

THE BOOKMARK

Monthly Newsletter of the Gale Free Library

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Contact us:

508-210-5560

galefreelibrary@gmail.com



Important News

- If you would like to receive a digital version of our newsletter, please subscribe by emailing us at galefreelibrary@gmail.com.
- Overdue fines on Holden items have resumed as of 9/1/2021, with the exception of items on the cards of Senior Citizens and Children.
- Our Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2023-2027 is complete! You can view it via the link on the library's homepage. www.galefreelibrary.org
- The Book Cellar is now open later on Saturdays! The hours are Tues (1-4), Wed (1-4), Thurs (1-4), and Sat (10-3). The Book Cellar is accepting donations on Mondays only, from 1-4.
- We have acquired two new databases. "Black Life in America" is an informative database that covers the experience and impact of African Americans as recorded by the news media. "HeritageHub" is a database in which you can explore your family history with the premier collection of U.S. obituaries and death notices for in-depth genealogical research from 1704 - today.

Book Review

BY LINDA M. CASTELLITTO, BOOKPAGE, AUGUST 2020

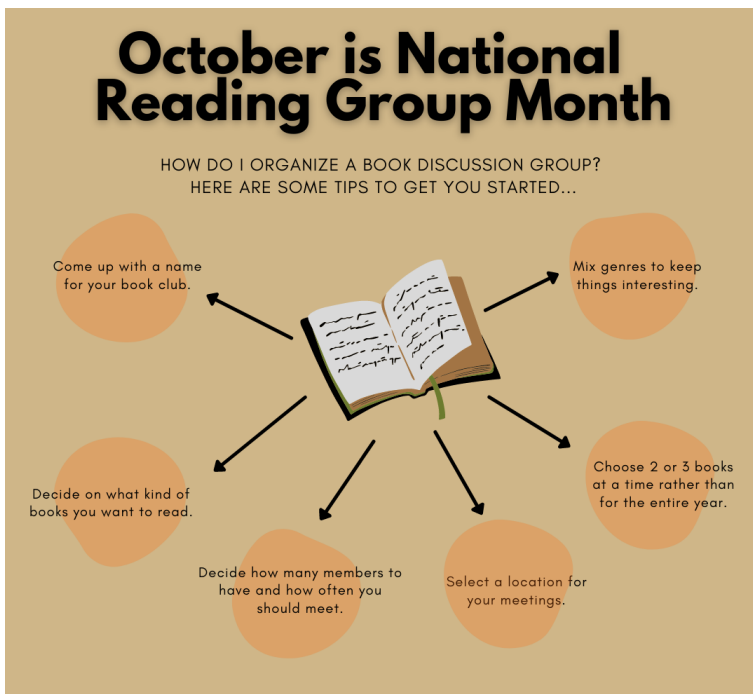
The Unidentified by Colin Dickey

Most of us have heard about the mythical city of Atlantis, the elusive Bigfoot and the UFO hotbed of Area 51. But where did these stories originate? Is there any truth to them? And why are we still talking about them decades, even centuries, after their tales were first told? In **The Unidentified: Mythical Monsters, Alien Encounters, and Our Obsession With the Unexplained**, Colin Dickey strives to answer those very questions—while introducing readers to other lesser known yet delightfully named phenomena along the way, like the 1876 Great Kentucky Meat Shower.

Dickey's previous book, 2016's popular **Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places**, focused on Americans' fascination with the paranormal. Here, he hits the road again, this time turning his critical and clever eye on enduring stories about strange beasts, alien visitors and other oddities. In this compelling historical and cultural analysis of human nature, in terms of where myths come from and why they persist, Dickey cites the historians, credible or otherwise, who have made conspiracy theories and UFOs their life's work, and shares his take on their motives and popularity. He also examines why "fringe beliefs" have increased in recent years, contributing to "a rising sentiment of distrust in science, in academic institutions, and in government."

