



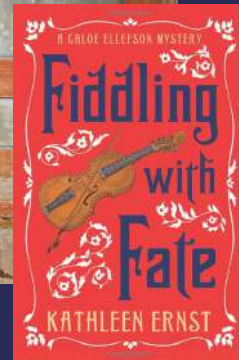
FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library — Winter 2020 Issue —

ANNUAL MEETING WILL FEATURE AUTHOR TALK, MUSICAL PERFORMER!

By Karla Brown

The Friends Board is very pleased to announce that the 2020 Friends Annual Meeting will feature “Chloe Ellefson Mysteries: The Stories Behind the Stories” by bestselling author Kathleen Ernst and local musician Eden Ehm on the Hardanger fiddle. Kathleen Ernst, a Madison, Wisconsin area author, will talk about the stories that inspired her Chloe Ellefson mystery series, with special emphasis on the 10th and latest, *Fiddling with Fate* (2019), on Monday, April 27th, 2020, in the Decorah Public Library mezzanine at 7:00 p.m. The book opens in 1984 when Chloe goes to Norway as a historical consultant, but parts of the story are set in the Hardanger area of Norway in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The mysteries follow reluctant sleuth and Norwegian- American Chloe and her police officer boyfriend Roelke McKenna at various historical sites where murders have occurred. Ernst’s fourth Ellefson novel, *Heritage of Darkness* (2013), is set in Decorah’s Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum when a murder victim is



found in a rosemaled trunk. Ernst teaches writing classes at the museum through their folk art program and has also written a number of historical stories for the American Girls company.

The evening will begin with a short business meeting of the Friends of the DPL, which exists to provide funding for the purchase of books, furniture, software, equipment, and programming beyond the regular city/county library budget. Eden Ehm, a local Hardanger fiddler, will then give a brief performance and talk about the instrument featured in Ernst’s latest mystery. Following Ernst’s talk, attendees are welcome to stay for a reception with light refreshments.

Call the Decorah Public Library at 382-3717 to learn more about the program or about becoming a Friends of the Decorah Public Library member.



FRIENDS 2019 Year in Review

A glimpse of the work we have done and the projects we have supported collaboratively or in full in 2019. **Thank you** for your financial support of the library through the Friends organization; it is through your **memberships, gifts, and memorials** that these projects are made possible!



Funded \$6,000 in programming for all ages:

- Special monthly events for families throughout the year, including **The Magic of Isaiah, Chad Elliott, David Casas, ISU Insect Zoo, Mississippi Life**, and more!
- 2019 Summer Reading Program events and prizes for all ages
- Multiple copy book sets for Happy Hour and History Book Groups for adults
- Honorariums for presenters and visiting authors at adult programs
- CONNECT + UNITE program series for middle schoolers
- New children's, junior, and young adult books
- New children's books for outreach to local school classrooms
- Snacks and craft materials for literary-themed preschool parties
- Impact coffee for parents/caregivers at Toddle Time programs every Monday

Additional projects:

- \$3,830 for new furniture and area rug for the historic Postal Room
- \$3,000 donated to offset the discontinuation of all overdue fines for Children's and Young Adult materials
- \$2,400 for Radio publicity to advertise programs and literacy initiatives throughout the year
- \$1,000 for Large Print book purchases
- Refreshments for public Meet & Greets with candidates for Children's Librarian position
- Monthly homemade treats for library staff meetings
- Creation of the Friends newsletter – fall, winter, and spring

IN MEMORIAM GIFTS 2019

A memorial gift to the Friends of Decorah Public Library is an excellent way to remember friends and family. We are grateful to those who, over the course of 2019, donated a total of \$255 to the Friends of Decorah Public Library in memory of the persons listed below. These gifts are used to support library programming.

Our apologies for any omissions.

IN MEMORY OF

DONOR

Shirley Collins

Naomi Craft

Mary Lou Rauk Snitker

Bev Crumb-Gesme

Jack Anundsen

*Irma Johnson,
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NEW CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIAN BRINGS EXPERIENCE, ENTHUSIASM

By Mark Ruen



Rachael Shay Button has joined the DPL staff as the Children's and Young Adult Librarian, and she arrives with a remarkable and diverse set of skills and experiences. Since mid-November, children and youth have been getting to know this former classroom teacher, National Park science educator, and published author and poet.

Recently, Rachael took time out during a busy day at the library to talk about what brought her to Decorah and, specifically, the DPL. Having lived on the west coast (Washington) and the east coast (Maine), she says she is grateful to have settled in Decorah, which she notes had been on a shortlist of communities where she and her husband were interested in living long-term. Family connections here meant visits over the years, which she says "always included a stop at the library!"

Rachael describes the DPL as "a vibrant community center in a beautiful space, a place that is important... clean, inviting, and filled with relevant materials." She goes on

to comment on the "team spirit" among the entire DPL staff and the welcome and support they have shown her.

Rachael will oversee familiar, successful programs including (to name a few) Toddle Time, Curious Kids, and library outreach visits to between 100 and 200 students each month. Expect to see some new programs as well, including "Baby Time" for infants and parents!

Asked about her broader vision for Children and Youth programming, Rachael speaks about "building equity in early childhood" through services and learning opportunities that are free for everyone. She sees the library as a safe and (sometimes!) quiet place where children can feel welcomed, teens can independently and safely utilize technology, and families can share a variety of experiences without having to buy anything. Additionally, she places a great value on continuing to bring resources of the community into the library.

Outside of the library, Rachael's interests include running, yoga, enjoying her husband's cooking ("restaurant-quality!"), gardening, reading, and writing. And don't be surprised if you see her scaling the climbing wall at Luther....

Please stop by the Children's and Youth area to say hello to Rachael and have a first-hand look at the activities and resources of this vital part of the Decorah Public Library. **We feel confident that it's in very good hands!**



**Friends of Decorah
Public Library**
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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!

FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library — Winter 2020

FRIENDS of the Library Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zipcode _____

Email _____



Student / Senior \$5

Supporter \$50

Individual \$10

Patron \$100

Family \$25

Other \$ _____

Check here if this is a business donation

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

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