



# FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

— Fall 2019 Issue —

## FRIENDS HELPING TO REDUCE “BARRIERS TO LIBRARY ACCESS” FOR YOUTH

By Kathy Johnson

The Friends of the Library Board is very supportive of the DPL Board’s decision to no longer charge overdue fines for children’s and teen materials as of July 1, 2019. In a demonstration of support for this change the Friends’ Board has provided \$3,000 this year to help offset the loss of income from that decision. “If children, families, and caregivers are excited about not having to worry about overdue fines anymore, they should thank the Friends of Decorah Public Library,” Kristin Torresdal said. Recent research, along with our library’s own experience, tells us that overdue fines create barriers to access. The library’s leadership is committed to reducing barriers to library access for all patrons, and the elimination of fines for children’s and teen materials is another step in that direction.



### MEET YOUR 2019-2020 **FRIENDS** Board

Pictured here is the 2019-2020 board of the Friends of Decorah Public Library. First Row: Jane Kemp, Karla Brown, Kathy Johnson, Kelly Coppola, Jud Barclay. Second Row: Cynthia Peterson, Jim Womeldorf, Mark Ruen, Kris Peterson, Ed Brooks. Not pictured: Carolyn Mottley.

# BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE DECORAH PUBLIC LIBRARY!

By Jane Kemp

The board of the Friends of Decorah Public Library welcomes you to the start of a new year! The Friends continue their mission of supporting DPL with the purchase of books, furniture, software, equipment, and programming beyond the regular city/county library budget. This past year (July 2018-June 2019), over \$8,000 from the Friends was spent on programming alone, which resulted in a record number of over 8,350 children and adults attending 312 programs (some funded in collaboration with other donors).

## JOINING OR RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

To continue to provide supplementary funds for DPL, the Friends invite you to join or renew your membership. During the National Friends of Libraries Week (October 20-26, 2019), members, businesses, and others will receive a reminder letter to renew memberships. All membership renewals are due in October 2019.

Or, you can use the Membership Form printed on the back of this newsletter. You can join or renew by check or electronically by visiting [www.decorah.lib.ia.us](http://www.decorah.lib.ia.us) and clicking on "Friends of DPL." After clicking on the "Donate Now" button, an array of One-time Donations or Recurring Donations are displayed. Donations can be made using PayPal or a debit or credit card. Please join us in helping to build the strong and vibrant library that is such a valuable asset to the Decorah community!

# SHARKS, STORIES, BUGS, & ICE CREAM

By Cynthia Peterson

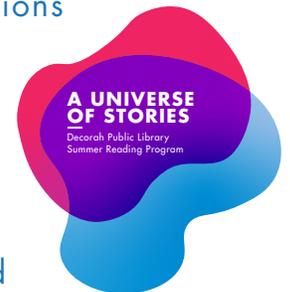
"A Universe of Stories" was the theme for children's and teen summer programming at the library. Added this year was a weekly reading raffle for teens and adults. Teens and adults earned gift certificates to local businesses as prizes, while kids received ice cream from the Sugar Bowl and treat bags as rewards.

The numbers are astonishing! 231 kids, 35 teens, and 131 adults participated in the reading program. 22 programs were offered in June and 27 in July. Three family programs in June drew 484 participants to the library, while three programs in July drew 319. Jugglers, sharks, science facts, and astronomy drew families to the library. There are four family events which will take place this fall—each focused on the natural world, with live demonstrations

and creatures from land and sea. In addition to Toddle Time, there will be at least three afterschool programs for kids each week this fall. Moms and kids under three are invited to a new program called

"Pilates and Play," which will help moms learn some Pilates moves they can do with their kids. Look on the library website to find out more, or stop by for a schedule of fall programs at the check-out desk. As Friends of the Decorah Public Library, your memberships and contributions help to fund all of this amazing programming, which brings so many members of our community together. **None of this would happen without you! Thank you!**

As many of you know, Joan Roach, our wonderful Children's Librarian, will be leaving at the end of this year. It is a great loss for the library and we will miss her talent, enthusiasm, understanding of children's needs, and emphasis on community service and partnerships.



