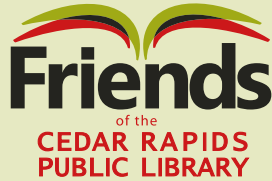


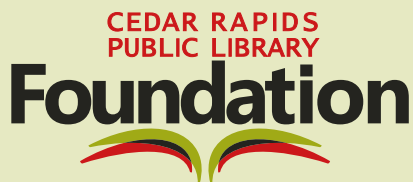
Fall 2022 Focus

The newsletter for **Friends** and the **Foundation**
of the Cedar Rapids Public Library



Mission

Friends supports the CRPL mission and vision and promotes literacy through community outreach.



Mission

The Foundation mobilizes community resources and relationships that empower our Library to deliver innovative programs and services.

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Outreach & Sorting Center

Fall Book Sale

Friday & Saturday
November 4 – 5
9 AM – 5 PM

Sunday Nov. 6
1 – 5 PM

New location!
Cedar Rapids Public Library
450 Fifth Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids

Sponsored by

Friends
of the
CEDAR RAPIDS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

DOWNTOWN LIBRARY • 450 5TH AVE SE • CEDAR RAPIDS • IOWA 52401
LADD LIBRARY • 3750 WILLIAMS BLVD SW • CEDAR RAPIDS • IOWA 52404

Letter from the Foundation



Charity Tyler

“If librarians were honest, they would say no one spends time here without being changed...”

—Joseph Mills

My how things (and our Library) have changed over the past few years. It's hard to believe so many months have passed since our Spring newsletter. Our Library continues to inspire as, this summer, programming returned to something that looks a lot like years past...that is until the electrical fire in the Downtown Commons. Even then, our Library didn't miss a beat, as you'll read on page four.

Foundation Board Members

Sean Williams,
President

Megan Murphy-
Salyer, Vice President

Ashley Grimm,
Secretary

Salma Igram,
Treasurer

Lois Buntz

Monica Challenger*

Ben Clark

Jen Conwell

Jade Hart*

Rick Kullander

Julie Rosenbohm

Patrick Sauter

Brittany Scanlon

Clint Twedt-Ball*

Marc Wallace

*Library Trustee
Representatives

This year's Summer Dare was filled with programs held weekly in six City parks in an effort to bring Library to those unable to come to us. In addition to a return to in-person programs, staff increased workforce development support, helping community members seeking employment with resumé workshops and other trainings. Your donor dollars supported these efforts.

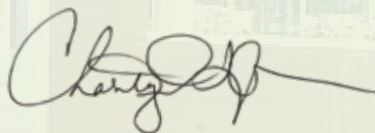
The Library Foundation has also stayed busy since the successful return of our Literary Vines fundraising event. With more than 140 attendees and support from University of Iowa Event Management students, the 2022 Literary Vines introduced non-alcoholic mocktails and an online silent auction. We're thrilled to share that the next Literary Vines event will be held Friday, May 5, 2023. I hope you will save the date and plan to join us.

This summer, we welcomed two new Foundation team members that will support annual fundraising and provide administrative support to both the Foundation and the Library's volunteer program. You can learn more about our new staff on page seven.

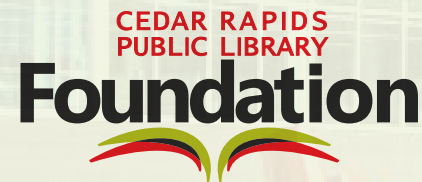
The busyness of summer also included helping the Library take its first few steps toward a new, permanent west side library campus. I hope to share more about these plans in the next few months. In the meantime, I encourage you to read page five to better understand how your donor dollars support the Library's strategic plan and our Library's vision for The Road Ahead.

You are important to our Library. You, our donors and supporters, are making positive change for our Library and the community we serve. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Wishing you happy and healthy months ahead,



Charity D. Tyler
Executive Director



Letter from Friends

Dear Friends,

Looking back at the past 12 months and the accomplishments of the Friends of the Library volunteers, all I can say is WHEW! We got a lot of major tasks accomplished! Now, we are able to settle into our normal routine of receiving donated books and preparing them for sale, as well as distributing books through our outreach program.

