

2024

# WAUKESHA *Reads*



## MEXICAN GOTHIC

BY SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA

[WAUKESHAREADS.ORG](http://WAUKESHAREADS.ORG)

**FREE COPIES** of the book are available at **Waukesha Public Library**, while supplies last. Unless otherwise indicated, all events are free and open to the public.

**COPIES OF THE BOOK WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:**

**Drive-Thru Book Pickup (at Waukesha Public Library)** September 17, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

**Apple Harvest Festival (at Retzer Nature Center)** September 21, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



## KEYNOTE EVENT

### GOTHIC WISCONSIN: TWISTED TALES FROM THE MIDDLE COAST



**October 24 @ 6:30 PM · Waukesha Civic Theatre**

How much do you know about Wisconsin's despicable and haunted past? Author and historian Anna Lardinois, creator of Gothic Milwaukee, knows it all! She'll entertain us with stories from her books and share tales from her time working as the Pfister Hotel's Narrator in Residence. Anna will bring to life legends that seem as mythical as the story of *Mexican Gothic's* Noemí Taboada, but are entirely (or allegedly) true. A Q&A and book signing will follow. Pick up your free tickets at the Civic Theatre box office, at [waukeshacivictheatre.org](http://waukeshacivictheatre.org), or at the door. Copies of Anna's books and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Anna Lardinois is an award-winning tour guide and the author of 13 books of regional history and lore, including *Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes*, *Storied and Scandalous Wisconsin*, *Milwaukee Ghosts and Legends*, and *Madison Ghosts and Legends*.

## FEATURED EVENTS



### What's it Worth? Antique Appraisal with Mark Moran

**October 5, 1:00 - 4:00 PM · Waukesha Public Library**

Join us for an antiques and collectibles appraisal event featuring author and antiques expert Mark Moran. Bring an item for appraisal or just come to watch! Registration is required to have an item appraised, but not to observe. Each participant may bring one item for appraisal. Register by calling the Library at 262-524-3682.

Mark Moran was a guest expert on the PBS program *Antiques Roadshow* for 9 seasons, was the senior editor of *Antiques and Collectibles Books* for Krause Publications, and is the author of more than 25 books on antiques and collectibles. He has been an appraiser of antiques and fine art for more than 20 years.

### Gothic Gendering: Exploring the Portrayal of "Feminine Madness" in Mexican Literature

**October 14 @ 6:30 PM · Carroll University Campus Center, Stackner Ballroom**

Join Dr. Pilar Melero as she examines the portrayal of women in Mexican gothic literature. Examining mythical constructs of femininity in their sociohistorical context, Dr. Melero explores the gendered spaces that hold women captive (in life and in literature) and how characters ultimately tread their own paths to liberation.

Dr. Melero is an esteemed professor of Spanish and Latin American/Latinx literature at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, a former journalist, and the author of four books.



### Cabaret & *Crimson Peak*

**October 27 @ 6:00 PM · Marcus Majestic Cinema · Ticketed Event: \$10**

Join Candace Decker and Phil Smith for a live cabaret inspired by *Mexican Gothic*. Then, settle back and enjoy the 2015 gothic suspense film *Crimson Peak* starring Tom Hiddleston and Jessica Chastain. The

story, set in Victorian-era England, follows an aspiring author who travels to a remote Gothic mansion with her new husband and his sister. There, she must decipher the mystery behind the ghostly visions that haunt her new home.

The film will be introduced by UWM-Waukesha Professor Steve Decker. Popcorn and soda are included. Additional food will be available for purchase from the vending stand. The cabaret begins at 6:00 PM, followed by the introduction and the movie. **Registration and payment are required by noon on October 22.** Register and pay on [WaukeshaReads.org](http://WaukeshaReads.org). *The film is rated R and 119 minutes.*

# EVENTS

## La Paloma: Mexico's National Cocktail

October 1 @ 6:00 PM

Waukesha Public Library

Master mixologist Daniel Dufek will talk about the national drink of Mexico: the tequila and grapefruit Paloma cocktail. Participants will have a chance to enjoy a sample at the end of the presentation. The cocktail will be made with grapefruit-flavored soda. Attendees must be at least 21 years old and must present an ID upon entry to the event. Register on [WaukeshaReads.org](http://WaukeshaReads.org).

## Sketchbook Club - Gothic Edition

October 2 @ 6:00 PM

Waukesha Public Library, Studio 321

Join us to draw a gothic still life! Bones, mushrooms, and other creepy items will be provided. A variety of drawing tools will be available.

## Mayan Archaeoastronomy: Observers of the Universe

October 5 @ 12:00 PM

Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium



With her interest in anthropology, Noemí would have appreciated the Mayan astronomers celebrated in this stunning planetarium presentation. The show takes viewers on a tour of six spectacular Mayan temples. It will be followed by a star talk, where you'll see the night sky as it would look over High Place in Mexico.

