



October 2021

EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

As we anticipate the completion of our expansion and renovation, we'd like to hear from you! Let us know what kind of programs and services you would like to see once we have our new spaces. Please take a moment to complete this short [PROGRAM & SERVICES SURVEY](#). Thank you!

As we plan services and programs for the fall, please keep in mind that construction and COVID status may affect what we can offer. For current information, visit the [library's website](#) or follow us on social media.

Benzie DISTRICT
SHORES LIBRARY

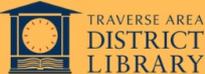
STEM DAY

JOIN US OCTOBER 19TH
FROM 3-4 PM TO CELEBRATE!

ALL 21 LIBRARIES IN THE 5-COUNTY REGION NOW HAVE STEM KITS!

**EARN RAFFLE TICKETS BY CHECKING OUT STEM KITS
BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER 19TH**

A partnership with:



What's STEM got to do with it? In today's world quite a lot! STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. You can now find STEM kits available for check out at all 21 regional libraries including Benzie Shores! Whether you or a loved one is interested in Coding, Physics, Bugs, Building or Chemistry, there is a good chance we can find a kit that fits you! Join us and our amazing regional STEM team on Tuesday, October 19th from 3-4pm to find out what exactly STEM's got to do with it!

COVID Information

Visit the [Benzie Leelanau District Health Department](#) for current COVID information, including vaccine and booster shot information. Michigan.gov's COVID-19 Hotline 1-888-535-6136. Or email COVID19@michigan.gov.

Local COVID case and hospitalization data can be found at [Munson Healthcare COVID FAQ](#)

Monitor COVID hospitalization data for Michigan at [Statewide PPE and Hospital Bed Tracker](#)

Visit [Munson Healthcare's COVID-19 Tracker](#) site for helpful information on the impact of COVID on our region.



OUTSTANDING EXPANDING!

The past month was full of insulation work, inspections and the start of drywall work. Expect to see our long awaited windows in the coming weeks!

For more information and to see how you can help, visit <http://donate.benzieshoreslibrary.org/>



Our friend the Michigan Dogman gets his very own Benzie Shores library card!

A special thank you to Rich Brauer Productions for sharing your Dogman with us!

IN DEFENSE OF SCARY BOOKS

Since childhood, spooky stories have plagued me with sleepless nights and nightmares. If left home alone, my parents would return to a house with every curtain drawn and every light in the house turned on. My mother could never understand why I insisted on reading books that scared me.

In his book [DANSE MACABRE](#), Stephen King provides a history of the horror genre and attempts to define "what is scary." He explains that reading horror gives us the ability to process being afraid in the controlled environment of our own head. What's more, scary stories show us that for all of humanities real life horrors, there is always hope we can defeat the symbolic zombies and ghosts in our lives. Psychology aside, sometimes its just fun to be scared!

But certainly this genre isn't for everybody, so we have plenty of other titles on the shelves for those of you wishing to skip the spooky. For those of you looking for the thrill of a scary read, enjoy this selection of spooky staff favorites!

Jennifer

I recommend [SCARY STORIES FOR YOUNG FOXES](#) by Christian McKay Heidicker for anyone who wants to explore a scary story without actually being scared to death. It's a great middle grade read for those who are looking for a little scare while following two friends navigate life just trying to survive their youth. It is a

2020 Newbery Honor recipient. My ultimate favorite book as a kid was [THE SPOOKY OLD TREE](#) by Jan and Stan Berenstain. There was just something magical about a spooky tree you could walk through as a young kid.

Stacy

Recent spooky reads I couldn't put down were [LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND](#) by Rumaan Alam and [IMAGINARY FRIEND](#) by Stephen Chobsky. In *Leave the World Behind*, a family finds themselves trapped at a vacation rental home after the owners of the home unexpectedly arrive, bringing with them news of an unknown pending disaster. *Imaginary friend* is the story of a young boy who disappears into the woods for 6 days. When he finally emerges, he can hear voices that tell him the only way he can save his family and town is to build a treehouse. But the scariest book of all time for me is my brother's battered paperback copy of [REAL GHOSTS](#) by Daniel Cohen. Just seeing the cover on MeLCat gave me the heebie jeebies, yet I still requested it and plan to read it cover to cover as soon as it arrives.

Kaitlin

Typically, I prefer my horror to skew campy. I steer away from anything that could give me nightmares or have me checking behind closet doors for a masked maniac. This preference started with [IN A DARK, DARK ROOM AND OTHER SCARY STORIES](#) by Alvin Schwartz which absolutely petrified me as a child. The fact this book is an easy reader made no difference whatsoever, the illustrations and stories from a green ribbon that holds a head on to depictions of pirate ghosts made shivers creep down my spine. Schwartz is known for his [SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK](#) series whose mere covers tormented me from the shelf in my sister's closet. (I guess that's one way to keep a little sister from going through your stuff!) These days I like my horror with a dash of humor, my current Halo-read being [THE SOUTHERN BOOK CLUB'S GUIDE TO SLAYING VAMPIRES](#) by Grady Hendrix available on Libby. While I am only a few chapters into this book, I am very excited to see this group of Minivan driving, lunch box packing, book club coalition of moms go full Van Helsing on a vampire menace!

Julie

I was so frightened by *MANNERS: STARRING MR. DO & MR. DON'T* by Virginia Parkinson as a child that I hurled it to the top shelf of our pantry so that I wouldn't have to see it ever again! It was one of my Mom's childhood books-- and I was horrified by the creepy 'claytoon' characters depicted in the illustrations. So, maybe not the scariest storyline or subject matter, but this book popped immediately into my head when asked to share a 'scary' book! This book is not available via MeLCat; however, we did find a digitized copy. Click the link if you dare... <https://digital.wolfsonian.org/WOLF037897/00001>

Molly

My love for all things scary started early in life, when I would pour over the [SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK](#) books by Alvin Schwartz. Later, I was introduced to *The Legend of '97*, more commonly referred to as *The Dogman Song*. I became (unsurprisingly) enamored with its tales of bipedal horrors lurking in my local north woods. The BSDL staff have a shared appreciation of the legend of the Michigan Dogman, as does local film maker Richard Brauer. He has made two [DOGMAN](#) movies, partially filmed in Benzie County! Both are available at BSDL.

[FRANKENSTEIN](#) is probably my all-time favorite book, and while not scary by today's standards, Shelley tapped into the fear of the unknown at the time. To learn that electricity was effectively the reason we were alive would have been an unsettling concept for the average 21-year-old in 1818. Shelley is credited as the inventor she effectively invented the genre of science fiction. I'd say that's not bad for a first book.

If you are looking to be truly scared, Ari Aster's film [HEREDITARY](#) follows a suburban family after the death of their matriarch and explores themes of grief, guilt, and the struggle to free oneself of familial and genetic hand-me-downs. The director sneaks so many details and references into the backgrounds that I would recommend watching it multiple times in order to notice them all...that is, if you can stomach it. This film includes brutal scenes of violence and I would encourage anyone with a weak stomach for gore to choose a different film to watch.

BOOK SHARE

Looking for a good book? Join our Book Share Group via Zoom. Book Share meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. We are meeting via Zoom until the library's addition is completed. [Contact us](#) to have the Zoom link emailed to you, or check the library's website just prior to the program.

September Shares

[All the Devils are Here](#) by Louise Penny

[When Stars Collide](#) by Susan Elizabeth Phillips
[The Splendid and the Vile](#) by Eric Larson
[Artificial Intelligence: an Illustrated History](#) by Clifford Pickover
[This is How they Tell me the World Ends](#) by Nicole Perloth

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