Alex Cross* by James Patterson

Sunday, December 16

NORTH BRANCH

Music in the McKenzie Presents: Lojo Russo - 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Self-taught on guitar and voice, Russo spent her formative years in different bands in the Twin Cities (MN) playing guitar, bass, and mandolin in all sorts of folk, funk, jazz, jam, Irish, and indie bands. Russo's musical style is as varied and unexpected as the river she calls home. One moment she's laying down a furious rhythm on the guitar punctuated with a wailing vocal, and the next we're floating along carried by intricate finger-picking, her voice as intense and haunting as her lyrics. A portion of CD sales support The Friends of Peoria Public Library.

Monday, December 17

LINCOLN BRANCH

3D Christmas Trees - 4:15-5:15 p.m.

Want a Christmas tree, but don't have the room? With just a pair of scissors and some construction paper, you can make your own tree that you'll be able to hang easily in any room in your home. Decorate your tree with pom-poms, tinsel and more! Ages 6 to 12.

Tuesday, December 18

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Mini Gingerbread House Decorating - 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Drop in anytime to decorate your own mini-gingerbread house using graham crackers, icing, and candy. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies are limited, so please register by calling 309-497-2200.

Tuesday, December 18

LINCOLN BRANCH

Front & Center: Holiday Movie Time at the Library - 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Get in the mood for the holidays by joining us as we watch *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. All ages are welcome.

Tuesday, December 18

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 fun group to discuss the best in YA literature. This month: *Weetzie Bat* by Francesca Lia Block



JANUARY BOOK CLUBS

Join a book club at Peoria Public Library this month. New members are always welcome!

The Sherlock Holmes Story Society

will meet at North Branch at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 24 at North Branch, continuing the chronological exploration of the short stories with *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. "The Adventure of the Empty House" - If you're going to make an appearance after years of being 'dead,' you should go big or go home! Holmes re-emerges in London and immediately gets down to business. In this story, he bests 'the second most dangerous man in London.' (Any guesses about the first?) New members are always welcome, whether you're a seasoned Sherlockian or a newcomer to the canon! Call 309-497-2701 with questions.

The Biography and Non-Fiction Book Club

will meet on Sunday, January 13 at 3:00 p.m. at North Branch to discuss *Empire of Sin: A Story of Sex, Jazz, Murder, and the Battle for Modern New Orleans* by Gary Krist. *Empire of Sin* recreates the remarkable story of New Orleans' thirty-years war against itself, pitting the city's elite "better half" against its powerful and long-entrenched underworld of vice, perversity, and crime. This early-20th-century battle centers on one man: Tom Anderson, the undisputed czar of the city's Storyville vice district, who fights desperately to keep his empire intact as it faces onslaughts from all sides. Surrounding him are the stories of flamboyant prostitutes, crusading moral reformers, dissolute jazzmen, ruthless Mafiosi, venal politicians, and one extremely violent serial killer, all battling for primacy in a wild and wicked city unlike any other in the world.

The Bibliophiles Book Club is on vacation in January and will meet again February 5.

The Book 'Em Mystery Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 20 at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss *The Late Show* by Michael Connelly.

The Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club will meet on Monday, January 14 at Lakeview Branch at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Semiosis* by Sue Burke. Colonists from Earth wanted the perfect home, but they'll have to survive on the one they found. They don't realize another life form watches...and waits...Only mutual communication can forge an alliance with the planet's sentient species and prove that humans are more than tools. Call 309-497-2701 with questions.

The YA Book Club for Adults will meet on Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch to discuss *Geekerella* by Ashley Poston. Geek girl Elle Witter lives and breathes Starfield, the classic science-fiction series she grew up watching with her late father. So when she sees a cosplay contest for a new Starfield movie, she has to enter. The prize includes a meet-and-greet with the actor slated to play Federation Prince Carmindor in the reboot. Teen actor Darien Freeman used to live for cons - before he was famous. Playing Carmindor is all he has ever wanted, but Starfield fandom has written him off as just another dumb heartthrob. As ExcelsiCon draws near, Darien feels more and more like a fake - until he meets a girl who shows him otherwise. But when she disappears at midnight, will he ever be able to find her again? Part-romance, part-love letter to nerd culture, and all totally adorbs, *Geekerella* is a fairy tale for anyone who believes in the magic of fandom.

