

FRIENDS OF DECORAH PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Decorah, IA 52101

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FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

SPRING 2017 Issue

Donate to the Decorah Public Library LED Lighting Project by Jim Womeldorf

This is your opportunity to give practical and needed assistance to the Decorah Public Library. Please donate to the library LED Lighting Project and...

- You will be able to 'see' your donation in action!
- Let the Decorah Public Library light up your life!
- Help pave the way to a brighter future!
- Set an example for others as energy-conscious individuals!

These are a few reasons to support the LED lighting project at the Decorah Public Library. A gift of support to this project will continue to reap benefits for years to come. The new LEDs will provide flicker-free light (and more of it) while using about 27% less electrical energy than the current fluorescent bulbs. It is expected that the replacement LEDs, with a life expectancy of 50,000 hours, will last two to three times as long as their fluorescent counterparts. This means less labor for maintenance will be required in the future. More savings!

The project is slated to begin in mid-May. New fixtures will be installed in the mezzanine. The existing fixtures in the rest of the building will receive LED direct replacement bulbs.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support this project. Receipts for donations are available upon request. Make checks payable to Decorah Public Library, add "LED project" in the memo line, and drop them off at the front desk of the library or mail them to 202 Winnebago Street, Decorah, IA, 52101.

This project has already been supported by both the Board of the Decorah Public Library and the Friends of the Decorah Public Library, who have begun the initiative by funding 2/3 of the project. The library is seeking the remaining 1/3 of the cost through private donations. Please call Library Director Lorraine Borowski at the library (563-382-3717) for more information.



FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Junior Friend (18 & Under) \$2 Supporting Friend \$50 Supporting Business Friend \$50
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 Family Friend \$25 Business Friend \$25 Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Decorah Public Library
Send to: Friends of the Decorah Public Library 202 Winnebago St. Decorah, IA 52101
— Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law —



You're Invited!



You are invited to
join us for...

The Annual Meeting
Of
The Friends of the
Decorah Public
Library

Monday, April 24,
2017

6:30 refreshments
and conversation

7: 00 Brief Business
Meeting

Featuring Our Guest Speaker:
Kathleen Ernst
Author, Poet, Historian



Community members are
invited to attend an open
house honoring

Lorraine Borowski,
Retiring Director of the
Decorah Public Library

Friday, June 30, 2017
Decorah Public Library
Mezzanine
3 - 5 PM

Hosted by the DPL
Board of Trustees,
Friends of DPL,
the City of Decorah, and
DPL Staff





Friends Annual Meeting Guest Speaker: author Kathleen Ernst by Cynthia Peterson

The Friends of the Decorah Public Library are proud to announce that our Annual Meeting on April 24, 2017, at 7:00 P.M., will feature Kathleen Ernst, an award-winning writer from Wisconsin. She is a poet, writer, and historian who has written books for children and adults. Kathleen is also a good “friend” of the Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, the Decorah Public Library, and our community.

Kathleen’s topic for the evening will be “**WISCONSIN PIONEERS: A Settler’s Year – Pioneer Life Through the Seasons.**” Kathleen’s award-winning non-fiction book, *A Settler’s Year*, from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, provides a rare glimpse into the lives of early Wisconsin immigrants. In her richly-illustrated program, Kathleen discusses the challenges and triumphs found in rural life during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Using excerpts from original letters, diaries, and newspapers, she describes the back-straining chores, cherished folk traditions, and annual celebrations of the state’s European and Yankee pioneers.

Kathleen is responsible for many American Girl doll stories and mysteries that are set in the period of history the doll portrays. Her newest release, *Gunpowder and Tea Cakes*, is Kathleen’s first *Felicity* book, her 20th American Girl book, and her 35th book overall! Kathleen is also the author of the Chloe Ellefson mystery series, one of which is set in Decorah! These books for adults feature Chloe, a curator at Old World Wisconsin. Kathleen describes these as “traditional mysteries, with no explicit sex, violence, or gore.” The eighth book in this series is available for preorder now. She has also written several books about the Civil War. Please join us Monday, April 24th!

Build a Better World! Family Summer Reading Program Sneak Peek

Readers of all ages will be able to access free educational and cultural enrichment activities throughout the summer as the Decorah Public Library presents its 2017 Summer Reading Program, “Build a Better World!!” A variety of fun events have been planned for families to participate in both at the library and within the community during the nine-week program, which runs from June 1, 2017, to August 3, 2017.

