



Comments



Teresa Vorisek October 19 at 6:54 PM 

📷 Had a great time at the family fright night!
Thank you for hosting such a fun family event
❤️

1 Like · 1 Comment 

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Branch District Library
Thank you for coming!
We are so happy you had
a great time! Happy
Halloween 🎃 

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by
Kimberly Feltner [?] · 1w

Submitted on Monday, October 28, 2019 - 23:54
Submitted values are:

==Your Name and Contact Information==

First and Last Name (Optional): Kathryn Barnes
Telephone Number (Optional): 517 677 8312
Email (Optional): greenwoodsart@msn.com

==Your Message==

Subject (Optional): Film Quality

Message Body:

I just watched MIDSOMMAR, a film reviewed as an "Adult fairy tale". This film is rated R, but it should be X rated for nudity, fornication, drugs, violence, perversion, pagan rituals including human sacrifice, demon possession etc. It is not the type of film that I think our tax money should be spent on because it might get into the hands of children, teens, or unstable adults and really do some harm.

Two girls tried to kill their friend because they were influenced by a horror film about the Slender Man.....They were only 12 years old. They were committed to mental hospitals for 25 and 40 years. The girl they nearly stabbed to death is traumatized for life.... Unfortunately, horror films can hurt and derange the psyche of children, teens, and even adults. Horror films and other sick films can lead to crimes too.

I see the library invest in more and more horror films.

Meanwhile, good films go unseen. Also I see libraries invest in romance novels and trendy books while they do not have the classics or good non fiction on many subjects.

When I was a child I went to the library and I knew it was full of good books. Now it is like having to sift through the trash to try to find something good to read, or view.

I think either you should have someone review movies prior to you buying them, and to also be more particular on books. For example, a library should have the Little House on the Prairie series instead of just a lot of nonsense.

I see books on witchcraft but not one book by Kahil Gibran.

Midsommar is a wake up call. I don't know how bad it has to get before the library commits to uplifting humanity instead of playing up to what they think people want in a negative sense of that.....maybe some people do want garbage to see and read, maybe, but that doesn't mean that others want to pay for that.

Sincerely,

KB

ps. I complained about a movie before, The Indian Wars, that I felt was racist and not an accurate portrayal of native americans (using whooping Hollywood Indians for example, played by Italians used as if it is a documentary, but it is a one-sided racist view that is against native people)....I see that movie is still on the shelves at the Coldwater library. No one cared enough to remove it. However, 500 nations fell by the wayside which was a much better historic portrayal of native American heritage, culture and the wars.

I hope you understand what I am trying to tell you.

Thank you for reading this. I hope it does some good.

This movie is deeply disturbing and should not be seen by children (or unstable adults). It has nudity, sex, demon possession, human sacrifice, pagan rituals, extreme violence, graphic violence, perversion.

I don't think it is something a public library should spend money on - and I don't think it should be on the library shelves where children can see it if their parents watch it.

It's a new release, so maybe you can keep it away from children. I don't think it is suitable for teens either.

only very stable adults could watch this movie and not be disturbed intensely.

It is probably based on ancient European rituals but it is not representative of festivals that happen today unless from some sick cult as this film depicts.

The fact is the review does not indicate the scope of the film. It should be /xx/xxx rated for the reasons I mentioned.

Midsommer is no "adult fairy tale"



Branch District
Library

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org

Kathryn Barnes
greewoodsart@msn.com

October 31, 2019

Dear Kathryn,

Thank you for your letter of October 28, 2019, addressing your thoughts over the film *Midsommar* and other concerns about the library's collection. Our Board of Trustees has a Materials Selection Policy, available online at https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/materials_selection_policy. This policy both informs our collection development strategies and guides our responses to feedback about the collection.

The above policy provides a mechanism for bringing a complaint about library materials to our attention, specifically via a form to request the library to reconsider an item. This form is available in paper at any library branch, or online at https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/reconsideration_request. I'll address the concerns from your message, but I'd encourage you to use this form as it has some prompts for extra information.

If you find my response below unsatisfactory, you are welcome to address your concerns to the Library Board per the above policy, either by attending our next meeting in Coldwater on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 5:30pm, or in correspondence addressed to the Board. You may email them at https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/email_bdl_board or you may send a letter to the Coldwater Branch addressed to the Board's attention.

