



April 2022

# NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's raining today and looks like Spring is actually on the way. Maybe we should be thinking about things to enjoy outside, but—hopefully—this article also reminds you to visit the library.

The Friends have had two book sales since our last newsletter. The November book sale set an all-time record for sales. Instead of having a set price, we now ask only for a donation. Our patrons have responded generously bringing in over \$5,000. And notably that sale for the first time utilized all the rooms in the lower level. Customers and Friend's volunteers have appreciated the extra space to peruse the inventory. In the past shopping in the Friend' room was super crowded (especially the children's section). *Come check it out.*

Our sale in February was also a success with sales of over \$3,000. Some of the new things that were added because of the larger space are highlighted sections. One such—and especially popular—section contained books about Iowa or written by Iowans.

Another section spotlighted a particular historical period: In November a great Civil War collection was displayed; in February the Second World War was the topic. Gathering such related topics into these groupings has resulted in more sales. Some other areas that were new included donated jigsaw puzzles and retired library circulating artwork.

At the May sale you will notice that there is no longer a miscellaneous section. **LeAnn Logan**, our vice president, has lead the effort to better categorize that entire section and has also subdivided other sections. We used to have an immense animals section. Now we have dogs, cats, and fish in their own grouping. I couldn't believe how many books we have about cats. You need to come and peruse the shelves.

I invite you to two upcoming events, On April 21 at 6:30 p.m. we will have (after missing two years) our annual Friend's meeting. At this meeting we will have the chance to learn about some of the great new programs at the library, honor some of our great volunteers, elect new board members and more.

The second event is our next book sale the weekend of May 6 and 7. We appreciate all of your donations and especially your commitments with annual dues.

Coralville is truly blessed with a community that loves the library. Thanks for helping us support the library in fostering that community,



*Bill Benson*

The Board of the Friends of the Library

cordially invites you

to attend our annual meeting

**Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 6:30 P.M.**

at the Coralville Public Library

lower level



## Officers & Board Members

**President**  
**BILL BENSON**

**Vice President**  
**LEANN LOGAN**

**Secretary**  
**MARGARET MELLECKER**

**Treasurer**  
**PAT DARLING**

**Archivist**  
**LINDA CRETZMEYER**

**Baby Book Bags**  
**SHIRLEY ALTENHOFEN**  
**JULIA SMITH**

**Book Sales**  
**DEB GILL**

**Library Liaison**  
**SARA PITCHER**

**Newsletter/Publicity**  
**SANDIE HERWIG**

**Social Media**  
**MOLLY WILSON**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Those of you who have been in the Library recently have likely noticed a series of changes. Meeting the challenges of the pandemic these past two years, we have been committed to a cautious and deliberate course in providing Library services to the community while doing our part to offer those services in the safest and most accessible manner we could. As summer approaches, and we see steady progress toward stabilization in the community, we are able to continue on that course of expanding the accessibility of programs, services and facilities.

We are seeing more people in the Library. Given the widespread lack of in-person events and activities over the past two years, I know that the staff is particularly energetic and opti-

mistic about the upcoming Summer Reading Programs. These library programs have been particularly important the last two years. I think there is special enthusiasm—among the staff as well as in the community—brewing for this summer's programs.

The Library Book Bike is in production and will be arriving soon. We are so grateful to the Friends for your support of that project! It will be an integral tool in our ramped-up outreach efforts and a fun new way to bring the Library out into the community.

The Library's partnership with the Coralville Food Pantry continues. We are currently working with them on a "Community Fridge" project that will be housed in the Library. From the Library's "Feed your Body, Feed your Mind" snack program that the Friends

have supported, to our partnership with the Coralville Food Pantry on Community Meals, to the new Community Fridge project, we continue to expand our efforts to help mitigate food insecurity in our community.

Another expanded collection this year is CPL's Seed Library—you'll find it in one of the old card catalogs in the Library Rotunda. People are welcome to take the seeds they need, and to donate seeds they've saved or seeds they've purchased but aren't going to use.

Thanks again for all that you do for the Library and for the community. I look forward to seeing you at the Friends' Annual Meeting, and back in the Library!

Alison Ames Galstad

### Baby Book Bags to

### *Dolly Pardon Imagination Library*

The plan in 1999 was to provide the parents of Coralville newborns with their first book supplemented with materials including "How to Grow a Reader" and a baby library card. The BBB program grew from 100 units distributed the first two years to over 1,100 books provided in 2021— not only to the two-year-olds—but also including preschool-age and bilingual offerings.

Taking **Judy Steciw's** inspired idea, she and **Donna Epley**, the shameless promotor of reading at any age, found appropriate books, materials, bagged, and began distribution. **Roman Steciw** lent his expertise in the reproduction of the materials included in the BBBs. In 2001 the program was expanded to include anyone with who was related to or

who had a child under two. Five

years in, over 1,000 bags had been distributed.

