



# FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

Fall 2017 Issue

## Acclaimed Children's Author Eric Litwin to Perform in Decorah By Joan Roach



Get ready to sing, dance, and fall in love with reading! Decorah Public Library is excited to bring Eric Litwin to town! Join us in welcoming Mr. Eric for a jam-packed family show at Carrie Lee Auditorium on November 18, 2017.

Mr. Eric is a song-singing, guitar-strumming, #1 New York Times Best Selling author who brings early literacy and music together. His dynamic performances are fully interactive. According to Joan Roach, Children's and Youth Librarian at Decorah Public Library, "Litwin has a unique musical approach to early literacy. He brings stories to life with interactive songs that get families singing, dancing, laughing, and falling in love with literacy."

Litwin is the original author of the beloved first four "Pete the Cat" picture books: "I Love My White Shoes," "Rocking in My School Shoes," "Four Groovy Buttons," and "Pete the Cat Saves Christmas." These four books have sold over 10 million copies, are #1 New York Times Bestsellers, have been translated into 14 languages, and won 19 state and national literacy awards including a Theodor Geisel Seuss Honor Award!

At the Decorah performance, Mr. Eric will share his NYT Best Selling "Pete the Cat" books as well as "The Nuts" and "Groovy Joe." Following the show, Litwin will also do a book signing.

Eric Litwin's performance is generously sponsored by Friends of the Decorah Public Library with support from the Walmart Foundation. The Decorah Community School District is graciously hosting this event.

This performance is free and open to the public. Please register in advance via the library website at [www.decorah.lib.ia.us](http://www.decorah.lib.ia.us).

---

## Fall 2017 Children's and Young Adult Programming By Joan Roach

Decorah Public Library is excited to offer a variety of free educational programs for children this fall!

Toddle Time promotes early language and literacy development in children 18 months to three years of age through lively stories, classic songs, and fingerplays. Families are encouraged to stay and play for an additional 1/2 hour after story time.

Curious Kids, a STEM-based afterschool program for children in kindergarten through fourth grade, is designed to stimulate creative exploration and problem solving through fun, easy projects.

Open Art invites families to explore, play, think, and create while participating in a rotating schedule of fun-filled hands-on art activities.

Open Build welcomes children of all ages for unstructured play with a variety of building toys including Legos, TinkerToys, Gears, MAGniBlox, Brainflakes, and more!

Dog Tales provides an opportunity for school-age children who are reading independently to come out and read to a certified therapy dog and his/her trainer.

The Library is also eager to introduce a new young adult program for middle school aged girls. CONNECT is an adventure based program designed to cultivate smart, confident, and courageous young women. It encourages participants to disconnect from technology, forge positive friendships, and participate in a variety of healthy and challenging outdoor activities.

For specific program information, please visit the library website at [www.decorah.lib.ia.us](http://www.decorah.lib.ia.us) or contact Joan Roach, Children's and Young Adult Librarian, at (563)-382-3717 or [jroach@decorah.lib.ia.us](mailto:jroach@decorah.lib.ia.us).



# FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

Fall 2017—Page 2

## Meet Your Decorah Public Library Staff: Director Kristin Torresdal



After serving as the Library's Administrative Coordinator from 2005-2017, I stepped into my new role as Library Director on July 3. Although I've been working in libraries for almost 20 years and have completed Director Certification through the State Library of Iowa, there is still much to learn and I am incredibly grateful to library staff, the Board of Trustees, and City staff for their patience and support during the transition.

If you're wondering what a library director does with her time, you're not alone: it's a common misconception that we get to read books all day, every day. A lovely picture, to be sure, but it's far from accurate. In reality, I've been hiring staff; attending to the myriad needs of a historical building; coordinating our robust assortment of materials, programs, and services; working with the Library Board to develop next year's budget and secure funding; partnering with community educational and nonprofit organizations; attending continuing education classes; participating in City Council, Board of Trustees, and Friends of DPL Board meetings; creating new marketing materials; collaborating with the Friends on fundraising efforts; and more!

While the sheer volume of things to learn and duties to attend in any given week can be daunting, it's also incredibly exciting and rewarding work. The respect and admiration I have for Library staff and the way they have graciously and energetically taken on new roles and additional responsibilities in the midst of so much change is unparalleled.

We are fortunate to have such an amazing team at the library, and it is thanks to the ideas, support, motivation, and cooperation of staff that we're able to tackle so many new projects at once while continuing to provide the same great programs and services that keep library patrons coming back for more.

Thank you, Friends Board of Trustees and members, for all that you do to support the mission and goals of the Decorah Public Library- you are crucial to our success and we appreciate you!



---

## A Note On Our Gifts and Memorials Policy By Cynthia Peterson

Many of you generously contribute money to Friends as a memorial to someone who has passed away or in honor of someone's birthday or anniversary. We appreciate this and use your gift to enrich the library's resources for the community.

