



The Next Chapter



Newsletter of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation

Celebrating the Enduring Gift of Books and Reading – with Your Support

Dear supporters and friends of the library,

As the mother of a kindergartner, I have been experiencing the unparalleled joy of watching our youngest child learn how to read. She exudes excitement as she carefully sounds out each and every letter to form words. She finds satisfaction in picking out words from distinctly ordinary sources such as cereal boxes, the newspaper, and mail lying on the table – and best of all she is starting to read books.

Without a doubt, learning to read is one of life's greatest achievements. For many, reading is a valued part of daily life. Nowhere do we see this more evidenced than at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Year after year we circulate more than one million items. This means that approximately nine items are circulated per city resident each year. Outreach book discussion groups are always well attended and a record number of adults participated in the summer reading program. People clearly rely on the public library as an essential part of our community. It serves as a source of education, information and enjoyment for residents of all ages.



Olivia Geiger demonstrates her newly acquired reading skills to big brother Ben.

During this time of year-end giving, I hope that we can rely on you to help the Foundation carry out its mission. Revenues from the Foundation's endowment are used annually to help meet the needs of the library in the areas of enhancing the collection, improving technology, and developing programs to meet the varied interests and needs of our patrons.

If you have already made your annual gift to the Foundation, thank you once again for your loyal support. You are helping to make a difference. If you are considering making a contribution, please know that any size of gift is appreciated. All gifts help the endowment fund grow, and we are committed to using them wisely in order to enhance and enrich the library services so valuable to us all.

The best to you during this holiday season and in the new year!

Amy Geiger, CRPL Foundation Director



Have You Read These Local Chart-Toppers?

Recently, the CR Public Library staff compiled this list of the most circulated titles and authors from 2005. Maybe you'd like to add a few of them to your list for 2006.

Adult books:

Led Astray, by Sandra Brown
Velocity, by Dean Koontz
The Historian, by Elizabeth Kostova
Case of Lies, by Perri O'Shaughnessy
School Days, by Robert B. Parker
Vanishing Acts, by Jodi Picoult
The Glass Castle, by Jeannette Walls
My Life So Far, by Jane Fonda
Why French Women Don't Get Fat,
by Michel Montignac
The World's Flat, by Thomas Friedman
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night,
by Mark Haddon
1776, by David G. McCullough
The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini

Children's books:

Spiderwick Chronicles, by Tony Diterlizzi
Geronimo Stilton Series, by Geronimo Stilton
Shadow Children's Series, by Margaret Peterson Haddox
Lemony Snicket Series
Magic Tree House Series, by Mary Pope Osborne
Harry Potter Series, by J.K. Rowling
Junie B. Jones Series, by Barbara Park
Anything by Dr. Seuss
Berenstain Bears books
I Spy books
Thomas the Tank Engine books
Arthur books
Clifford the Big Red Dog books
Super Heroes books
Dick and Jane Series

Linn Area Reading Together Again in 2006

The 2006 selection for the popular Linn Area Reads program is *Change Me Into Zeus's Daughter*, a memoir by Iowa City author Barbara Robinette Moss. Ms. Moss was the 1996 winner of the Gold Medal for Personal Essay in the William Faulkner Creative Writing Contest. Her winning essay serves as the first chapter in this book. She has also written a screenplay adaptation of *Change Me Into Zeus's Daughter*, currently nominated for an award at the Sundance Film Competition. The book's themes include alcoholism and its effects on the children of alcoholics, poverty and self-image. A variety of programs will be held related to the book's topics.

Ms. Moss is also an artist and will have her oil paintings on display at the library and at Barnes & Noble. The author will sign her book during events at the Hiawatha and Marion public libraries, with a closing reception to be held at the Cedar Rapids Public Library on February 26. For further program details please visit the library website at www.crlibrary.org.

Linn Area Reads 2006 sponsors include the CR Public Library Foundation, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, *The Gazette*, Hancher Auditorium, the Metro Library Network, and *Woman Today* magazine. Grant support is received from Humanities Iowa and the Iowa Arts Council.



Cedar Rapids Public Library
FOUNDATION

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