

## **More than Books**

### **Peter Shianna to read from his latest novel**

Former Freeporter Peter Shianna is in town and appearing at the library next Thursday evening, September 25, at 7 p.m., to read from his latest novel, "Imperfect Acts," which takes place in a town called Freeport in the mid-1980s.

I also hope Mr. Shianna will say a word or two about his approach to writing, as he did in a previous presentation at the library back in 2009.

In addition to his earlier novels, "Love Tag" and "Take Off," Peter's writing has appeared in Rockhurst University's literary journal, the "Kansas City Star," and the "Creative Writers Journal." His fiction has been included in a number of anthologies.

Pete grew up northwest of Freeport in Red Oak, a village of 100 people, where he and his two sisters attended a one-room school house. His father worked for the Illinois Central Railroad. His mother was a homemaker and artist.

He graduated from Aquin High School in 1959, Loras College in 1963, and received his M.A. from Northern Illinois University in 1968. After teaching briefly at NIU and the University of Cincinnati, he left to join the insurance and financial services industry.

Pete married Lori Johnson of Freeport in 1964. They have two grown sons, Eric and Kevin. A licensed private pilot, avid golfer and pickleball player, Pete enjoys the arts, travel and cards, especially poker and bridge.

Representatives from Book World will be on hand with copies of "Imperfect Acts" should anyone wish to purchase autographed copies. The author talk is open to the public, free of charge, and refreshments will be served, courtesy of the Freeport Library Foundation.

### **Banned Books Display**

During Banned Books Week, September 21-27, thousands of libraries and bookstores across the nation celebrate one of a democratic society's most basic freedoms – the freedom to read – by calling attention to titles that have been banned or challenged during the year. Expect our display at Freeport Library to bring some fun to a serious subject, and don't be surprised if you see some of your favorite books included in the display.

Youth Services Supervisor Anna Doyle has scheduled a "Banned Books Readout" at the library between 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 25, for tweens and teens. She invites tweens and teens to "Come and read aloud a couple of paragraphs from your favorite banned book and talk about why you liked it or why it is important to you."

Anna tells me this is a strictly PG-13 event for the Harry Potter set, and I am not welcomed to show up with my college annotated copy of “Lady Chatterley’s Lover.”

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