When you donate money, you receive from us a thank you form which you can use for tax deduction purposes. If you would like us to notify the family of the deceased or the honoree of a gift, please provide a name and address as you contribute so we can send them a note of acknowledgement.

We, of course, will not include the actual amount of your donation in our note. If you have questions about this, please call the library at 563-382-3717 and they will contact someone from the Friends Board to respond to you.



# FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

Fall 2017—Page 3

## Welcoming New Decorah Public Library Staff By Kris Peterson

This fall we welcome four new staff members to the Decorah Public Library: Carmen Buss, Sam Kottke, Karen Pattison, and Ellen Schmidt. Please take time to stop by and introduce yourselves, and welcome them to DPL!

Carmen Buss is excited to be working in a library again! Carmen is currently a part-time Library Aide at DPL. Carmen just retired in June, following thirteen years at the Cresco Public Library, the last ten as Director. Carmen's husband Gordon is retired after over thirty years in law enforcement. They live near Ridgeway on an acreage where they raise a few cattle, pigs, and chickens. They have two grown sons: Noah works in Cedar Falls, and Jake is a senior at UNI. In her spare time, Carmen enjoys gardening, baking, and of course – reading!

Ellen Schmidt is currently an English Education major at Luther College. Ellen's home is Buffalo, Minnesota, where her parents and three younger siblings live. Ellen is an active volunteer with APO, leads a Bible study on campus, and loves to be outdoors and spending time with friends and family. Favorite reads for Ellen: *Jane Eyre* and *My Antonia*. You will meet Ellen at the library circulation desk!

Karen Ostlie Pattison is also a new Library Aide at DPL. Karen and her husband relocated to this area when Gregg's job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brought them here. Karen also has connections to the Decorah community from her experiences as a Luther College student and her family in the area. Karen and Gregg have two children, Kyle and Kate. In Karen's free time she enjoys hiking, savoring the outdoors, and learning about history. Not surprisingly, Karen's favorite reading genres include historical fiction and mysteries. Karen really enjoys living in this community, meeting folks, and serving in the library as a Library Aide!

We'll introduce Sam to you in our next Friends newsletter!

---

## A Pixel Is Worth A Thousand Words By Jon Pankow

Well, more accurately, pixels create an image worth a thousand words. You can see this at work on the Decorah Public Library's new website, which launched in July. IROC Web Design Services created the website as part of an upgrade to the City of Decorah's websites. After some training from IROC, library staff are now busy updating the website's material.

I think it is true that an image can tell a story. However, they cannot always tell the entire story. Library staff have been combining images, graphics, text, and interactive functionality to tell our story and to keep the public up-to-date about services and events we offer. The images and graphics catch the eye and are the first "upgrade" patrons will notice when using the new website. However, there are more upgrades for the general user as well as upgrades for staff behind the scenes.

Users will notice the "Upcoming Events" preview pane on the home page, which displays forthcoming scheduled events and allows access to details right from the preview image. They can also access our full calendar page, which has more detail and search capabilities. The calendar offers a long-awaited feature: the ability to register for events online. The form automatically logs the registration information, emails the event organizer, and replies to the patron with registration confirmation. Another long-awaited upgrade which has been implemented is a mobile responsive interface. This means that no matter what type of device is used to access the website, it will adjust to fit the screen size.

Unseen by the public, but equally important, are the behind-the-scenes improvements. The website is built on the Word Press publishing platform. Word Press is an open source website creation tool and content management system which is designed to be user friendly and requires no specialized training. Content is managed using basic formatting tools similar to those used in other word processing and publishing software. It is also completely customizable and expandable through modifications and additional features available via Word Press and other 3rd party vendors, many for little to no extra cost.

The Decorah Public Library is excited to introduce our new website to the public and look forward to introducing new designs, features, and functions in the future. This new platform gives us a greater ability to adapt to the ever-changing online world and increases our interaction with the public.

**FRIENDS OF DECORAH PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
202 Winnebago St.  
Decorah, IA 52101

**NON PROFIT**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**DECORAH, IA**  
**PERMIT #10**

**Friends of the Decorah Public Library**  
**2017-2018 Board Members**

**President: Jane Kemp**  
**Vice President: Cynthia Peterson**  
**Secretary: Kris Peterson**  
**Treasurer: Marilyn Newhouse**  
**Library Board Liaison:**  
**Patricia McClure Anderson**  
**Friends Board Liaison:**  
**Cynthia Peterson**  
**Past President(s): Kris Peterson**

**Board Members:**  
**Jud Barclay**  
**Sharon Drew**  
**Carol Gaard**  
**Mark Ruen**  
**Jim Womeldorf**

*For details about upcoming programs or to see pictures from recent events, like Decorah Public Library on Facebook!*



# **FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library**

**Fall 2017—Page 4**

## **FRIENDS of the LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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

Junior Friend (18 & Under) \$2       Supporting Friend \$50       Supporting Business Friend \$50  
 Adult Friend \$5       Sustaining Friend \$100       Sustaining Business Friend \$100  
 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 —**