



April 2025

NEWSLETTER

& Annual Meeting Invitation

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I am writing, the Madness that is March is well under way. We are fortunate to have the Hawkeye women in the tournament. Their season might not have been all we had hoped for, but they have improved during the season for a variety of reasons. The Friends have also improved.

Reason number one: is experience. Looking at our Friend's Board, one of the reasons for our success is experience—over 120 years combined experience. What a blessing! Our members know what to do and do it faithfully.

Reason number two: is the ability to adapt. The Friends have done major adapting.

- * We went from pricing individual books to donations only.
- * We expanded the number of categories—not so many *miscellaneous* items.
- * And we were able to expand the space used for the sales.
- * While not directly benefiting the Friends, our group coordinated with the Library Board to market items being sold for the benefit of the Library.

Reason number three: is having a definite goal. The Friends goal is to support the library with funds and also to inspire and support reading in the community. In each of the last several years, we have provided over \$20,000 to support library programs as well as programs in the community. Please check out the Friends **Infographic** later in this newsletter for 2024 accomplishments.

On April 17 we will have our annual meeting, a celebration of reaching goals and we will also honor library volunteers. The Friends will award the \$1000 Teen Service Award to a deserving teen. In conjunction with the Library Trustees, we will award the T. Pat Dee Volunteer Award.

We will celebrate accomplishments plus hear about library programming and staff.

The meeting starts at 6:00pm and refreshments will be served.

Please come and celebrate with us.

Bill Benson



Officers & Board Members

President
BILL BENSON

Vice President
LEE ANN LOGAN

**Secretary &
Community Outreach**
MARGARET MELLECKER

Treasurer
PAT DARLING

Archivist
LINDA CRETZMEYER

Book Sales
DEB GILL

Library Liaison
SARA JANE PITCHER

Members at Large
SHIRLEY ALTENHOFEN
WENDY GRASBY
JULIE PULKRABEK

Newsletter
SANDIE HERWIG

Publicity
SARA JANE PITCHER
MARIE WAKEMAN

The Board of the Friends of the Coralville Library

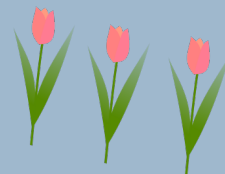
cordially invites you

to attend our annual meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

at the Coralville Public Library

lower level



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Thank you for making it possible to provide **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** to children in Coralville and rural Johnson County. Since the program was launched three years ago, more than 14,000 books have been mailed directly to children at their homes. Currently, 500 children under 5 years old are registered and 230 children have graduated. Thank you for giving the gift of literacy to young children in our community!

Preparations have begun for **Summer Reading**, which kicks off May 28. This year's theme is "Level Up at Your Library!" Thanks to the Friends' ongoing support of our summer programming, we can offer exciting prizes to encourage children and families to participate and special events to bring them into the library.

The fun will begin with a reptile

show on June 2 for the whole family. The first time the **Cold-Blooded Redhead** visited in 2022, more than a hundred people showed up to see her amazing pets, so we are expecting a great crowd! (photo of kids petting a tortoise) More special events for children will include music with **Carole Stephens of Macaroni Soup** (photo below from 2019 visit), a "mad science" show from the Grout Museum, and a llama visit with **Prairie Patch Farm**.

Thank you so much for all that you do—your dedication to the library and the Coralville community is inspiring!

*Sara Glenn and Erika Binegar
Children's Services Staff*



Carole Stephens



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The very first thing I want to say is Thank You for your ongoing support of the Library. In my 25 plus years as director of the Coralville Public Library, I can't think of a time when your support has been more important. Libraries are facing some challenging legislative actions at the state level and executive actions at the federal level.

Congressionally approved federal funds are in peril; those funds are tied to matching dollars from Iowa's legislature, and reach public libraries all across the state through resources and services administered by the State Library. In addition, there have been a flurry of library adverse bills proposed this year at the state level that could undermine local control of public libraries and impede Libraries' abilities to provide unencumbered access to information.

At the same time, we are seeing more and more legislative limitations on the ability of growing municipalities (like Coralville) to collect the tax reve-

nues needed to support the very qualities and amenities fundamental to their economic growth and cultural vitality.

So needless to say, this is a very challenging time for public libraries. We are extremely lucky in Coralville to have a community who values and supports its Library, a supportive City Council and Administration, a well-informed and committed Library Board of Trustees, and a generous and dedicated Friends of the Library group. In addition, the CPL Foundation continues to grow and provide supplemental funding for the Library while planning for future needs.

One of areas that the Friends and Foundation have been able to provide key support for CPL has been through the funding of internships. Expanding the regular staff of the Library is extremely difficult at this time, but bolstering our staffing for intervals of time through short-term internships has been very successful and produc-

tive. We are grateful for your willingness and foresight in funding these opportunities.

Thanks again for all that you do! We are deeply grateful for your steadfast support of Coralville's Public Library.

I look forward to seeing you at the Library!!

Alison Ames Galstad



FRIENDS HIGHLIGHT

Margaret Mellecker

As a lifelong Coralville resident, **Margaret Mellecker** has been going to the Coralville Library since it moved down the street from her house in 1967. Through the years she enjoyed all that the library had to offer, but not until 2014 did she realize who or what the Friends of the library were. Margaret attended a meeting, became the secretary, and has been a part of the group ever since.

She has found working with the Friends both enjoyable and fulfilling. Besides her important

task chronicling our group's meetings and decisions, Margaret was



part of the team that created the English Language Learners (ELL) Program offered at the library. Seeing that program grow and serve so many community people, it's not surprising she has also excelled in the role of the Friends Community

Outreach and that she is excited to work with the schools and area non-profits.

