



FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

— Spring 2019 Issue —

A LEAP INTO PRINT BOB FELDE AND KIM BOSWORTH SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

By Jane Kemp

Are you curious about the publishing process, how it works, and where to start? The public is invited to hear local authors Bob Felde and Kim Bosworth share their experiences writing and publishing their books at the Monday, April 22nd, 2019, annual meeting of the Friends of the Decorah Public Library. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm in the library Mezzanine, with a short business meeting preceding the program. DPL Friends Board members Kris Peterson and Karla Brown will moderate this panel discussion. A Q&A at the end will give audience members the opportunity to learn more. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Bob Felde has published a memoir, *Life at the Crossroads*, and a work of fiction, *Death on the Dean's List*. Kim Bosworth's book, *Just When I Needed Her Most*, is fiction based on true-life experiences. Both authors are working on new books.

Bob Felde spent over thirty years in student affairs administration, including nineteen years at Luther College. But he may be more widely

known in Decorah because of his role as a barista at Java John's for several years. He grew up in rural Wisconsin—the basis for his memoir, *Life at the Crossroads: Reflections from a Country Store*.

Kim Bosworth grew up in a small town in northern Iowa and spent twenty years as an educator. After spending an additional nine years as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Northeast Iowa Community College, she retired and began devoting more time to writing. She and her family recently purchased Java John's Coffee House, which she helps manage.

Friends of the Decorah Public Library exist to provide funding for the purchase of books, furniture, software, equipment, and programming beyond the regular city/county library budget. Please join us to learn more about the Friends and to "leap into print" with Bob and Kim!



LOW BATTERY? NO PROBLEM!

By Kelly Coppola

Low battery? No problem! A new public charging station will soon be available at the Decorah Public Library thanks to the Friends! The station, called the Kwikboost, can charge eight devices simultaneously at full speed. You'll find this charging station on the main floor of the library. For now, the Kwikboost is here on a trial basis. However, if library patrons are using and enjoying it, then it will reside permanently in

our library!

Be sure to check it out when you visit DPL in early April!



ENRAPPED WITH RAPTORS

By Karla Brown



Over 220 children and adults enjoyed learning about raptors in a March 23rd presentation by SOAR (Saving Our Avian Resources). Presenter Lynnette

brought along "Ash," a small screech owl, and "Bella," a large red-tailed hawk, both of whom serve as educational birds for the organization, which engages in raptor rehabilitation, education, and research. Attendees learned that all raptors eat meat and have curved talons, strong hooked beaks, incredible eyesight,

and good hearing. The next Friends of the Library-sponsored event, which will be held April 27th, will allow participants to touch live stingrays. Each of the two showings are limited to the first 100 to register.



JUST WHAT IS RSVP...

(DO YOU KNOW?)

By Cynthia Peterson

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, directed by Deana Hageman, has grown over the past year to 374 volunteers serving Allamakee, Howard, and Winneshiek counties. The program matches people who are 55 years and older to community volunteer opportunities. Approximately 12,481 hours of volunteer time has been donated over the last six months! These donated hours enhance and extend the programs and outreach of non-profits in our communities.



Since 2001, the RSVP program has been under the sponsorship of the Decorah Public Library. It is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, and the Board of Supervisors in each county, alongside other local funding such as the Depot Outlet and United Way, in addition to individual donors. Currently there are 31 volunteer tax preparers and support persons who help lower income and senior citizens file their tax returns. Last year, 550 individuals were served through this program. There will be a Volunteer Fair, on April 12th, 2019, from 2—6 pm at the Hotel Winneshiek, where you can learn more about all the volunteer opportunities available in Winneshiek County. Please stop and chat with Deana and RSVP's new Volunteer Coordinator, Julie Ohde, to find out about all the positions where RSVP volunteers are needed. Opportunities range from a few hours a week to once a month to seasonal.

The benefits you receive as a volunteer are many: feeling needed, learning new things, connecting with new people, using your skills, and just having fun! Deana sees her job as matching volunteers and needs to enrich all our communities. They are also the people to see if your non-profit needs volunteers.

Now that we are all coming out of winter hibernation, please come out and volunteer for RSVP!

CAROL GAARD RETIRES FROM BOARD

By Jud Barclay



The Friends of the Library Board would like to thank Carol Gaard for her leadership and enthusiasm in supporting the library. Prior to Carol's involvement on the board, she taught for thirty-five years in the Decorah community. Her life-long interest in learning and reading was an incentive in becoming an active board member. Carol was also interested in building membership and thoroughly enjoyed meeting people. During Carol's tenure, she favored activities and programs for young families and children. She supported the purchase of new furniture and especially the air-conditioning. When you see Carol, please join us in thanking her for six years of service on the Friends of the Library Board.

FRIENDS WELCOME KATHY JOHNSON TO BOARD

By Mark Ruen



The Board of Directors of the Friends of Decorah Public Library are pleased to introduce Kathy Johnson as a new member. Kathy is a Decorah native, the daughter of Irma and the late Eugene Johnson. Many of you know Irma as a strong and enthusiastic supporter of the Library over many years. Eugene is well-remembered as a dynamic and committed English teacher at Decorah High School. Kathy brings a wealth of know-how to the Board, including a Master's Degree in Journalism and fifteen years of administrative experience at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, where she planned and guided academic tours for graduate business students to China, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam. Currently, she is Coordinator of Tours to Norway at Decorah's Vesterheim Museum, where her duties include an annual visit to Norway. Kathy's thoughts on DPL? She describes the Library as a "touchstone" and "anchor" in the community, a "welcoming place to go in order to read, write and interact with people." And the Friends organization? "An opportunity for those who value the Library to give back." Well said, Kathy, and welcome!

MEET YOUR DPL STAFF

By Erin Larson

I'm a Decorah native, and I graduated from Luther College in 2016 with a degree in English and an irrepressible desire to memorize the entirety of "Paradise Lost" (155 lines down, 10,410 to go!).

I joined the Decorah Public Library team in 2014 and worked at the circulation desk until 2017, when I took over cataloging duties. My job now consists of entering all the new books we receive at the DPL into our computer system and labelling them appropriately. I also handle several miscellaneous tasks, such as recording statistics, preparing/editing press releases, and purchasing new adult fiction titles. (I am occasionally allowed to leave my office if assistance is needed at the circulation desk.) You can find my book reviews and essays on the DPL website.

When I'm not at library, I'm an avid consumer of pop culture: I read a lot of books, play a lot of games, and watch a lot of film and television. Sometimes I write about these things on my website (culturecarve.com); sometimes (i.e., most of the time) I don't, and then I feel guilty. But if I'm not working on my website, that's because I'm working on my books. I'm currently outlining forty-two novels, which create a single overarching narrative called the Apeiron Apocrypha—although they are also divided into smaller sub-narratives for easier consumption. It'll take at least a few more years to finish the outlines. Then my plan is to emotionally and intellectually orient myself by walking across the United States, and when I get back: it'll be time to write the books themselves. (Yes, I've scheduled my life years in advance.)

Working at the Decorah Public Library is a dream come true for me. I get to spend my days surrounded by interesting books and interesting people, and it's such a pleasure to serve this community. If I'm not at the circulation desk, feel free to swing by my office and say hi!





**Friends of Decorah
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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 — Spring 2019

FRIENDS of the Library Membership Form

Name _____
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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student / Senior \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$50 |
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