The Freedom to Read is essential to our democracy, but also under attack. Banned Books Week was first launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in libraries, bookstores, and schools. The last three years, however, have seen an unprecedented wave of censorship in many parts of the U.S. In response, several Central Illinois libraries and community organizations joined together to shine a light on our collective Freedom to Read. We call ourselves Central Illinois Reads. For the past six months, we have worked together to provide programs that empower our community to unite against book bans. Our

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 6 p.m.
Westlake Hall, Bradley University
~ 116 N. Glenwood Ave., Peoria
Literary Liberties: Banned Books Week Read-In
Come immerse yourself in challenged literature while learning about the evolving landscape of censorship and how each of us can play a role in the fight for our rights. The Read-In will be an opportunity for book lovers to gather and read from their favorite banned books, as
Alyce Jackson, Manager of Programming at Peoria Public Library head of Central Illinois Reads, and Randall Yelverton, Executive Director of Peoria Public Library, accepted a proclamation from the Peoria City Council on Sept. 26 for Banned Books Week.

Banned Books Bingo
Read our suggested banned/challenged books, then submit your completed bingo card for a chance to win a $10 Barnes & Noble gift card. Bingo cards (one for adults; one for children up to age 12) available at all Peoria Public Library locations throughout the month of October.

Guess the Banned Book ~ Oct. 1-7
@ North Branch only
Guess the title of our shredded banned book for a chance to win a $10 Barnes & Noble gift card.

Two New Inductees to the Lincoln Hall of Fame Oct. 11
The Lincoln Branch Hall of Fame was established by the Peoria Public Library Board of...
Trustees in order to recognize individuals, families, corporations, foundations or organizations which have supported the Peoria Public Library Lincoln Branch through distinguished effort or substantial financial donation.

On Oct. 11, two new inductees will be added for their outstanding contributions to the city’s only Carnegie library.

**Barbara Van Auken:** An active and longtime Peoria Public Library Board Trustee, currently president of the board, Ms. Van Auken has been very supportive of the Lincoln Carnegie Branch over the years, including by collaborating with community leaders to secure funding for the first renovation for Lincoln Branch in the early 1990s. That $500,000 gift from the late Henry Slane remains, to this day, the largest single donation ever given to Peoria Public Library, and Ms. Van Auken played an instrumental role in stewarding the arrangement.

**South-West Kiwanis:** For many years, members of this organization not only came to Lincoln Branch to read to students, but they also donated funds to purchase books as part of their reading program. Families look to Lincoln Carnegie Branch Library for a variety of programming that can help support their children’s needs without cost, and the *South West Kiwanis Club* help to fill that void and tutored their children to become better readers.

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**We're Dying to Meet You at the Library!**

Make special memories this Halloween – from the slightly spooky to the super scary. Peoria Public Library has something for everyone this month!

**Wednesday, October 4:**
**Sylvia’s Wonders and Oddities**
6:30-7:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch
We all know Halloween is mostly ghostly, but what about all the other things that go bump in the night? Sylvia Shults, paranormal reporter, brings you tales of mummified monks, men eating lions.

**Saturday, October 21:**
**Ghostly Thrift Flip**
2 - 4 p.m. at McClure Branch
Add your own ghostly touches to a thrifted painting to create a one of a kind decoration! Space is limited, so reserve your spot by calling 309-497-2700. Ages 12 to 18.

Thursday, October 5 | 6 - 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 15 | 2-3 p.m.
DIY Halloween Costumes at North Branch
Stretch your creativity (and your budget) with these homemade Halloween costume ideas! No sewing skills necessary! Ages 13 and up.

Friday, October 6, 13, 20 & 27:
Spooky Season Open Maker Lab
2-5 p.m. at Lincoln Branch
Every Friday in October, our computer and tech lab will be open to those of you who want to celebrate spooky season. Want to stop by and 3D print a skull? We can show you how. Make a LEGO haunted house? We've got you. (Our computers will be open for games as well!). Stop by on Friday the 13th for a sweet treat! Ages 12 to 18.

Sunday, Oct. 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 1-2 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 21 & 28 | 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Halloween Costume Swap Shop at North Branch
Drop off your family's gently used costumes anytime the library is open. Shop for a new-to-you costume during our swap shop hours. All donations must be clean and in good condition. Call 309-497-2100 for donationswap guidelines.