We rely on our vast network of partnerships to accomplish our goals. And those partnerships include two critically important internal partners – the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation and the Cedar Rapids Public Library itself.

Yes, we're a bit of a three-legged stool, supporting each other so we can support the community. Access to information and services is something we all hold dear. And the word "public" in our names is the constant reminder that we are there for everyone. Not for a select group of people, not for those who hold one opinion over another, not for just one age group or demographic segment. We are there for everyone. That includes you, Dear Reader.

As you take advantage of the vast array of services offered by your public library, we hope you'll consider a way that you can be there for us. Join the dedicated volunteers in the Friends' Sorting Center. Sign up for a shift or two at an upcoming book sale. Join the board of directors. Patronize one of our monthly book sales. Most importantly, we hope you'll share your pride for the amazing place that is your Cedar Rapids Public Library.

With appreciation,



Libby Gotschall Slappey
President, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library



Libby Gotschall Slappey

Friends Board Members

Libby Slappey,
President

Nancy Sauerman,
Assistant Treasurer

Lesli Nesmith,
Recording Secretary

Gingie Hunstad,
Corresponding
Secretary

Alice Blazek,
Sorting Center

Matt Burns,
Transport

Jerry Campbell,
Media

Anne Duffy,
Publicity

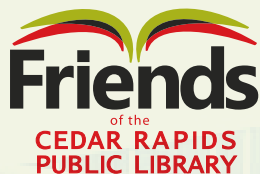
Nancy Kodros,
Book Sales

Jean McMenimen,
Book Sales

Barb Rhame,
Volunteers

Debbie Schroeder,
Online Sales

Leslie Wright,
Outreach



Fire Recovery & Resilience

By Alison Gowans

When the fire broke out at the Downtown Library on July 27, library staff reacted quickly. As flames from a fire in a light fixture licked the ceiling and sent molten parts of the fixture dripping onto the floor, staff rapidly evacuated the building, which was full of patrons on a busy summer afternoon.

Public Services Manager Todd Simonson used a fire extinguisher to put out the flames even before fire department crews arrived. Thankfully, no one was injured in the blaze, and few library materials were destroyed. However, smoke had filled much of the building, and extensive cleaning needed to be undertaken.

A professional team from SERVEPRO cleaned and restored the building, including books, computers, air ducts, and carpets. The work, which included individually wiping down all 125,000 items in the collection that were in the building when the fire broke out, took more than a month. The library reopened to the public on Sept. 1. It closed for additional cleaning and ceiling restoration Sept. 28-30.

But after going through floods, an ongoing pandemic, and the derecho, library staff have learned how to respond to disaster: by pivoting and finding ways to continue serving the community even in the most challenging times.

Instead of closing completely, staff took lessons learned over the last several years and swung into action. Within days, staff had partnered with Waypoint to open a pop-up computer and cooling center downtown. That center served an average of 100 people a week during the month it was open.

“We recognized the vital role the library plays in our community, and having access to both computers and a cool place to escape the summer heat is an integral part of that role,” Library Director Dara Schmidt said. “We are grateful for a community partner like Waypoint stepping up to help us fill the gap in services.”

Soon after that, the Downtown Library lobby opened for holds pickup and a small browsing collection. Meanwhile, other staff, normally based Downtown, moved to support staff at Ladd Library as they dealt with an influx of patrons, computer usage, and book returns.

“We knew our patrons needed us, and even as we were in the midst of cleanup and recovery, we were determined to continue serving our community,” Schmidt said.



The Road Ahead, Inspiring Big Dreams

Since 2019, our Library has been navigating its strategic plan appropriately named “The Road Ahead.” This plan is based on three priorities: **Literacy, Access, and Inclusion**. Meant to be implemented from fiscal years 2019-2022, the Library had barely begun its work on this plan when COVID-19 disrupted normal operations. In 2020, our Library became even more nimble and creative in an effort to meet community needs while staying safe and following these three priorities. As the Library begins its new plan, it chose to continue along this path and elevate these efforts over the next few years.

As we look at how the Library Foundation aligns with our Library’s strategic plan, it’s important to understand that the Foundation exists to support the Library and help fund the strategic initiatives it sets forth. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is a perfect example of our Library Foundation leveraging your donor dollars to champion **Literacy** and **Access** by providing books for all Cedar Rapids children under five.

