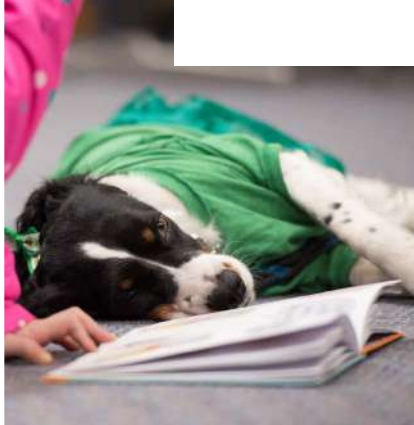


FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

— Winter 2019 Issue —



2018
— YEAR IN —
REVIEW



FRIENDS
FUNDING IN
ACTION



THE **BIGGEST** UNTOLD STORY IN THE LIBRARY..

By Mark Ruen

There's something extraordinary going on in a back workroom at Decorah Public Library... something that brings enjoyment, diversion, and—no exaggeration—quality-of-life to literally thousands of Iowans, week after week after week. Some of you will recognize that we're referring to the library-to-library lending program operated by DPL with materials from the in-house Vera Harris Large Print Collection. However, many people in the community—including some regular library users—may not know that the program exists!



Iowa library, and he'll tell you how many book shipments it receives (bi-weekly? monthly? quarterly?), how many volumes are in those shipments, and whether its patrons prefer romances, westerns, or biographies. Decorah Public Library is one of very few library-to-library large print lenders in the state, and definitely the most active. At any given time, nearly half of the entire 12,000-volume collection is out on loan—some to local patrons, but most to approximately 125 recipient libraries, making DPL the largest source of large print library books in Iowa. Perhaps most remarkably, the service is available to any Iowa Public Library free of charge under provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Jon will be the first to tell you that the lending library operation is a team effort. In addition to several other DPL staff members, large print operates with the absolutely crucial assistance of approximately ten volunteers coordinated by the Northeast Iowa Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Described by RSVP Director Deana Hageman as "the biggest un-told story in the library," RSVP volunteer participation is clearly a win-win situation for the volunteers and the library. From a volunteer standpoint, the value of the work being done is obvious and immediate, and to the library, it's simply an irreplaceable part of what makes the program work. (An additional shout-out from Jon goes to the staff of the Decorah Water Department, who generously

The Winter 2018 FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER featured "A Library Within A Library," by the Friends' own Jane Kemp. If you missed (or would like to re-read) this informative piece on how the lending library operates, you can find it in the Friends' Newsletter Archive at www.decorah.lib.ia.us.

Now let's get back to that workroom in the library...

Jon Romelton looks like a man with a mission—and he is. As the manager of DPL's Large Print lending library, he oversees an operation that serves public libraries throughout the state of Iowa, providing them with the large print volumes that they in turn lend to their patrons. Jon runs the operation like clockwork: name a random small-town

deliver book shipments from DPL's back door to the Decorah Post Office every Friday without fail.) A final note: although Jon much prefers to let his work speak for itself, he did give this article's author permission to share one of the things that make Large Print lending so important to him—the fact that his own father, an avid reader, suffered in later life from medical problems that deeply reduced his ability to enjoy reading. To Jon, and for the thousands of Iowans who have benefitted from DPL's Large Print lending, it's a beautiful tribute.

FRIENDS SPONSORING THE DRIVE ON KDEC

By Kelly Coppola

The Friends of the Decorah Public Library are the new sponsors for KDEC's Monday evening program "The Drive," which runs from 4:00-7:00 p.m. KDEC radio will air the Friends pre-recorded ad once per hour during this popular time slot and again throughout the week and weekend. They will also chat live on the air about library events and Friends news. Our ads will run 15 times weekly in addition to live talk time, which will total almost 780 ads a year! Our greatest hope is that this radio time will broaden name recognition for the Friends of the Decorah Public Library and spread the word about our library news, events, and services.

Be sure to tune in!



THANK YOU SUPPORTERS!

By Jane Kemp

Many thanks to all the individuals and businesses, both former members and new friends, who renewed or started their memberships in the Friends of the Decorah Public Library this past fall. These contributions will help provide funding for the purchase of books, software, furniture, programming, and equipment beyond the regular city and county library budgets. Going forward, all memberships will be due annually, every October; reminder notices will be sent via mail and posted on the Friends website.