## Movie Matinee: Rebecca

October 7 @ 10:30 AM

Waukesha Public Library

Join us for a showing of Alfred Hitchcock's 1940 film *Rebecca*. Winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1941, it tells the story of a young woman who believes she has found her heart's desire when she marries dashing aristocrat, Maxim de Winter. Upon moving to his ancestral mansion, she discovers that his deceased first wife haunts both the home and her new husband. Library chairs will be available, but you are welcome to bring your own chair or cushion. Popcorn will be served. *The film is unrated and 130 minutes.*

## Dying, Disparity, and Eloquence: The Struggle to Live and Die in the Victorian Era

October 7 @ 6:30 PM

Waukesha Public Library

The Victorian Era brought the "beautification of death movement" resulting in garden cemeteries, ostentatious monuments, elaborate funerary rituals and beliefs, and other changes that deeply impacted Victorian mortuary practices. Join Samantha Zahn, Education Coordinator at the Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum, to learn more about the macabre, spiritual, and actuality of Victorian death rituals.

## Waukesha Reads Bus Trip

"A Magical Experience" Appleton, WI

Harry Houdini Magical Center and Mexican Lunch

October 9, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Registration deadline is Sept. 13.

Cost \$81.



Appleton was Houdini's boyhood home. Enjoy the unique, interactive collection of memorabilia and personal effects at the Houdini Historical Center and enjoy a fajita lunch at the Topsy Taco. A copy of *Mexican Gothic* and a bus discussion are included. Contact Waukesha's Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dept. for details and to register: 262-524-3737. Ages 55+

## Historical McCall Street Walking Tour

October 10 @ 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Every house has a story. Join the Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum to take a walking tour of the McCall Street Historic District. You'll hear stories about some of Waukesha's prominent citizens and explore the Greek, Colonial and Georgian Revival, Queen Ann, and Italianate architecture of the homes. The tour will last 45-60 minutes. Registration is required. Meet at the corner of McCall and East Ave. Register on [WaukeshaReads.org](http://WaukeshaReads.org).



## Mushroom Spore Printing

October 14 @ 6:00 PM

Waukesha Public Library

Inspired by the spore prints Francis shares with Noemí, join us to create your own mushroom spore prints. Supplies will be provided. Register on [WaukeshaReads.org](http://WaukeshaReads.org). Ages 18+

## Traditional Tinctures with

Topaz Apothecary

October 15 @ 6:30 PM

Waukesha Public Library



Medicinal teas and tinctures like those made by Marta in *Mexican Gothic* have been used for centuries to cure ailments across cultures. Join Sarah Kirschling, owner of Waukesha's Topaz Apothecary, to discover how herbs and distillations like those used by Noemí and Catalina are created. Register on [WaukeshaReads.org](http://WaukeshaReads.org).

## Brown Bag Conversation: Celebrate Mexican Gothic

October 16 @ 12:00 PM

Frame Park Rotary Building

Come, be entertained, and laugh out loud as the Waukesha Civic Theatre Senior Players put their "spin" on this year's Waukesha Reads selection. It's a femininely heroic, highly suspenseful, equally scary, and darkly grotesque GOTHIC novel. Bring a friend! Dessert and beverages will be served.

# EVENTS

## Tabletop Game Night: Mysterium

October 16 @ 6:00 PM

Waukesha Public Library, Studio 321

Let's play Mysterium! Use your abilities of deduction, and communicating with spirits, to find the murderer and free the ghost. Register on [WaukeshaReads.org](http://WaukeshaReads.org).

## Monstrous Mushrooms with Pink Teepee Farms

October 22 @ 6:30 PM

Waukesha Public Library

A particularly dangerous fungus in *Mexican Gothic* spreads throughout the spaces and people at High Place. Join Ben Wiedenmen, proprietor of Pink Teepee Farms, to learn fungi identification characteristics, lookalikes, danger signs for poisonous mushrooms, and why some spores possess psychedelic qualities.



## The Art of Making Tamales and Tortillas

October 30 @ 11:30 AM

Waukesha Public Library

Join Linda Perez of Bocadillos Mexican Mobile Kitchen as she showcases the art of making delicious tamales and tortillas in the style of Jalisco and Michoacán in western Mexico. Linda will guide participants through the process and art of transforming masa, the corn dough at the heart of traditional Mexican cuisine, into something that nourishes our body and will explain why Mexican food is being preserved for future generations by the United Nations. Samples will be provided. Register on [WaukeshaReads.org](http://WaukeshaReads.org).



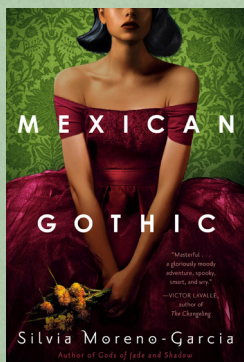
## Scholars Go Gothic

October 30 @ 6:30 PM · Waukesha Public Library

Local professors Abigail Markwyn (history), Lilly Goren (political science/global studies), Bert Kreitlow (Mexico and agricultural history), and Elyn Lem (English) examine *Mexican Gothic* from the perspectives of their various academic disciplines.

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Join us to discuss *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. All discussions are open to the public.



**OCTOBER 2, 5:45 PM**

Martha Merrell's Bookstore

**OCTOBER 8, 6:30 PM**

Spring City Wine House

**OCTOBER 14, 10:30 AM**

Martha Merrell's Bookstore

**OCTOBER 21, 6:30 PM**

Waukesha Public Library

Led by former Waukesha Mayor & County Board Supervisor Larry Nelson.

**OCTOBER 23, 6:30 PM**

Bilingual Book Discussion  
Waukesha Public Library

Barbara Cerda, aka "Barby the Book Fairy," will be joining the discussion. Barbara Cerda is a leader in promoting community literacy on the South Side of Milwaukee.

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