



# PHOEBE NEEDLES CENTER, INC.

732 Turners Creek Road  
Callaway, Virginia 24067-5814  
(540) 483-1518  
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www.PhoebeNeedles.org

## “SCARY THINGS: HALLOWEEN, SPOOKY STORIES, & CENSORSHIP ”

October 8, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Presentation and discussion led by Tina L. Hanlon, and Lana A. Whited!  
*From ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties  
and things that go bump in the night  
Good Lord deliver us.*



The British prayer about “ghoulies and ghosties” feels especially pertinent as the air turns chilly and the leaves begin to fall. Halloween is just around the corner, and no other widely celebrated holiday so effectively reminds us of a peculiarly human trait: some of us *enjoy* being frightened. Most of us can name stories and other narratives that we associate with the holiday, from traditional short stories such as “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” to the contemporary Harry Potter novels, and other media including Orson Welles’s famous radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*, television depictions and films such as “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown,” *The Addams Family*, and *Hocus Pocus*.

Younger audiences are no exception; children may be *more* engrossed than adults in tales featuring haunted places, witches and wizards, or dangers awaiting them in the forest, while adolescents are increasingly drawn to stories of warped societies presented in dystopian fiction and films such as *The Hunger Games* series, in which competitors of their own ages fight to the death in an arena—the competition televised to their fellow citizens.

Of course, scary or disturbing narratives are often the target of censorship efforts, usually involving public schools or libraries. We are reminded of this fact, as this program falls only a week or so after Banned Book Week, an annual event sponsored by the American Library Association. At the same time, some psychologists and leading experts in the relatively young field of children’s and adolescent literature argue that exposure to difficult themes and events is a worthwhile, even necessary, aspect of normal maturation, just as Stephen King has assured us all that horror films and stories have psychological value and allow adults to exorcise our more negative thoughts and urges.



Please join us for a discussion that we hope is more thought-provoking than frightening, as well as a trivia contest about scary literature and films!



**Please join us for a great program and fellowship. Invite a friend!**

**Scary Things**

**October 8, 2024**

(To register, please complete this form and return it to the Center by Friday, October 4th.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have special dining requirements (vegetarian, food allergy, alpha gal, etc.)? Yes No**

**If yes, please email officemanager@phoebeneedles.org to make arrangements.**

Unless otherwise informed, Phoebe Needles Center, Inc. will consider your registration as permission to use your photograph if it appears in video or still photos including our web site unless otherwise requested.

### **Registration & Cost**

To make a reservation, please return the form at the bottom of the first page, call the office at (540)483-1518, or email [events@phoebeneedles.org](mailto:events@phoebeneedles.org). Please make your reservations no later than the Friday before the event. You are welcome to arrive at McCauley Community Center for a coffee social at 9:30 a.m. prior to the event. The event will start at 10:00 a.m. Lunch starts at approximately 12:00 p.m. The cost of the program plus lunch is \$12.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. You **MUST** pre-register to ensure we prepare enough lunch. If you have a food allergy or other special dining need such as vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, low-salt or other requirements, please notify us at the time of your registration. We will try to provide a meal that meets your needs; however, we may not be able to honor all requests. Special requests may be emailed to [officemanager@phoebeneedles.org](mailto:officemanager@phoebeneedles.org).

**You may pay in advance at [www.PhoebeNeedles.org](http://www.PhoebeNeedles.org).**



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