Saturday, October 14:
Superstition Gallery
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Lincoln Branch
Be cautious and best of luck to you as you explore a gallery full of superstitions on display. All ages.

October 23-28 Main Halloween Photo Op
Travel to the Main Library for a fun and kind of spooky Halloween Photo op with backdrop and props included. Use your own phone and wear your Halloween costume for a great way to remember this 2023 holiday. All are welcome but geared toward preschool through teens.

Tuesday, October 24:
Ghoulish Eyeball Bouquet
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Branch
It's starting to get awfully spooky around here! Stop by to make a ghoulish eyeball bouquet with us. Please call 309-497-2600 to reserve your spot. Adults.

Tuesday, October 24: Pumpkin Painting
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Lakeview Branch
Bring your own pumpkin and we'll supply everything else needed to paint it in time for Fall! Children of all ages.

Wednesday, October 25:
Little Monsters Party
10 - 10:45 a.m. at Lakeview Branch
Bring your little ones to a party to celebrate not-so-scary monsters. We'll play games and make a monster craft. Ages 2 to 5.

Thursday, October 26:
Spooky Storytime, Crafts, & Games
3 - 6 p.m. at North Branch
Join us for a "spooky" storytime at 3:00 pm, followed by Halloween-inspired crafts and games. Children of all ages.

Saturday, October 28:
Spooky Saturday Movie Marathon
11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at North Branch
Tuesday, October 17:
Mid-Week Scary Movie Night: Coraline
4 - 6 p.m. at Lincoln Branch
Join us for a viewing of the classic scary movie Coraline. Snacks will be provided. Rated PG. Ages 12 to 18.

Tuesday, October 17:
DIY Spooky Halloween Vases
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Lincoln Branch
Join us to make spooky Halloween vases to display a ghoulish bouquet! Please call 309-497-2600 to reserve your spot. Adults.

Wednesday, October 18:
Boos and Booze Book Club
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Industry Brewing on North Hale Ave.
Join our book club for a horrifyingly good time at Industry Brewing. Love of horror is a must, love of brews not required. This month: We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson. We will also be watching the 2018 film adaptation to compare. Adults.

Monday, October 30:
The Macabre Mind of Edward Gorey
4 - 5 p.m. at Main
Discuss the delightfully morbid world of Edward Gorey, author of The Gashlycrumb Tinies, who inspired the works of Tim Burton, Neil Gaiman and Lemony Snicket. All ages.

Tuesday, October 31: Haunted House
4 - 6 p.m. at Lincoln Branch
Come if you dare! Attend at your own risk! Join us for our Annual Spooky Haunted House event. Treats will be provided. All ages.

More Upcoming Events

Our Film Noir Series Returns
Every Saturday in October, join local film buff and host Steve Tarter as he screens classic film noir movies on our big screen – a rare

October 7: Ernest Hemingway’s “To Have and Have Not”
opportunity. Starting at 2 p.m. every Saturday in October at Main Library’s auditorium. Free and open to all. Bring your own refreshments.

Stars Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall and Walter Brennan
During World War II, American expatriate Harry Morgan helps transport a French Resistance leader and his beautiful wife to Martinique while romancing a sensuous lounge singer.

October 14: Gilda; Stars Rita Hayworth and Glenn Ford
A small-time gambler hired to work in a Buenos Aires casino discovers his employer's new wife is his former lover.

October 21: Kiss Me Deadly; Stars Ralph Meeker
A doomed female hitchhiker pulls Mike Hammer into a deadly whirlpool of intrigue, revolving around a mysterious "great whatsit".

October 28: Out of the Past; Stars Robert Mitchum and Jane Greer
A private eye escapes his past to run a gas station in a small town, but his past catches up with him. Now he must return to the big city world of danger, corruption, double crosses, and duplicitous dames.

Coming in November: Apply to Join our Local Author Fair
Meet and talk with local authors and artists, and do some holiday shopping at the same time.

Our Local Author Fair returns to North Branch this year, but a portion of the proceeds will still benefit the Friends of Peoria Public Library. Watch our Facebook page for an up-to-date listing of authors and SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, Nov. 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. @ North Branch.
Are you a local author who is interested in joining us? Please email programming@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us for more information.