Peoria Public Library Celebrates Women's History Month

Visit Peoria Public Library during Women's History Month and discover books, movies and music that bring to life the accomplishments of women throughout the decades. In our Local History & Genealogy Department, you are free to browse specific books of history of Peoria women, including Women of Peoria, 1620 to 1920 by Channy Lyons. Our local history collection cannot be removed from the library, but is open for viewing at Main Library from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. In addition to our collection, Peoria Public Library has the following programs to celebrate Women's History Month.

Free and open to all.

The Hidden Story of Annie Turnbo Malone
Saturday, March 19 – 2 p.m. at North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Pkwy
Learn about the extraordinary life of Annie Turnbo Malone, America's first black woman millionaire who had early roots in Peoria. James Bryson, author of The Hidden Life of Annie Turnbo Malone, will speak about her life and legacy.

Above the Fold: How Women Made (literally) the News
Sunday, March 20 – 2 p.m. at North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Pkwy
Join us as we talk to notable Peoria journalists, Pam Adams, Terry Bibo and Barbara Mantz Drake. Hear about the challenges they faced in a male-dominated field and how the news has changed. Of special note, while they've all interviewed their share of important or infamous people, only one has the “privilege” of almost being thrown out of Betty Friedan’s apartment.

Powerful Peoria Women: Then and Now
Monday, March 21 – 6:30 p.m. at North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Pkwy
Join us to learn about notable Peoria women throughout the city’s history from our Peoria Historical Society speakers. Visit our website for book suggestions at www.peoriapubliclibrary.org
Make Art Your Superpower in March
Come explore your artistic side with us this month. We have art programs for all ages, as well as our first-ever artist in residence at McClure Branch.
Local artist and photographer Alexa Cary’s art will be on display at McClure Branch, and she will also share her expertise with you during office hours and an adult photography class. Details below.

March 1-31 North Branch
Youth Art Month Community Painting
Help us make a community painting for North Branch. Ask for a tile and a grid assignment, then recreate your assigned square on the tile. Watching everyone’s creativity come together into one piece will be fun! When all the tiles are finished and assembled, we’ll have a wonderful work of communal art. Paints, brushes, and smocks will be available in the Beehive Room all month long. For children of all ages.

Friday, March 4 Lakeview Branch
Drop In: First Fridays Art – 3 to 5 p.m.
Stop by Lakeview Branch and let your child enjoy the space and supplies to be creative. Dress for a mess. Ages 5 and up.

Saturday, March 12 McClure Branch
Artist Office Hours – 1 to 3 p.m.
Drop in and meet Alexa Cary, our artist in residence at McClure Branch for March. As an artist and photographer, Alexa is available to give you tips, answer your questions or even critique your work if you’d like.

Wednesday, March 16 North Branch
Make-It, Take-It Crafts for Adults – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Let your creativity shine as we learn to make weaved yarn bowls. Supplies provided, but must register by calling (309) 497-2069 or emailing programming@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us. Adults only.

Thursday, March 17 Main Library
Art Adventures for Kids – 4 to 5 p.m.
Curious about different kinds of art and the artists who make it? Kids 6-11 can join us as we look at artists and their art by trying it out ourselves. Painting, sculpting and printmaking are examples of the types of art we will be exploring in this exciting series.

Wednesday, March 23 Lakeview Branch
Sand Art Necklaces – 11 to 11:45 a.m.
Create a colorful sand art shell necklace. Supplies provided. For children of all ages.

Friday, March 25 Lincoln Branch
Tape & Watercolor Canvas Art – 3 to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 28 Lincoln Branch
International Scribble Day – 4 to 5 p.m.

Monday, March 28 McClure Branch
Adult Art Class: Photography with Alexa Cary – 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Learn how to take photographs with an artist’s eye with local artist and photographer Alexa Cary, the artist in residence at McClure Branch for March. Adults only.
Peoria Reads! Kick-Off
Each year, we feature an important book through our annual Peoria Reads! one city, one book project. Now 20 years strong.
For 2022, we have chosen a book that helps us celebrate where we are in life — something that perhaps we all need during this ongoing global pandemic. This is Where You Belong: Finding Home Wherever You Are by Melody Warnick will inspire you to love where you live — whether you are a lifelong Peorian or a new transplant.
In collaboration with our Peoria Reads! partners – Bradley University, Methodist College and Neighborhood House -- we will be hosting programs tied to this book throughout most of 2022 — including a virtual conversation with the author herself on April 7.
Find more details and a list of events here

Key upcoming events:
March 22: Proclamation of Peoria Reads! – City of Peoria Council Meeting
March 31 – Love Where You Live: The Peoria Transplant Experience
7 p.m., Peoria Public Library North Branch, McKenzie Room
Our four panelists, all transplants to the Peoria area, will provide their insights into moving to Peoria, their experiences here and how they have learned to make Peoria their new home.

Thursday, April 7 – Virtual Author Event with Melody Warnick
7 p.m. Zoom
Register in advance for this meeting
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
Free and open to the public.

Peoria Public Library provides a public space for the display of art that stimulates, educates, and promotes greater understanding and appreciation for art in our culturally diverse community. Feel free to browse our rotating exhibits at your leisure anytime Main Library is open.
Hours: Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., except holidays.
Located on Lower Level 1

Current Exhibit
Picturesque Peoria Through the Artist’s Lens – March 4 -31
Enjoy historic and contemporary artwork that celebrates the distinctness of the Peoria area — its river and bridges, its parks, its iconic city structures and its pastoral rural scenes. Exhibit by the Peoria Historical Society.
Upcoming exhibits in 2022

April: Mid-Illini Art Show
May: Bradley University Senior Capstone Project
June: Telling A People’s Story: Traveling Exhibit of Black Artists
July: Ryan Bair

Interested in Showing at the Gallery?
Peoria Public Library welcomes the display of art exhibitions in its Gallery in keeping with our goal to be a community partner and a place where people come to discover, question, learn and connect.

The Library’s Program Department will review a representative sample of the artist’s portfolio and decide if it is suitable for exhibition. As the exhibition space is in a public space, the artwork must meet appropriate community standards and be suitable for all ages. Exhibitions are selected by the Library on the basis of aesthetic quality, educational interest, and appeal and relevance to the community.

If you would like to be considered to show your work at the Library, please email us at programming@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us