I was not aware of this movie before you brought it to my attention, but I have spent some time over the last couple of days reading reviews from a wide array of sources (*Common Sense Media* to the *New York Times*), and watching the published trailers for the film. Personally, I'm not a big fan of this genre and choose not to watch such films, but after reviewing the critical response to this movie, it is clearly regarded highly by many critics. RogerEbert.com gives it 4/5 stars. *The Guardian* gave it 5/5. Other critics label the director as a new master of the horror genre, saying such things as *Midsommar* will be the new standard by which such films are measured (from director Jordan Peele). It's not my preferred type of film to watch, but for people who do like the genre, it seems to be a hit.

Common Sense Media, an outlet I have used many times as a parent, gave it 4/5 stars, though it rated it appropriate for adults only and cautioned that it is "unsettling" and "extremely violent" and contains "graphic sex scenes". The warning on our library record for this title is similar: "Rating: R; for disturbing, ritualistic violence and grisly images, strong sexual content, graphic nudity, drug use and language." The back

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of the DVD cover contains the same warning, though admittedly in small print next to the "R" rating symbol.

At the library, this title is available for checkout only by those who are over 18 or whose parents/guardians have made the personal decision to grant their minor adult borrowing privileges.

Our Materials Selection Policy provides the following criteria for selecting items:

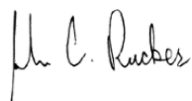
- Availability and suitability of physical form for use.
- Suitability of subject, style and reading level for the intended audience.
- Reputation and/or significance of author.
- Reputation of the publisher or producer.
- Quality of design and illustrations.
- Present and potential relevance to community needs.
- Demand for materials.
- Relationship to existing materials in the collection on the same subject.
- Availability and accessibility of the some material in the area.
- Appropriateness and effectiveness of medium to content.
- Importance as a document of the times.
- Insight into human and social conditions.
- Attention given by critics, reviewers, professional book selection aids and the public.

Also, "Works normally are not excluded because of language or explicit text or illustrations, if they meet previously stated criteria." *Midsommar* meets several of the criteria above (demand, critical response, reputation of the director, etc.). With that in mind, *Midsommar* will remain in BDL's adult movie collection.

To address some of your other concerns, as a lover of the classics myself, I am also sad that not every library can be filled with all of those great works. But available space and relevance to patron demands are paramount here. As our Materials Selection Policy states "The collection is not intended to be either comprehensive or archival." There is just not room or money enough to have it all. Thankfully, our MeLCat interlibrary loan service provide items that we may lack and are in light demand. For public domain classics, we can also help patrons with finding free digital downloads for instant gratification.

I was completely unaware of Kahil Gibran before your letter, so thanks very much for this insight. I have forwarded to our selectors information on him, *The Prophet*, and the 2014 animated adaptation of that work. *The Prophet* sounds fascinating, as does Gilbran's personal story, and I look forward to learning more about both.

Sincerely Yours,



John Rucker
Library Director

We watch the Librarians
 Play Parent, teacher and
 mentor actually just
 being someone that
 empowers the children.
 Who am I kidding?
 they empower us. There's
 been so much fulfillment
 in my life because of
 this library here in
 Sherwood.



What I Love about
 Sherwood Library is how
 Supporting and kind
 Tracy and Maria are. They
 Set up/do Fun Activities
 With Everyone. They are
 Very kind and Loving
 People. The Sherwood
 Library is a Safe
 Place especially were
 You can go to have
 fun and Check out
 Books and Movies
 We Love you
 guys

Love
 Cansy

I use the Sherwood library on a regular basis. The girls are great fun, know their job very well, and are very helpfull. I support animal welfare issues, and they help me print fliers and notices for the public to be aware of.

Thank
you,
Kit Motter

Why we love our library because
the librains are always caring
and help us with our homework
they are also very caring and understand
whats going on.

Publicity

Union City *Hometown Gazette*, October 16, 2019

**Baratta new Branch Manager of the
Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Library**

By Andrea Tennyson
Please welcome Julia Baratta as the new Branch Manager of the Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Library of the Branch District Library system, she joins Judy Gottschalk at that location.
Baratta worked as an assistant manager capacity for the Colon Township Library for 15 years before taking a hiatus for a few years. During that time she wrote freelance for local papers including The Hometown Gazette with her "Nostalgic Necessities" column and The Daily Reporter with many stories. Baratta began a position for the Branch District Library system as a clerk a month and half ago and began her new position as the Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Library Branch Manager three weeks ago.
Baratta was born in Sturgis and graduated from Colon High School. She was very involved with 4-H and FFA in Branch and St. Joseph Counties.
Programs that Baratta is excited about at the Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Library are the storytime that will be offered starting Thursday, October 24. The Storytime will begin at 10:30 a.m. each week on Thursday until May. The event will feature story reading, playing, singing, and crafts with the theme of the storytime.
Teen crafts will continue at the library at least two time a month. This is open to children ages 13-18 and is free.
Baratta is looking at other ideas to bring to the library with exciting Christmas activities in the works.
Make sure to look for the "Library Notes" column every other week in the Hometown Gazette to stay informed on updates and events at the Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Library.
Welcome Julia Baratta to Union City!