Bag materials were found in Donna's basement or under the bed. Various helpers assisted with assembly, but she was the primary impetus. At the 2014 annual meeting **Mardell Tinkey** presented a BBB to a baby and parent. This was only unusual as it was the first time Donna had not been able to perform this traditional presentation.

Later that same year, Mardell, no longer the Friends' president, agreed to take on the BBB program and added the preschool books, which turned out to be hugely successful. She sourced books, found the best deals, streamlined and expanded distribution.\* And then in 2016 she found her successors, **Julia Smith** and **Shirley Altenhofen**, who have energetically and consciously continued the work—distributing over 6,000 books

during their tenure. And a little sadly they are the last BBB ladies.

The inventory is depleted. And with the roll out of the Imagination Library program—the potential for every Coralville child under five to receive a book monthly—it seems more like an expansion or a logical progression of a program whose sole purpose was to promote and encourage children to read.

And the story continues—just as planned.

**\*Distribution points during the history of the BBB:** Coralville Library, Coralville Central and Kirkwood elementary schools, Coralville Food Pantry, Grant Wood AEA, United Action for Youth, Head Start in Coralville, Hills Family Resource Center, Johnson County Empowerment, Hometies, Pheasant Ridge Neighborhood Center, Nest of Johnson County, 4Cs



## Sharing the love of READING



Continuing the service project implemented by our former outreach chair, **Melissa Manternach**, the teens continue with the project by choosing books and other educational items and wrapping these gifts for those who might not receive much during the holidays.



**Renew your membership and enjoy early entry into Friday of book sale events. Eligible members will receive an email notice approximately one week before sales.**

### TEENS SERVICE

On behalf of the teens at the Coralville Public Library, I would like to acknowledge your ongoing support of this group, which has enabled library to offer a wide variety of programming as well as monthly craft kits with particular appeal to teens. You have helped support our Teen Summer Reading programs in so many ways. We are currently planning the 2022 Teen Summer Reading Challenge, "Read Beyond the Beaten Path," and are excited to get teens back into the building for a fun-filled summer!

The Friends have also been great in recognizing our wonderful teen volunteers and Teen Advisory Board members. 2022 celebrates the twelfth year of the annual \$1,000 Teen Service Award, which is given to one of our most deserving high school senior volunteers. The Friends

will be presenting this award at their Annual Meeting on April 21.

We would also like to thank the Friends for giving the teens the opportunity to help with their annual holiday book giveaway this year. The teens had a great time choosing children's books, wrapping them and handing them out. It was a wonderful experience!

We greatly appreciate the Friends generosity, support and all you do for our teens and the Coralville Public Library. Without you, many of these services and experiences would not be available to our youth. Investing in our youth is a worthy and solid use of your funding, as they are one of our community's most valuable assets.

Thank you!  
*Karen Stierler*  
Teen Services Librarian

### BOOK SALES

**Remaining  
2022 Dates**

**May 6-7  
August 5-6  
November 4-5**

The Friends of the Coralville Library newsletter is published twice a year usually in April and October. To keep costs down, our newsletter is distributed primarily via email and printed in black and white. (FriendsOfCoralvillePL@gmail.com)

The newsletter can also be viewed on our web site:  
[coralvillepubliclibrary.org/friends](http://coralvillepubliclibrary.org/friends).  
Thanks for your support.

# 2021 at a glance



## Giving



**Gave \$1000 for**  
**Teen Service Award**  
to a local senior who volunteered  
50+ hours at the Library



**Gave \$1000 for**  
**LanguageLine**  
real-time interpreters via phone  
or video for Library Staff



**Gave \$2000 to**  
**Local Elementary**  
**Schools**  
for school libraries and literary  
activities.



**Gave \$4500 for**  
**Reading Program**  
**Prizes & Activities**  
at the Coralville Public Library



**Gave \$1070 for**  
**Kids Books at**  
**the Food Pantry**  
gave more than 200 new books  
to kids during the holidays



**Gave \$4500 for a**  
**New Mobile App**  
for the Coralville Public Library



**Gave \$740 for**  
**Baby & Toddler**  
**Book Bags**  
gave over 1160 books to new mothers,  
preschools, and young children

**Gave over \$14,800**  
to literary projects in Coralville

## Membership



**190**  
members



**40**  
volunteers

## Book Sales



**4**  
book sales



**\$12,695**  
raised



## Membership Information

(*please PRINT*)

☐ **NEW Member**   ☐ **Membership Renewal**

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Names(s)

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Address

---

City / State / Zip

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Email

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Telephone

☐ Please send twice yearly newsletter via email.

### Areas of Volunteer Interest

☐ Contact me to participate at book sales, book sorts or other Friends events

### Membership Level

*Your gift is very important to us and our membership list is never shared or published.*

- ☐ \$15-24   Friend
- ☐ \$25-49   Good Friend
- ☐ \$50-99   Special Friend
- ☐ \$100+   Exceedingly Good Friend

*Please make checks payable to:*

Friends of the Coralville Public Library,  
1401 Fifth Street, Coralville IA 52241