Dickey begins his engaging and impressively researched journey in his home state of California, at Mount Shasta—believed to have a secret city, Lemuria, inside. He notes that, like Lemuria, the lost city of Atlantis (first described by Plato) is a utopia. Both are "places that don't exist, that we can fill with meaning precisely because there are no facts against which to measure that meaning." As he brings readers to New Jersey (the New Jersey Devil: once a hoax creature, now a hockey team name), Montana (the 1968 Montana Snowman sightings) and more, he points to the human tendency toward discomfort with things that don't make sense and "the automatic obsession to explain [them]."

Scientists did try to explain the Great Kentucky Meat Shower . . . but I won't spoil the outcome here. Suffice it to say, Dickey found a sort of inspiration in the tale. Ultimately, when it comes to the unexplainable—meaty or otherwise—he exhorts readers to "cling to the wonder, the possibilities, without allowing your doubt to become its own certainty."



Staff Picks

Amy

BOOK: TWELVE MONTHS OF MONASTERY SOUPS: A COOKBOOK BY VICTOR D'AVILA-LATOURETTE

BOOK: THE VAMPIRE LESTAT BY ANNE RICE

Danielle

BOOK: WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING BY DELIA OWENS

Magda

MOVIE: YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (1974) RATED PG

MOVIE: ZOMBIELAND (2009) RATED R

Spencer

BOOK: ECHOES: THE SAGA ANTHOLOGY OF GHOST STORIES BY ELLEN DATLOW

Susan

BOOK: THE SEANCE BY JOHN HARWOOD

Veronica

BOOK: THE TURN OF THE KEY BY RUTH WARE

Wendy

MOVIE: IT (2017) RATED R

MOVIE: IT CHAPTER TWO (2019) RATED R



Children's Programs

October 1st

The "Ghosts of Gale" will be returning to the library windows during the month of October!
Registration opens for LEGO Club.

October 13th & 20th @ 4:15 pm LEGO Club

For kids 5-11. This month, we work together to build our Halloween-themed "Boats of Doom" ride to be displayed in the library. We supply the bricks, your kids bring their skills and enthusiasm. LEGO Club is a two-week program. We will be outdoors on the lawn, or indoors in the program room if the weather is bad. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

October 19th Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

Pick up your pumpkin from the library (while supplies last) on Tuesday, October 19th from 10am-12pm OR 6pm-7:30pm.

You can also purchase your own pumpkin elsewhere and enter the contest. Pumpkins need to be dropped off by October 25th. You can bring finished pumpkins to the library anytime during our open hours. Judging will take place at our Trick or Treat event on October 29th. See the Witch's Cottage Week event for more info. Winners for the age categories 0-6 and 7-12 will each receive a \$25 gift card to a local bookstore. You can take your completed pumpkins home with you at the event on October 29th.

Starting October 21st

LEGO installation "Boats of Doom" will be on display in the children's room.

October 23rd, 10am-4pm Halloween in Holden

Stop by the library during "Halloween in Holden," a town wide business event. Visit all three floors for treats!

October 25th-30th WITCH'S COTTAGE WEEK!

The library shed will transform into the Witch's Cottage the week of October 25th-30th.

Check out our special Witch's Cottage Week Events:

October 27th

- Halloween Slime Craft @ 11am & 4:15pm: REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Join Miss Kayla (our resident library witch) and make some spooky Halloween slime!
- Flashlight Story Time @ 6:30pm: Join Mr. Kevin for a frightful story time by flashlight on the library lawn. Best for ages 7 and up.

October 28th

- Baby Lap-sit Halloween Story Time @ 10am: Join Miss Kayla for a fun Halloween edition of Baby Lap-sit Story Time! Come in costume if you'd like!
- Preschool Story Time @ 11am: Join Mr. Kevin for a fun Halloween-themed Story Time!
- Potions with the library witch @ 4:15pm: REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Double bubble, toil and trouble, eye of newt and cauldron bubble! Join Miss Kayla (our resident library witch), who will brew up a potion especially for you. Activate the potion when you get home for an awesome science experiment!

