

Springtime at the Library

Brown Bag Programs:

Bring your lunch and join us for some fun and informative programs. 12:15 - 12:45 p.m., Beems Auditorium

- Wednesday, April 6: Butterfly & Hummingbird Gardens – Learn how to attract butterflies/hummingbirds to your garden.
- Wednesday, May 4: Soap Making – Learn the history of and how to make soap.

Creative Gardening Series – Co-sponsored by Master Gardeners of Linn County

- Thursday, April 7: Put Some “Zing” in Your Gardening! Learn how to combine different plants to create color, texture and form in your garden. 6:30 - 8 p.m., Beems Auditorium
- Saturday, April 16: Landscaping with Ornamental Grasses. 10 - 11:30 a.m., Beems Auditorium
- Tuesday, April 19: User-Friendly Gardens (Tommy Church gardens). 6:30 p.m., Beems Auditorium

Author Visit:

Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m., Beems Auditorium. Fiction author, screenwriter and playwright Ying Tang will talk about film and writing.

Staff Loves Its Library

The 2nd Annual Library Staff Fund Drive kicked off on February 14 with a “Love Your Library” theme. Staff contributions were matched by a \$1,000 gift from the Foundation for a total of \$2,600 raised. These funds will be used to add books to the library’s collection, underwrite the cost of a library staff social event, and fund a facility enhancement project.

Adventures in Summer Reading

Watch for details regarding the summer reading program which will be held June 1 through August 5. The theme for the program for young adults and adults is “Joust” Read. The children’s program will focus on the theme of Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds. The summer programs will conclude with a new combined program at the YMCA with something for everyone!



Cedar Rapids Public Library
FOUNDATION

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New Library Director Seeks to Create ‘Gathering Place for Community’

If you’re eager to meet the new director of the Cedar Rapids Public Library, be assured: She is just as excited to meet you.

Lori Barkema, who began her tenure at the CRPL in mid-February, says her first priority is “learning this community, getting to know people who can tell me what things are important to them. Everything starts with the community and how and what they want from the library.”

As she meets people, Barkema hopes to make connections and discover resources that will help develop the library’s role as a gathering place for the community. “How do we provide a place in our community that *creates* community?” she asks.

This has been a focus for Barkema throughout her career. A Forest City native, she earned her undergraduate degree at Iowa State University and Master’s in Library Science at the University of Iowa. She served libraries in Bloomfield, Sioux City and Le Mars before working as director of the Albert Lea (Minnesota) Public Library for the past 11 years. There she was able to increase the library’s hours of operation and double its circulation, thanks to a host of volunteers and innovative outreach programs.

Chosen from among 28 candidates for the Cedar Rapids position, Barkema says she was

ecstatic to return to Iowa to direct the model library she had visited 20 years earlier as a graduate student. “Our class toured this library because it was an incredible new facility, a place of grandeur and spaciousness,” she recalls. “This building is still beautiful and incredible and spacious. If I were a child coming up that stairway, I would think, ‘This is really a special place.’”

At the same time, two decades of use have taken a toll on the facility, she says. “And 20 years ago, computers were new and books on CD didn’t exist. Our floor plan doesn’t fit the range of services we provide today. We need to re-design the interior. But this library has good bones, and it’s amenable to anything we need to do.”

Building the library’s collection will also be a high priority, she says. “We have incredible technology, but we need to re-build our collections. We need a balance between technology and materials such as books, books on tape and CDs. People still come to the library most of all to get a good book and to talk to their neighbors about books. Books are the context of our lives, conveying ideas and values,” she stresses.

Barkema says programming is also essential, serving as “the ambassador for the library,” especially to populations such as young children and elderly adults who may

have difficulty getting to the library.

In all of these areas, she emphasizes, the CRPL Foundation will continue to play a major role. “The Foundation is so important because public money is for the baseline, while Foundation money is for enhancements. I am absolutely amazed at the Foundation’s commitment to this library,” she says, citing projects such as the Intelligent Library System and the Ghosh Technology Center. “Those are the things that many libraries our size are not doing.”

Her greatest challenge, Barkema states, will be to ensure that ongoing changes at the library “all add up to a positive experience for the public. Creating a great public space is really where I want to go.”



New CRPL library director Lori Barkema says the striking model library she visited 20 years ago as a graduate student needs updating, but is still a top-notch facility.



*Cedar Rapids
Public Library*

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OUR MISSION

The Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation enhances the quality of the Cedar Rapids Public Library services to the community by securing resources to support library programs and projects not normally met by public funding.

CRPL Celebrates Anniversaries of Its Two “Homes”

For the Cedar Rapids Public Library, 2005 is both a time of looking forward, as the library welcomes its new director, and a time of looking back, as it marks two important anniversaries.

One hundred years ago this summer, the CRPL moved from rented quarters on the second floor of the Dows Building, at the corner of Second Avenue and Third Street East, to its first permanent home and the place it would remain for the next 80 years – the newly constructed Carnegie building facing what was then called Washington Square (now Greene Square Park) on Third Avenue and Fifth Street SE.