Another important step toward championing **Access** is the Foundation-Funded Mobile Technology Lab. Launched in 2021, this high-profile van is stocked with technology for people of all ages to explore and to encourage hands-on learning and workforce development. This initiative began after the Library Trustees changed a Library guiding principle from equality to equity. Instead of serving everyone equally, the Library is now able to focus on reaching community members who have more barriers to accessing library programs and services. Learn more about the Mobile Technology Lab’s outreach efforts on page 6.

Equity and **Access** will also be addressed through the Library’s efforts to build a new west side facility. Our Fall 2021 issue of Focus introduced our Library’s need for a permanent home on the west side. Using its strategic priorities as a lens, Library staff will look at how to make this new facility a welcoming, inclusive space for the Westdale neighborhood and community at large.

The Library Foundation will play a supporting role in this journey as well. As the Library works through details, the Foundation is exploring a future capital campaign: Inspiring Big Dreams. Our Library’s investment on the west side of Cedar Rapids, in the Westdale neighborhood, will focus on people, place, and equity, and we’re so excited to share this journey with you in the coming months.



Our Library’s Mobile Technology Lab with Programming Manager Kevin Delecki and Programming Librarians Meredith Crawford (passenger) and Jen Eilers (driver).

Focus on Foundation

FY22 By the Numbers

Our Library Foundation is the philanthropic vehicle through which donor dollars help fund Library programs and services. Each year, our donors make these programs possible and this year is no different. Our Library's resilience continues to awe and inspire as you can see from the FY22 numbers below.

Research shows that children who grow up with books in their home will achieve three more years of education than those who do not. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides Cedar Rapids children one free, age-appropriate book per month from birth to their 5th birthday, regardless of income. Now in its fifth year, this program promotes literacy and kindergarten readiness. To date, donors have mailed more than 282,000 books to children in Cedar Rapids.

Since May 2021, the Library's Mobile Technology Lab (MTL) has been providing access to emerging technology outside our Library walls. The MTL is stocked with portable electronics and maker tools for all ages. Inclusion is at the forefront of strategy in determining where and when to deliver Tech to Go programs at an area park or help print resumés at an Iowa Workforce Job Fair. In 2022, Library staff saw more than 4,000 attendees at MTL summer outreach events.

Our Library's Summer Dare is an intergenerational program that combines reading with activities that encourage lifelong learning. This summer, our Library team had a glimpse of what post-pandemic programming can be. Summer Dare has evolved to include both take-home program kits and in-person programs at our Library and area parks. With 188 in-person programs, this year's Summer Dare had more than 7,000 attendees.

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

5,669 CHILDREN
ENROLLED

4,358 GRADUATES OFF
TO KINDERGARTEN

255,234 BOOKS MAILED

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY LAB

35 UNIQUE LOCATIONS
SERVED

122 IN PERSON
PROGRAMS

4,826 PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



SUMMER DARE

680,290
MINUTES READ

1,947 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

188 IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

7,163 IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

Van Vechten Society Honorees

In August, due to the increased Covid levels in Linn County, our Foundation had to again cancel our Van Vechten Society Brunch. The Library Foundation is grateful to those who have made generous gifts through memorials and bequests. The names of those with memorials or estate gifts totaling more than \$1,000 are permanently recognized on our Van Vechten Society donor wall in the Downtown Library Commons. We are honored to have added the following names to the Van Vechten Society wall in 2022.

Beulah C. Maloney	Hub & Marie Schimberg
Curran Lamar Rosser	James A. Curran
G.M. McGraw	Janet Dautremont
Gerald O'Brien	Milly Joslin
Hazel Dawn Hobbs	Nadine E. Sandberg

To learn more about the Ada Van Vechten Society, please call Charity Tyler at 319.739.0411 or email Foundation@CRLibrary.org.



Library Foundation Welcomes New Staff

The Library Foundation is excited to introduce its two newest team members: Jess Netolicky and Amber Wieland.

Jess is the Foundation's new Development Associate. She is working with Executive Director Charity Tyler on annual fundraising efforts with grant writing and sponsorship solicitation in addition to planning the Foundation's Literary Vines fundraising event. Jess can be reached by calling 319.739.0443 or emailing NetolickyJ@CRLibrary.org.