Margaret has a degree in mechanical engineering from Iowa (Go Hawks!). She has worked in a variety of settings including large-scale design and construction projects, community college Instruction, and hazmat safety training.

Now happily retired she devotes her time to her family, her dog, gardening, and of course reading. Margaret and her husband, Dave, have three daughters: Kelly

(Emil), Chloe (Paul), and Lisa (Mike) and four grandchildren.

The Friend's are blessed to be able to draw on such enthusiastic and committed individuals as board members.

Bill Benson

TEEN SERVICES

On behalf of the teens at the Coralville Public Library, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of this group. Thanks to your generosity, the library has been able to offer a wide variety of programming and weekly **Teen Hangouts** in the teen area with snacks and activities for teens. You have helped support our Teen Summer Reading programs in so many ways!

We appreciated you funding the teen internship again last

summer to assist with programming and help reach more teens. We are planning the **2025 Teen Summer Reading Challenge**, "Level Up At Your Library" and are looking forward to another exciting, fun-filled summer with our teens.

The Friends have also been great in acknowledging our wonderful teen volunteers and Teen Advisory Board members. 2025 celebrates the fifteenth year of the annual \$1000 **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 Thursday, April 17.

We would also like to thank the Friends for allowing the teens to help with their annual holiday book giveaway this year (top right below). The teens had a great time choosing children's books, wrapping them and handing them out at the December Free Community Meal. 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



TAB 2025



2024 at a glance



Giving



Gave \$1,000 for
Teen Service Award
to a local senior who volunteered
50+ hours at the Library



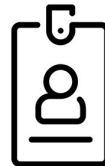
Gave \$7,000 to
Local Schools
for books and literary activities



Gave \$1,000 for
Kids Book Giveaways
gave more than 200 new books
to kids during the holidays



Gave \$4,500 for
Dolly Parton
Imagination Library
DPIL mailed 5,634 books to
Coralville children under 5 in 2024



Gave \$3,000 for
Teen Services
Internship
at the Coralville Public Library



Gave \$3,550 for
Accessibility &
Display Furniture
for new poster easels and
collapsible risers at the
Coralville Public Library



Gave \$7,400 for
Library Program
Prizes & Activities
at the Coralville Public Library



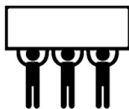
Gave 1160 books
to Junior High
Libraries, the Prison,
and put in Little
Free Libraries

Gave over \$27,450
to literacy projects in Coralville

Membership



130
members



1134
volunteer hours

Funds Raised

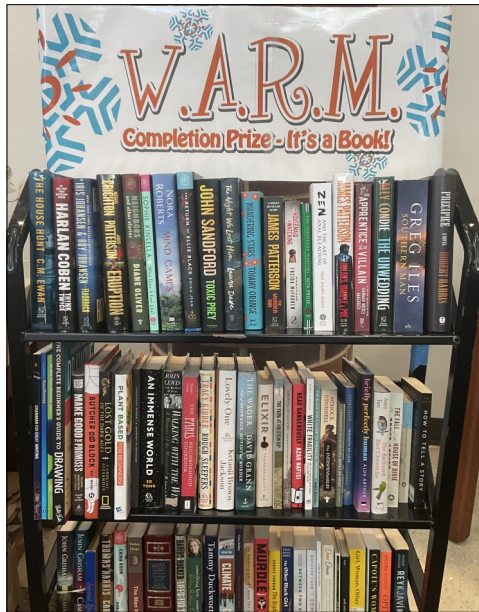


\$2,780
from membership



\$22,991
from four Book Sales

Thanks for All the Books!



Thank you Friends for providing prizes for the **Adult Reading Challenges**, especially for all the books! Your donations allowed us to give a book to everyone who completed the Adult Summer Reading Challenge and Winter Adult Reading Month.

In September we were able to purchase banned and challenged book titles for everyone of any age who completed our **Banned Book Reading Challenge**. The grand prizes are special, but everyone wins a book!

But wait, more books!

During **Blind Date with a Cookbook**, the Library gave away 215 surprise cookbooks to community members with a challenge to try a new recipe. Eighteen people recorded their challenge for our Video Contest.

This contest is a fun way to beat the winter blues in January and we couldn't do it without the Friends. I've said it before and I must say it again, *Thanks for all the books!*

Sara Jane Pitcher



... and Remembering

Last fall within a few days of each other, two long-time Friends board members passed away. Both had received the Patricia Dee award and both served in a variety of ways and embraced many roles.

Rachel Porter passed October 29. She was our treasurer and like many members had joined in a abundance of Friends book sorting sessions, the soul of our fund raising.

A few days later **Mardell Tinkey**, as her remembrance notes, took her last trip "straight to heaven." She had held almost every Friends board position—several times vice president and president. She help with baby book bags and put together many editions of this newsletter.

Both women knew the value of reading and gave willingly of their time in pro-



motion of the Friends mission and service to our community. And as they each demonstrated—more than once—rising to the occasion and getting the worthwhile things done.



DUES

Friends' dues follow the calendar year.
New members are welcome and appreciated any time but memberships come due with the new year.

The Friends of the Coralville Library newsletter is published twice a year usually in April and October.
And is distributed primarily via email.
(FriendsOfCoralvillePL@gmail.com)
The newsletter can also be viewed on our web site:
coralvillepubliclibrary.org/friends.
Thanks for your support.

BOOK SALES

Remaining 2025 Book Sales

April 25-26

Aug. 1-2

Nov. 7-8

Friday hours: 10 am - 5:30 pm

Saturday hours: 10 am - 3 pm

Please Note

Current Friends members

receive early entrance

5-6:30 pm

the Thursday before book sales

Update your membership online!

Visit

<https://coralvillepubliclibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library/>