Backers had discussed the need for a suitable building since soon after the library was founded in 1895. In 1901, responding to a request from library trustees, steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie committed \$75,000 for the project. The City of Cedar Rapids provided the land and pledged \$7,500 per year for maintenance. Initially, the library was to be located on Mays Island near other prominent public buildings, but the Cedar River’s 1902 flood persuaded planners to find a more secure site.

Construction began in the spring of 1904 and proceeded for more than a year, interrupted by labor strikes and design complications. The Italian Renaissance-style building, described in a Gazette article of the time as “a magnificent creation,” opened on June 24, 1905. It was received with enthusiasm, and the library’s circulation grew rapidly along with the size of its collection.

Over the next eight decades, the CRPL gradually outgrew the well-used Carnegie building. Recognizing the need for more collection space, increased parking and a more efficient layout, library supporters devised an



The first permanent home of the Cedar Rapids Public Library was the Carnegie building, opened in 1905 (today part of the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art).

innovative strategy for funding a new library, with the CRPL Foundation playing a key role. The Hall-Perrine Foundation agreed to provide a \$6.8 million grant if the Foundation could raise an additional \$1 million in private contributions. The city again provided the site.

In a mere three months, the Foundation was able to raise \$1.3 million – an indication of the strong support that existed for building a first-rate new library. Ground was broken at the current location on First Street SE in November of 1982, and the new building opened on February 17, 1985. In addition to providing the latest in library furnishings and technology, the facility expanded the library’s space from 29,000 to 83,100 square feet – providing a truly spacious new home for the library and its guests.



Area children packed the grand stairway for the current library’s dedication 20 years ago this February.

The Library by the Numbers – Then and Now

In recent years, the Cedar Rapids Public Library has been recognized for having the highest per capita usage of any library in Iowa. Here are a few numbers that depict the library’s growth in size and usage over the past century:

Library circulation:		Cardholders in Cedar Rapids:	
1907:	93,720	June 1987:	64,552
1984-1985 fiscal year:	654,842	February 2005:	82,283
2003-2004 fiscal year:	1,078,191		
Size of collection:		Library programs:	
1907:	16,175 volumes	1985:	192
June 1985:	187,297 items	2005:	567
(including 121,000 books)		Computers available for public use:	
February 2005:	298,251 items	1985 :	0
		2005:	69

Gifts of Stock Offer Cost-Effective Giving Option

Over the years many donors have chosen to make a charitable contribution through a gift of stock – a simple and advantageous way to make a gift. The example below illustrates how such a gift works:

Scenario:

- The Smiths own shares of stock valued at \$10,000. The stock was purchased a number of years ago for \$2,000.
- If the Smiths sell the stock, they will owe capital gains of \$1,600 on the profit (\$8,000 profit at a 20 percent tax rate).
- The Smiths have considered making a charitable contribution of cash to the library foundation in the amount of \$10,000. Below is a comparison of these two options:

	Cash	Stock
Amount of Contribution	\$10,000	\$10,000
Charitable Deduction (31 percent tax rate)	\$3,100	\$3,100
Capital Gains Tax avoided (20 percent tax rate)	\$0	\$1,600
After-tax “cost” of gift	\$6,900	\$5,300

- The Smiths decide to donate the stock instead of cash.
- They can use the \$10,000 cash to purchase new shares of stock. Then, if they choose to sell the new stock at a later point, the cost basis would be \$10,000, reducing the capital gains tax they would owe at that time.

If you are interested in making a gift of stock to the CRPL Foundation, please contact your financial advisor and the Foundation Office at 739-0411.



Throughout Its History, Donors Have Taken CRPL to a Higher Level

Our recent celebration of the current library’s 20th anniversary gave us the opportunity to reflect on the role that donors have played in the life of the library since it was founded more than 100 years ago.

From those early days when the first public library was built, contributions from individuals helped make it possible to build a new library building, add thousands of books to the collection, purchase required technology, and enhance our programming for children and adults.

As the library enters a new era under new leadership, the possibilities for growth are endless and the need for donor support continues.

On behalf of the CRPL Foundation and the library board and staff, I would like to extend this sincere note of gratitude for the many thoughtful gifts that have made so much possible at the library. We appreciate your past support and look forward to working together as we continue to develop the library’s critical role in meeting the needs of our community.

**Amy Geiger, Director
CRPL Foundation**





*The CRPL Foundation Thanks the Following Donors
for Gifts Made from January 2004 through December 2004*

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Given By**

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RD Peterson

Tuesday Study Club

Darrell Wally & Julie

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Van Vechten Society

*The Van Vechten Society,
named for Ada Van Vechten,
was established to honor
individuals who have included
the Cedar Rapids Public
Library Foundation in their
estate plans through deferred
gifts or by designating the
Foundation as the beneficiary
of a will, trust, or life
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