Picnic and Play dates for area families have been scheduled throughout the summer at Dunnings Spring Park, the Decorah Community Prairie, Phelps Park, and the Decorah Fish Hatchery. Special performances include the Blank Park Zoo’s World for Wildlife program, Mad Science of Iowa’s Construction and Demolition show, and the Grout Museum District’s Creepy Crawlies and Snakes Alive demonstrations.

Story times, STEM Fun, craftnoons, and book discussions will also be part of the Summer Reading Program calendar. A Reading Mentor Program will be offered to children in kindergarten through second grade. It should be a summer full of fun!! To promote literacy, families will be encouraged to read together for 20 minutes a day, 4 – 5 times per week. Families who meet reading goals will be entered into a weekly raffle for a chance to win prizes from area businesses.

Families may come to the Decorah Public Library and register for the Summer Reading Program starting June 1, 2017. This free program is open to all. For more information, please contact Joan Roach or Kristin Torresdal at the library at (563)-382-3717.

Serving Decorah Well: Library Director Lorraine Borowski announces retirement by Mark Ruen

By tradition, every out-going U.S. President leaves his (or her!) successor a brief private message, presumably containing a little friendly advice. When DPL Director Lorraine Borowski retires this summer after twenty-seven years of service to the library, the advice she might leave her successor would be simple, straightforward, and very smart. In her own words: “Be open to change. Be familiar with and involved in the community.”

In a career that has seen her progress from Library Assistant to Circulation Director, Assistant Director, Acting Director and--since November of 2001--Director, Lorraine has taken her own advice to heart, much to the benefit of the library and the community. When interviewed for this article, Lorraine reflected on significant changes in the role of the Library--changes that coincided with her tenure as Director. Beyond being a place for reading materials, the library is now recognized as a center of



community information services--via online sources, meetings and presentations, person-to-person assistance, and more!

Completely in keeping with its “center of services” role, the DPL operates an active Large Print Lending Library (a “library to libraries,” in other words), hosts the Northeast Iowa Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, provides work-study employment opportunities for Luther College students, and coordinates with Iowa Workforce Development; all of these were either initiated or significantly expanded during Lorraine’s Directorship.

With characteristic modesty, Lorraine shares the credit for her effective Directorship with the Library Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library, emphasizing that their support has “allowed the collection to be kept current”--an absolute essential for a successful library.

And what will she miss after stepping down? Working with and enjoying “my talented, eclectic staff. It’s always been fun to work with them, and they’ve always done such a great job.”

The very best to you, Lorraine; may you have a happy retirement, and from the Board and members of the Friends of Decorah Public Library, “Thank you!”

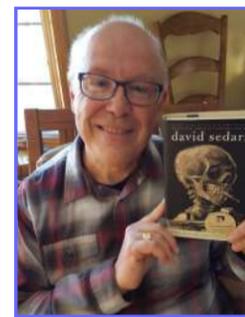
Book Recommendations from the Friends Board

Jud Barclay: A few years ago, I received a Christmas present that turned into such an enjoyable read. The book was entitled *Naked*, by David Sedaris. I smiled, laughed out loud, and continue to think about this crazy young man who visits a nudist camp. I would also recommend two other books by David: *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, and *When You Are Engulfed In Flames*. I wholeheartedly recommend these three books; they have the ability to turn a mundane activity into an extraordinarily funny experience. Take the time to read David’s work--you will certainly enjoy the adventure.

Sharon Drew: Reading is such a gift to have during retirement, with its change of pace and responsibilities, which allows time to venture into new skills and interests. Reading time has become one of my new adventures, and I have found that I enjoy getting lost in history books! During a recent trip, I was encouraged to read Robert K. Massie’s *Catherine the Great*, about the empress of Russia; it was a great read! It helped me to focus on the realities of human nature and to be grateful for my time and place in history.

Cynthia Peterson: I am reading *A Great Reckoning*, by Canadian author Louise Penny. This is the twelfth book in a series about Chief Inspector Gamache of the Quebec National Police. Gamache is a wise, thoughtful, and brave man. These books are mysteries but also so much more. There is a wonderful landscape, a cast of interesting characters (including an eccentric female poet with a pet duck), and lots of information about Quebec and its culture. Louise Penny is a great writer, and I highly recommend all of her books.

Pat McClure Anderson & Carol Gaard: Pat Anderson, Library Board liaison to the Friends Board, and Carol Gaard, member of the Friends Board, are two sisters who enjoy reading. As you can see from the photo, Pat enjoys music and Carol enjoys exercise.



Jud Barclay



Sharon Drew



Cynthia Peterson



Pat McClure Anderson
& Carol Gaard