Friends of Clonmel Intercontinental Readers will meet on Tuesday, March 19 at 1:00 p.m. in March at Main Library on LL1 to hold a Skype discussion with the group in Clonmel, Ireland. Watch for the book title to be announced.

The Read on Book Club will meet at Lincoln Branch on Tuesday, January 22 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss *Remembrance* by Mary Monroe. For Beatrice Powell, the holidays are usually an extra special time to celebrate. Between her twenty-year-plus marriage, gorgeous Berkeley, California home and three wonderful adult children, she has everything she could desire. But change-of-life doubts are making Beatrice a stranger to herself and her bewildered family. She only finds peace volunteering at the local soup kitchen, especially helping out homeless Charles Davenport. His sensitivity and honesty soon comfort her in ways she never imagined.

Greater Peoria Dining Tour Books

\$30

Available at:

LAKEVIEW BRANCH, NORTH BRANCH, MAIN LIBRARY & FRIENDS BOOKSTORE

\$10 of each book sold goes to The Friends of Peoria Public Library.



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DECEMBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 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. This month: Decorate cookies.

Thursday, December 20

NORTH BRANCH

Third Thursday Film Fest: Books into Movies – 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Join us on the third Thursday of each month for movies based on books! 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: *A Christmas Carol* (PG, 2009)

Thursday, December 20

LINCOLN BRANCH

Monthly Writing Group – 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Join our monthly writing group as we explore different types of writing styles. This month will be holiday-themed writing where we explore different holiday writings that aren't your Grandma's Christmas carols! We'll also be responding to various Christmas writing prompts. Ages 12 to 18.

December 21-January 30

MAIN LIBRARY GALLERY

22VA: Veterans Art Exhibit

View a wide range of artistic expression, all created by our Veterans. Some were artists before, while some are using art to understand their military experience. The exhibit is organized by 22VA, a group of talented Veteran Artists that want to help other Veterans express themselves through

visual and creative arts. 22VA wants to help reduce the number of Veteran suicides, which claim the lives of 22 veterans a day. This equates to around 30 suicides per 100,000 veterans, a rate that is more than double the rate for the civilian population.

Friday, December 21

MCCLURE BRANCH

Friday, December 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, December 21

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Family Flicks – 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Join us for a screening of *The Star* (not rated, 2017). Bring your own snack.

Saturday, December 22

NORTH BRANCH

A Cello Christmas: Student Recital – check the online calendar for time

David Commanday, Conductor of the Heartland Festival Orchestra, his son, Beau Commanday, and their students will perform songs of the season on the cello. This program is free and open to the public.

Saturday, December 22

LINCOLN BRANCH

Annual Gingerbread House Craft – 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Come make a fun Gingerbread House out of graham crackers and holiday candy that you can take home and display for the Holiday! All ages are welcome. Space is limited, so sign up early by calling 309-497-2600.

December 26-31

MCCLURE BRANCH

The Wishing Tree

The new year is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking of all the wishes you have for the upcoming year. Add a wish for yourself or someone you care about with the hopes it will come true in 2019, and check out the wishes others have made!

Thursday, December 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. 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 Final Problem."

Saturday, December 29

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 who have Autism Spectrum Disorder in mind, but inclusive to everyone.

Monday, December 31

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

Countdown to Noon – 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Join us for a New Year celebration! We'll have crafts, a photo booth, games, snacks, and a countdown at 11:50 with singing and dancing. At noon we'll have a balloon drop!

MAIN LIBRARY

107 N.E. Monroe
309.497.2000

LAKEVIEW BRANCH

1137 W. Lake
309.497.2200

LINCOLN BRANCH

1312 W. Lincoln
309.497.2600

MCCLURE BRANCH

315 W. McClure
309.497.2700

NORTH BRANCH

3001 W. Grand Parkway
309.497.2100

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