October 29th

- Potions with the library witch @ 11am: REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Double bubble, toil and trouble, eye of newt and cauldron bubble! Join Miss Kayla (our resident library witch), who will brew up a potion especially for you. Activate the potion when you get home for an awesome science experiment!
- Trick or Treat and Pumpkin Contest at the Witch's Cottage from 2pm-5pm. Stop by the Witch's Cottage at the library, in costume, for some early Halloween trick or treating! Also take a look at our pumpkin contest entries in the library windows and cast your vote! Winners will receive a \$25 gift card to a local bookstore.

Children's Department



Story Times

STORY TIMES WILL BE HELD ON THE LIBRARY LAWN UNDER OUR NEW SHADE STRUCTURE (WEATHER PERMITTING) EVERY THURSDAY BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 16TH.

LAP-SIT STORY TIME 10:00 AM

LAPSIT STORY TIME IS FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 AND UNDER. JOIN MISS KAYLA FOR SONGS, FELT BOARD STORIES, SHORT PICTURE-BOOK STORIES AND MORE. THIS STORY TIME WILL FOCUS ON ROUTINE AND REPETITION, AND EARLY LITERACY SKILLS LIKE ABC'S AND 123'S.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME 11:00 AM

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME IS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-6. JOIN MR. KEVIN FOR LOTS OF LAUGHS AND FUN STORIES! THIS STORY TIME WILL FOCUS ON PICTURE-BOOK STORIES, AND INCLUDE SOME GAMES OR ACTIVITIES--AND OF COURSE MR. KEVIN'S GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR!



Children's Department

Staff Picks

Kevin

BOOK (AGES 8+)
**DON'T TURN OUT THE LIGHTS: A TRIBUTE TO
ALVIN SCHWARTZ'S SCARY STORIES TO TELL
IN THE DARK**
BY JONATHAN MABERRY

Kayla

BOOK (AGES 13+)
THE LAKE
BY NATASHA PRESTON

PICTURE BOOK (AGES 3+)
GOODNIGHT GOON: A PETRIFYING PARODY
BY MICHAEL REX

Stephanie

PICTURE BOOK (AGES 3+)
THE PERFECT PUMPKIN PIE
BY DENYS CAZET

PICTURE BOOK (AGES 3+)
BEHIND THE MASK
BY YANGSOOK CHOI

Amy

PICTURE BOOK (AGES 4+)
FLETCHER AND THE FALLING LEAVES
BY JULIA RAWLINSON; ILLUSTRATED BY
TIPHANIE BEEKE



Children's Book Review

BY JON LITTLE. BOOKPAGE, SEPTEMBER 2020

Before the Ever After (Ages 10+)
by Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson's **Before the Ever After** places professional football's concussion epidemic front and center.

ZJ had it all: musical talent, a solid group of friends, a strong, supportive mom and a famous football-player dad he adored. But that was before. Before his dad's hands began to tremble. Before his dad's memory began to fade. When his father is diagnosed with a degenerative brain disease caused by the multiple concussions he experienced on the playing field, ZJ must face the prospect of losing his father and the relationship he holds most dear.

Award-winning author Woodson tells ZJ's story in intimate, compelling poems that slip through time. We see ZJ as a small child riding on his father's shoulders, far above the fray of reporters and fans. We hear their heart-to-heart conversations, listen to ZJ's dad muse on his love for football and watch as the cracks and fissures of memory loss, anger and confusion creep into their idyllic life.

A stirring, character-driven novel in verse, **Before the Ever After** doesn't sugarcoat harsh realities but addresses them with considered care and optimism. Woodson is far too adept a storyteller to directly answer many of the questions she raises, but ZJ's quiet resilience and the network of nurturing figures who surround him suggest a path lit by glimmers of hope.