Julia Baratta the new Branch Manager of the Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Library in Union City. (photo by Andrea Tennyson)

Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, October 18, 2019, p. A3:

Critters at the library



Mr. Paul of Classroom Critters went to Kids' Place of the Coldwater branch at Branch District Library on Oct. 5 with winged critters, crawling critters, hissing critters and a couple of furry critters. He shared his menagerie of exotic pets with about 50 young patrons and their families. [PHOTO PROVIDED]

Union City *Hometown Gazette*, November 11, 2019, p. 8:

Union City Library holds storytime and cookie decorating

Little ones and their families visited the Union City Branch of the Branch District Library last Thursday for a Halloween themed storytime hour. A story was read, a coloring sheet was colored, and Halloween cookies were decorated. A weekly storytime will be held at the branch each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. (Photo by Andrea Tennyson)



Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, November 6, 2019, p. A10:

Author to visit Branch County libraries

Branch District Library will welcome author Kim Osterholzer to the Quincy Branch at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 and the Coldwater Branch at 6 p.m. Nov. 13.

Osterholzer, a midwife who's received nearly 600 babies since 1993, ushers us behind the doors of Amish homes as she recounts her lively and life-changing adventures learning the heart and craft of midwifery.

In her book, *A Midwife in Amish Country*, Kim chronicles the escapades of her nine-year apprenticeship grappling with the joys and struggles of homebirth as she tags along with the woman who helped her birth her own children at home. Some births kept her from home for days on end; others she missed by heart-pounding seconds. Yet every birth enthralled her, whether she was halting hemorrhages, blowing air into tiny lungs, or bouncing through wild rides in ambulances. Too many times to count, Osterholzer stumbled home feeling overwhelmed and inadequate—yet as she strained against her misgivings, self-doubts, and

seemingly insurmountable challenges, those sacred moments transformed her into a woman of power and conviction.

Her experiences taught her the heart of true midwifery—stroking, smoothing, wiping, tidying, nourishing, comforting, hearing, encouraging, validating, and witnessing. Slowly, steadily, she learned to play her part as midwife to the Amish—women unflagging in their passion to welcome new lives—and at last, tried and tested, took her rightful place among them.

Books will be available for sale and signing at the event.

All Branch District Library events are free and open to the public and a library card is not required to attend. The Coldwater Branch is accepting registrations for this event at

BranchDistrictLibrary.org/register or by calling (517) 278-2341 ex. 100. No registrations is required for the Quincy Branch. For more information about other events at BDL, visit BranchDistrictLibrary.org or follow “Branch District Library” on Facebook.

Coldwater Daily Reporter, November 15, 2019, p. A1:

Kids' Place learning experience

Staff reports

Families had several recent opportunities to attend special events at Kids' Place at Branch District Library in Coldwater.

One was the opportunity to explore the land of the Bahamas, its culture, food and drink, with Carl Cartwright of Quincy.

Cartwright share dfacts about his home land such as, the Bahamas are made up of 700 islands and for the right price, one can rent an island to call their own, said Linda Dull, Kids' Place director.

The children created masks and costumes for the Bahamian celebration, Junkanoo.

Following the costume



Celebrating Bahamas-style, Kids' Place participants made masks and costumes typical of Junkanoo festival. [PHOTO PROVIDED]

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KIDS

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making, it was time to sample the typical Bahamian dish of pigeon peas and rice with mango chicken.

A coconut and mango rice dish and rum cake were also served along with a Bahamian lemonade – Switcha.

This program is made possible through the generous support of Coldwater Kiwanis Club, Dull said.

“The next country we will explore is Poland in March 2020,” she added.

On Nov. 9, Gene

Wasserman of the Bluebird Society was a guest speaker.

“He shared many interesting facts regarding the needs of our feathered friends for the winter,” Dull said.

Following Wasserman’s program, children made peanut butter/suet feeders to take home.

The annual holiday “Books and Cookies with Santa” is 10:30 a.m. Dec. 21. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will arrive and Santa will read the book the first 75 families that attend will take home as a gift.

There will be photo opportunities, letters to Santa and cookies, Dull said.



Kids' Place patrons learn about bluebirds from Gene Wasserman during at the Coldwater library.

[PHOTO PROVIDED]

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