

**Between
the
Lines**

New Book Discussion Group Added

We are happy to announce that residents of Keystone Cedars are the newest participants in the Foundation's Book Discussion Group program. They join existing groups from Methwick and Cottage Grove Place. Monthly gatherings are held at each location to read and discuss books, with a discussion leader provided by the Foundation. This month Keystone Cedars participants are reading *The Secret Life of Bees*.

Summer Computer Classes

A variety of computer classes continues to be offered at the library in the Anna Purna Ghosh Technology Learning Center. Classes include Microsoft Excel, Part 1 and 2, Search Engines on the Internet, Windows for Beginners, Introduction to Online Auctions, Basic Word Processing, Yahoo! Intro and "My Yahoo." Sign up for free computer classes by calling 398-5123, ext. 258, or register online at www.crlibrary.org.

More Movie Memories

You can enjoy your favorite vintage flicks once again when you attend the "Movie Memories" classic films shown in Beems Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month. Movies scheduled through December include:

- July 3 – *The Sting*
- August 7 – *State Fair*
- Sept. 5 – *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
- Oct. 2 – *Arsenic and Old Lace*
- Nov. 6 – *Lilies of the Field*
- Dec. 4 – *Wait Until Dark*



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The Next Chapter

Newsletter of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation

After 20 Years, a Time to Ponder and Plan

Consider this: *The Cedar Rapids Public Library is the top reason people come to downtown Cedar Rapids.*

That significant fact, which emerged from a Community Attitudes Survey commissioned by the Downtown District, is among many pieces of information being gathered by a group of library planners led by the library's Board of Trustees. The Board, along with representatives from the Library Foundation Board, Friends of the Library, the library staff, other area libraries and the broader community, has been engaged since early 2006 in a comprehensive library needs assessment.

Assisting in this process is nationally known library planner George Lawson, who recently completed studies of the Marion, Hiawatha and Fairfax libraries. The "big picture" discussion also incorporates planning for the West Side library branch, where demand has already exceeded capacity.

"The planning process has been very inclusive," says CRPL Director Lori Barkema, noting that it also incorporates population trend data from a 2005 Linn County Regional Planning Commission study. "We're working from a broad perspective as we consider how to make the best use of our resources to meet the needs of our growing community."

Discussions about the need

to revitalize the downtown library began last year in conjunction with the library's 20th anniversary, she explains. "In 20 years library services have changed dramatically. Our superstructure is still solid and wonderful, but 20 years of piecemeal changes have led to a time when we need to re-think how our building works, not only in the public areas but in terms of staff functions, and not only on a cosmetic level, but also in the behind-the-scenes mechanics."

Quantum changes in library services

Lawson, who met with members of the public at three staff-led tours of the downtown library, emphasizes that the library is "the right building in the right place" as the city works to reenergize the downtown area. At the same time, factors calling for the library's renewal include quantum changes in information formats and delivery methods, shifting customer expectations, two decades of wear on library facilities, and the completion of equipment life-cycles.

With the explosion of media and services, Lawson says, libraries today have new opportunities to become the community's "third place" – after home and work – where people of all ages can find activities and media that interest them.

The study's preliminary recommendations include reconfiguring the library layout, as well as the building's entry sequence, which currently requires a long

walk to reach the collections. Other suggestions include redesigning the children's area to offer a more active and engaging environment, making the library's popular computer instruction area more visible and flexible, and enhancing the lighting in key areas.

The Building and Facilities Committee of the Library Board will use the information gathered through the needs assessment to create "a drawing with words," capturing what a revitalized library would look like. "Their goal is that by our 25th anniversary we will be in the middle of or completing the revitalization of the downtown library," says Barkema.

In the meantime, she adds, the library will make incremental changes responsive to the study's findings. "Some things can't wait three or four years. For example, we will see a youth library coming in the interim. The planning process is messy and interesting, and we will continue to bring as many people into it as we can."



Today, unlike 20 years ago, computers and the worlds they provide access to are a central part of the library's services.



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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.

Dear Library Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this note to let you know that I will be leaving the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation after 13 years. I have accepted a position with the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation as Director of Development. It represents an exciting opportunity to carry on with the type of work that I enjoy and for a cause that I hold near and dear.

Over the years, much has happened with the Library Foundation that we can all take pride in. Many of you have become annual donors and active participants in programs at the library. Some have remembered the foundation in their estate plans, thereby providing ongoing support for the library. Businesses and foundations have been added to the list of supporters for special funding needs for technology advancements at the library.

The foundation has taken an active roll over the years in supporting children's and adult programs. Various reading programs including support for the Linn Area Reads project have been added to the list. We have hosted author events, exhibit receptions and recently added a third site to our book discussion groups.

