


FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library

– Spring 2023 Issue –



The Friends of Decorah Public Library annual meeting was held at Impact Coffee on Monday evening, April 24th. We were fortunate to have as our guest speaker, naturalist Larry Reis, a leading expert on regional natural history who informed us about three daytrips to enjoy in Winneshiek County. Larry has had a 45 year career in conservation and in 2015 was awarded the Aldo Leopold Environmental Education Award for lifetime achievement in environmental education. His presentation included photos and recordings of bird vocalizations in addition to highlighting the characteristics of wildflowers, bees, butterflies and birds that people should be aware of during late April and early May while visiting Lake Meyer Park, Malanaphy Springs and Ludwig Prairie Preserve.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Decorah residents of all ages were sustained by the programming and outreach of Decorah Public Library as well as the vast, well maintained parks and trails of Winneshiek County. The annual meeting was an opportunity for us to celebrate both!



The Friends of Decorah Public Library (DPL) was established on January 27, 1995 as a non-profit organization to provide additional funding support to the library beyond the annual budget. The Friends of Decorah Public Library promotes and enhances Decorah Public Library and its programs for the leisure, entertainment, and personal life-long learning of the citizens of Decorah and greater Winneshiek County. This is the mission statement of the Friends of Decorah Public Library.

Thank you for your annual gift(s) each year to the Friends of Decorah Public Library in support of this mission! Your annual gifts enhance the library's annual budget, so that programming is of the highest quality throughout the year for library patrons of all ages.

In addition to these important annual gifts, in recent years, a number of library patrons have also made significant "planned gifts" to strengthen the future of Decorah Public Library. For example, in another article of this Friends Newsletter you will read about a recent planned gift from the estate of Carrie Lee, who taught for many years in Decorah schools, and who was also a longtime patron of Decorah Public Library.

If you are wondering if it would be possible for you to also establish a planned gift, here are several initial questions every donor needs to consider:

- Try to determine what is important to you. What really matters to you?
- What would you like to achieve for yourself, your loved ones, and your community?
- Are there particular charitable organizations you would like to designate as beneficiaries of your planned gift?

Once you begin to consider addressing these questions, it is time to have a meeting with your attorney and/or financial planner to further discuss your long term, personal and charitable goals and the wide variety of planned giving options that could help you achieve those goals.

For further assistance about supporting Decorah Public Library, please contact:

- *Kristin Torresdal, Library Director:*
ktorresdal@decorahlibrary.org,
(563) 382-3717
- *Carolyn Mottley, Treasurer for the Friends of Decorah Public Library:*
(563) 419-9560

Planned Gifts and Why They Are So Important To The Future of DPL

Friends of Decorah Public Library is honored to be the beneficiary of the Carrie Lee Charitable Remainder Trust



Carrie M. Lee passed away November 2, 2005 at the age of 105. She was born in Madison Township, graduated from Decorah High School in 1918 and the University of Iowa in 1922 and was a substitute teacher in the Decorah School District from 1928 to 1942. She then taught social studies full-time until the spring of 1962. Upon the award of the Valley Forge Classroom Teacher's Medal to Mrs. Lee, Decorah Newspapers stated, "For many years, Carrie Lee has been an inspiration and

steadying influence in the lives of hundreds of Decorah boys and girls. Her field is social studies, but her objective is the development of good citizens."

In 2005 Carrie Lee bequeathed \$500,000 to be used for the remodeling of the Decorah Middle School building which had been the high school that she attended and the building in which she taught. Carrie had one daughter, Virginia Pierson, who recently passed away. Upon her death, a bequest of \$359,000 from the Carrie Lee Charitable Remainder Trust was awarded to the Friends of Decorah Public Library.

Significant gifts like this will have an enduring impact for the library and for generations to come. We are so grateful to Carrie Lee for having the foresight and generous heart to entrust us with this extraordinary gift.

Memorial Gifts

to the Friends of Decorah Public Library

A number of generous gifts were made to the Friends in honor of friends and relatives over the fiscal year from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. We greatly appreciate all such gifts.

Honoring Marie Beatty:

Jennifer Taylor

Honoring Betty Jean Converse:

Irma P. Johnson

Honoring Barbara Dostal:

Anonymous, Rebecca Hanna, and
Irma P. Johnson

Honoring Doris Heikes:

Dawn Messerle, Naomi Craft, David Lippert, Pat Johnson, Shannon Leffler, David Davis, Adam Erie, Cara Carper, Sally Stromseth, Maggie Hayden, Jim Hoeg, Irma P. Johnson, Linda & Bob Watson, Lorraine Borowski, Jim & Ann Rhodes, Mary Lou Hageman, Jennifer & Tim Cantine, Carole Daughton, Georgiann Eckert, Beth & Fred Ratcliffe, Jim & Imozelle McVeigh, Norma Bappe, Mary Timmerman, Margaret & Brian Betteridge, Lyn White, Kris Erickson, Jim & Jane Eckblad, and Jane & Ken Vande Berg

Honoring Jan Jaehnig:

Naomi Craft

Honoring Carol Moe:

Irma P. Johnson

Honoring Evangelyn Olson:

Mary Trnka

Honoring Duane Schuldt:

Wanda Rueber

Honoring Bill Wagner:

Rob Bolson

Honoring Jim Womeldorf:

Kathy Buzza, Laurel Womeldorf, Harriet Wangsness, Richard & Joann Cole, and Lyle and Sue Luzum

Honoring Peggy Wright:

Marilyn Roverud, Donna Bahr, Sheila Greene, Arnold Larson, Richard McKlveen, Tim Lynch, Ingrid Callaghan, Jim Hoeg, Jennifer Bahr, and Stacey Berkheimer

In addition, we received major gifts from the following estates:

Janet Allen

David and Peggy Wright

We apologize if we inadvertently omitted any memorial gift.



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



**FRIENDS of Decorah Public Library
2022-2023 Board Members**

President: Karla Brown
Vice President: Alan Ellickson
Treasurer: Carolyn Mottley
Friends Board Liaison: Cynthia Peterson
Kirstie Bower
Sue Luzum
Tom Murray
Marilyn Rue
Elise Skellenger
Past President, Ex Officio: Jane Kemp
Library Board Liaison: Cheryl Pellett

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 2023

FRIENDS of the Library Membership Form



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____ Phone _____

Email

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- Student / Senior \$5
- Supporter \$50
- I want to receive emails from Friends of DPL
- Individual \$10
- Patron \$100
- Check here if this is a business donation
- Family \$25
- Other \$ _____

You may also **donate online** by visiting us at decorahlibrary.org and clicking "Friends of DPL"

Please make checks payable to:
Friends of Decorah Public Library

Send to:
*Friends of Decorah Public Library
202 Winnebago St
Decorah, IA 52101*

Contributions are tax-deductable to the extent permitted by law