We'd also like to thank all the contributors who donated during Giving Tuesday, the national online fundraiser held on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, November 27, 2018. For the first time, the Friends of DPL joined this movement, which creates an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season. Donations were matched by several supporters. To facilitate contact, the Friends have posted an email address on their webpage:

decorahfriends@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you!

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE?

By Jane Kemp

How do the Friends of the Decorah Public Library plan for the future? What steps do they take to think ahead, visioning ways to support the library most effectively?

At their year-end meeting in June, the Friends hold a “visioning” meeting where the agenda is to strategize how best to build and nurture memberships, appraise investments, and raise funds. In 2018, the Friends made some major changes in the way they conduct business.

- PayPal was introduced on the Friends website page as a quick and easy way to donate or pay memberships.
- Making and renewing memberships was transitioned from a rolling due date to an annual due date scheduled every October.
- Membership options were reviewed and streamlined to provide simpler choices.

In October 2018, membership and renewal letters were sent to individuals, businesses, and financial institutions which announced these changes. As a result, many new memberships and renewals were processed by the end of the year.

The Friends also introduced their new email address this year:

decorahfriends@gmail.com It is listed on the Friends website page and is available to anyone who wishes to contact the Friends.

Finally, the Friends are utilizing their new Facebook page to make announcements and keep library friends informed about new initiatives.

All of these changes were initiated to reinforce the Mission Statement for the Friends:

It is the purpose of the Friends of the Decorah Public Library to promote and enhance the DPL and its programs for the leisure, entertainment, and personal life-long learning of the citizens of Decorah and the greater Winneshiek County area.

#GIVINGTUESDAY





FRIENDS Board of Trustees - Fall 2018 -

Seated: President Jane Kemp & Vice President Cynthia Peterson
Standing: Past President Ex-Officio Kris Peterson, Treasurer Carolyn Mottley, Jud Barclay, Mark Ruen, and Kelly Coppola
(absent: Secretary Karla Brown, Carol Gaard, and Jim Womeldorf)



When I went home last spring from Luther, I excitedly told my family about all of the good news that I had: I was going to travel to Norway that summer, I was finally narrowing my search down for a major, and I got to write a 17-page research paper. Now, they were most curious about the last part. My parents knew that I had always enjoyed school, but they hadn't been quite as prepared to hear me say "I got to write a 17-page research paper" instead of "I had to write a 17-page research paper." Most of my friends had the same reaction. Why was I so excited about writing this enormous project?

Well, it honestly had to do with the opportunities that I had received from attending Luther and living in Decorah. In the short time I had been at Luther, I realized the importance of community and the connections between people, both on campus and in Decorah.

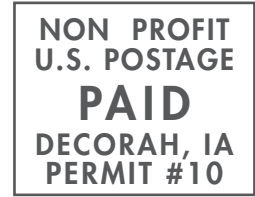
The topic of education and community were the topics that stuck with me as I was writing that really long Paideia research paper. I made the decision to stay in Decorah for June of 2018 to conduct research on campus and get to know the town a little more. The connections I made with students at Luther led me off campus to the Decorah Public Library where I have now been working for several months. It has been absolutely wonderful to become more involved in the Decorah community. If you ever see me at the front desk and have questions about Luther or Norway, let me know and this Nordic Studies and English double major will be happy to help you in any way he can.

M E E T
Y O U R
D P L
S T A F F

by Levi Bird



**Friends of Decorah
Public Library**
202 Winnebago ST
Decorah, IA 52101



**FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library
2018-2019 Board Members**

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 Jud Barclay
 Karla Brown
 Kelly Coppola
 Carol Gaard
 Mark Ruen
 Jim Womeldorf

decorahfriends@gmail.com

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

FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library — Winter 2019

FRIENDS of the Library Membership Form



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zipcode _____

Student / Senior \$5

Supporter \$50

Check here if this is a business donation

Individual \$10

Patron \$100

decorahfriends@gmail.com

Family \$25

Other \$ _____

You may also **donate online** by visiting us at www.decorah.lib.ia.us and clicking "Friends of DPL"

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-deductable to the extent permitted by law