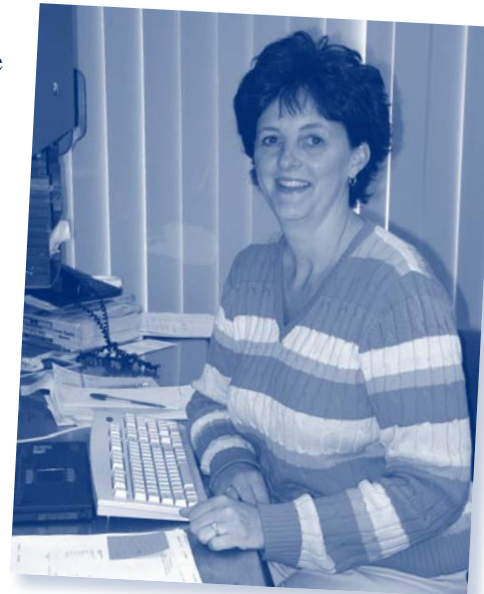
The mission of the foundation has always been to raise funds that could be used to enhance services at the public library. I take great pride in knowing that with your help we have been able to assist the library in adding thousands of new books to the shelves and new technology that would otherwise not have been possible.

Most of all I am grateful for the opportunity to have gotten to know many of you and work together in carrying out the mission of the foundation. I encourage your continued support for the work of the library and foundation. I know that the future is bright with possibilities as we look forward to what lies ahead for our library and community.

Thank you for your support, kindness and love of the library. It has been a great run!

Sincerely,

**Amy Geiger, Director
CRPL Foundation**



CRPL Foundation Director Amy Geiger is leaving after 13 years of developing new programs and friendships for the library.

Adult Summer Reading Program Growing Quickly

While the library's summer reading program for children has been popular for decades, the adult summer reading program is still in its infancy, so to speak. But with steady nourishment provided by the CRPL staff and Foundation, the adult program is also healthy and growing.

The children's program, started in 1950 by longtime children's librarian Evelyn Zerzanek, draws nearly 5,000 young readers each summer. The adult summer reading program began just four years ago with a first-year registration of 285, says Nancy Olinger, community programs specialist and coordinator of adult programs. That number grew to 347 in 2004 and 658 in 2005.

This year, as in previous years, the children's summer reading program will be shaped around a theme used by libraries nationwide: "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales." Playing off that theme, Olinger and CRPL Foundation Director Amy Geiger created the theme of "Pause to Read" for the 2006 adult summer reading program. The children's, young adult and adult programs all run June 1 through August 4.

Adult summer reading participants can fill out a registration form and receive a book tracker card at a table on the second floor of the downtown library or at the West Side branch office. For each library book read during the program, participants may place a slip in a prize drawing box at either location to be eligible for several prizes awarded weekly. Those who

complete the program by reading five books will receive a prize package including a library t-shirt, a sweet treat from Cold Stone Creamery and a free book from the Friends book cart located in the downtown library lobby.

In addition, all those who complete the program are eligible for the August 7 grand prize drawing for a "Just for You" gift basket created through the generosity of downtown businesses. Valued at \$250, the basket will include certificates for lunch for two at the Blue Strawberry, a pedicure from Studio Zhen, a massage from The Touch, dinner for two at Blend restaurant, and two "anytime" tickets to the Cedar Rapids Symphony."

Special summer events

In collaboration with the young adult reading program, the adult reading program will host a free graphic novel workshop, "Cartoonists Across America," presented by author Phil Yeh on Wednesday, July 12, from 4 to 7 p.m. in Beems Auditorium. Yeh, dubbed the godfather of the graphic novel, is the creator of *The Winged Tiger* series.

On the same day, from 2 to 6 p.m., several area authors will be seated around the library to meet patrons and sign books. A complete list of the authors will be available on the library's website by July 1, says Olinger.



Adults, as well as children, are encouraged to take time for reading over the summer months through the library's summer reading programs – with adult-sized incentive prizes like restaurant certificates and Symphony tickets.

The summer reading programs will conclude on Saturday, August 5, with a day

of entertainment and activities for readers of all ages. In conjunction with the downtown Farmers Market scheduled for that day, free entertainment will be provided outdoors on the APAC Plaza, with Glenn Lonsdale and Carlis Faurot performing from 10 to 11 a.m. and the Jasmine swing, folk and rock duo performing at 11. At noon, those who have completed the adult summer reading program will be treated to lunch in the library's second floor atrium, with music provided by Hard Day's Night, a Beatles reunion group. (Other guests are welcome to purchase lunch.)

The adult summer reading program is supported by corporate sponsor Alliant Energy and other area businesses, as well as the CRPL Foundation.

"The foundation helps us with the summer reading programs in many ways," Olinger says, "including funds for the incentive prizes, support for the special events, and publicity. We're so fortunate to have their support as we build these wonderful summer programs that involve people with reading and the library."