# DPL BUILDING GETTING A SPRUCE-UP – INSIDE AND OUT!

By Mark Ruen



With the classic exterior facade of the “old” library building (originally constructed in 1911 and used for many years as a U.S. Post Office!) adjoining the smoothly-styled “new” section (built in 1997), Decorah Public Library is a distinctive and beautiful structure in the heart of Decorah. Of course, every building needs some TLC from time to time, and in recent weeks the library has been getting just that—inside and out!

One of the most visible parts of the project, exterior tuck-pointing, was completed in early September. Cleaning and sealing of the “new” part of the building (the area that looks like stucco) will be completed during the second half of September. According to DPL Director Kristin Torresdal, the library is working to develop a detailed timeline and budget projections for ongoing preventative maintenance projects.

Other current and upcoming improvements include a new ramp and loading dock (see photo) for the building’s rear entrance, a new membrane roof on the “new” part of the building, as well as gutters and coping, and a new, more secure, and energy efficient South door.



Inside, changes and updates are underway in the lower level of the building. Damaged flooring (some of it original to the Post Office building!) has been replaced in what will become City IT offices. In turn, the area currently used for IT will be updated for Library use as a community classroom and program space (thanks in part to a grant from the Winneshiek County Community Foundation). Look for more information on that as the project continues!

Commenting on the projects underway, DPL Director Kristin Torresdal reports, “We’ve had many positive comments from the public, thanking us for caretaking our building and for the increased aesthetic appeal.” We agree—a look around the Library certainly gives us all reason to be proud of this jewel of our community!



## FUNDRAISER AT CULVER'S

By Jud Barclay

How many of us have asked “What’s for dinner?” Well, on Wednesday, October 23, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., we’ll meet at Culver’s for a tasty dinner and good conversation. There’s no need to make a reservation; however, please ask your friends and neighbors to join in on this fundraiser. Culver’s has partnered with the Friends of the Decorah Public Library Board and will donate 10% of the total sales to the Friends. The Culver’s management team has a history of support for our community organizations and school activities. They support our local library and specifically reading programs for pre-school children. This event (remember, you don’t need to cook!) will assist the Friends in supporting the Decorah Public Library. This event is also part of the National Friends of Libraries Week, October 20 - 26, 2019.



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

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**FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library  
2019-2020 Board Members**

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Vice President: Cynthia Peterson  
Secretary: Karla Brown  
Treasurer: Carolyn Mottley  
Library Board Liaison: Ed Brooks  
Friends Board Liaison: Cynthia Peterson  
Past President: Kris Peterson  
Board Members:  
Jud Barclay  
Kelly Coppola  
Kathy Johnson  
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!*

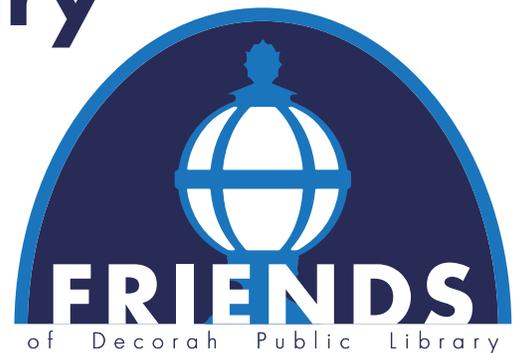
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# FRIENDS of the Library Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_



Student / Senior \$5

Supporter \$50

*Check here if this is a business donation*

Individual \$10

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decorahfriends@gmail.com

Family \$25

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You may also **donate online** by visiting us at [www.decorah.lib.ia.us](http://www.decorah.lib.ia.us) and clicking "Friends of DPL"

Please make checks payable to:  
*Friends of the  
Decorah Public Library*

Send to:  
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