

Who Knew?

A Non-fiction booktalk -- Presented by Sandy Wallick from Gere Branch Library (Feb. 2011)

[**American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the “It Girl” and the Crime of the Century.**](#) by Paula Uruburu (Biography Nesbit, Evelyn) By the age of 16 in 1900, Evelyn Nesbit was known to millions. By 21, she was involved in the scandal of the century when her unstable, millionaire husband shot and killed her lover, Stanford White- an accomplished architect and a man 30 years her senior. Who was Evelyn, how did this happen, and what relevance does it have for us today?

[**Bloody Crimes: The Case for Jefferson Davis and the Death Pageant for Lincoln’s Corpse.**](#) by James L. Swanson (973.7 Swa) The last days of the Civil War and its effect on two presidents, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis are the focus of this book. Many parallels exist between the two men prior to Lincoln’s death but it is his death and journey into becoming an American icon while Jefferson Davis struggles to understand the impact of events happening around him that draws the reader in.

[**The Devil’s Tickets: A Night of Bridge, a Fatal hand, and a New American Age.**](#) by Gary M. Pomerantz (364.152 Pom) Two parallel stories of an age and a game. The Roaring 20s were filled with nationwide fads—flagpole sitting, marathon dancing...and bridge? The card game of bridge became the rage and Ely Culbertson was determined that he would be the king of it and everyone would follow his lead. On September 29, 1929 in Kansas City, Myrtle Bennett fatally shot her husband after a game of bridge with friends. What role did the game play in the murder? How would it affect the public’s perception of bridge?

[**The Girls of Murder City: Fame, Lust and the Beautiful Killers Who Inspired Chicago.**](#) by Douglas Perry (364.152 Per) In Chicago in the 1920’s, a beautiful woman who murdered someone was practically guaranteed to be freed by the jury. This is the story of those killers along with a woman reporter who covered their stories and later wrote a play that became a musical, “CHICAGO”, as an expose of what she had seen.

[**The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Big Horn.**](#) by Nathaniel Philbrick (973.82 Phi) Nathaniel Philbrick offers a new look at the Battle of the Little Big Horn and exposes the good and the bad on both sides using a new source of information to examine two extraordinary leaders and the battle that continues to resonate today.

[The Murder Room: The Heirs of Sherlock Holmes Gather to Solve the World's Most](#)

[Perplexing Cold Cases](#). by Michael Capuzzo (363.25 Cap) Three men involved professionally in solving crimes, a customs' agent (number two in charge of three states, a polygraph examiner, former FBI agent and former cop), a forensic artist, and a forensic psychologist founded the Vidocq Society to look at cold cases and attempt to solve them.

[The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York.](#)

by Deborah Blum (364.152 Blu)

Until 1918, the medical examiner of New York City was a political appointee, one who might show up drunk at a crime scene and have absolutely no scientific background. During the early 1900's, if you wanted to get away with murder all you needed to do was use poison. All that began to change in January 1918, with the appointment (forced on Tammany Hall) of Charles Norris as chief medical examiner. Along with toxicologist Alexander Gettler, Norris changed the course of scientific detective work and established the discipline of forensic in the United States.

[Whoever Fights Monsters](#). by Robert Ressler (363.25 Res)

While working with the FBI, Robert Ressler coined the phrase "serial killer". He went on to set up the protocols for interviewing convicted killers to gain insight into a killer's mind and background. Ressler was a profiler who was called to Nebraska in 1983 after the murder of Danny Joe Eberle in Bellevue and covers the case in this book.