Jess Netolicky

Amber is the Foundation's new (shared) Administrative Assistant. She is supporting the Library Foundation's database management, gift processing, tax acknowledgements, and so much more. Amber's position is shared in that she also supports the Library's robust Volunteer Services Program. Amber can be reached by calling 319.739.0467 or emailing WielandA@CRLibrary.org.



Amber Wieland

Please welcome Jess and Amber!



The Foundation's Library Champion program recognizes businesses and organizations who support our Library Foundation with a gift of \$500 or more. Thank you to all of our 2022 Library Champions!

AEGON Transamerica Foundation	Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque	Hawkeye Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO	Sheet Metal Workers Local 263
Alliant Energy Foundation	CRST International	Hills Bank	Sunrise Builders
BAE Systems	Dakota Red Corporation	ImOn Communications	Theisen's Home Farm & Auto
Bankers Trust	de Novo Marketing	International Paper	Tricon Construction
BankIowa	General Mills	King's Material	TrueNorth Companies
Braun Intertec	Giacoletto Foundation	Linn Area Credit Union	Tyler, Link, & Barnes DDS
Cargill, Inc.	Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation	McIntyre Foundation	UFG Insurance
Cedar Graphics	GreenState Credit Union	Paulson Electric	US Bank
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust		Pure Barre® Cedar Rapids	
Collins Aerospace Charitable Corporation		Raining Rose, Inc.	



PressReader

Library Foundation donor dollars are now supporting PressReader for Cedar Rapids Library patrons. PressReader provides unlimited access to more than 7,000 of the world's top newspapers and magazines as soon as they're available on shelves. Titles library patrons can access include *The Guardian*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, *Daily Mail*, *L'Equipe*, *Der Tagesspiegel*, *Liberation*, *China Daily*, and *La Razon*, along with thousands of others.

Access to Newspapers has always been part of the Cedar Rapids Public Library's services. From the earliest days of the library's history, patrons could find newspapers in Czech and German in addition to English. In today's increasingly digital world, PressReader continues this tradition of access by supplementing the physical papers in the building with a vast array of digital international and national news sources.

Patrons can view issues in their original print layouts and either read them instantly or download them for later.

To access PressReader:

1. Download the PressReader app or go directly to the website at www.pressreader.com
2. Click Sign In and then Library or Group
3. Search and select your library from the list
4. Enter your library card information



The Library's New Website is Here!

We're excited to share the revamped Library website! All of the services you were able to find on our previous website are still there - links to the catalog, links to digital resources like databases and ebooks, and more. The catalog itself, as well as service like Libby and Hoopla, are run on different website and are not part of this redesign.

This new website is designed to better serve our patrons, and also to be more accessible. We invite you to explore the new site at the same URL, CRLibrary.org. If you require assistance with any part of the site, please contact the Library at (319) 261-7323 or email info@crlibrary.org, and we will be happy to assist.

OUTREACH: All people deserve their own books!

The leading goal of Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library is to put more books into more hands. It's a noble goal, to be sure.

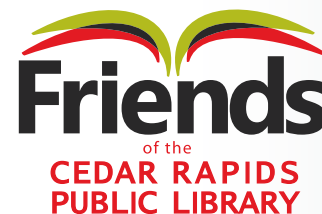
Meeting that goal is where the real action is.

There are a number of ways a book ends up in the hands of a new owner, whether is via one of the Friends' many book sales, whether it's shopping directly from the stacks in our sorting center, whether it's purchasing a book online through the Friends' Amazon store, or whether it's through the Friends of the Library outreach program.

Tight family budgets and limited spending money can mean that paying \$1 or \$2 for a book may be out of reach for many. Thankfully, Friends of the Library partners with local nonprofits to get books into the hands of their clients. Friends of the Library provides children's books to local parenting programs, provides books to re-stock Little Free Libraries, and gets large print books to area senior living centers. Friends of the Library is honored to share our literary larder.

Most recently, at the annual Labor Day picnic sponsored by the Hawkeye Labor Council, Friends of the Library happily distributed hundreds of children's books, fiction titles, cookbooks, and biographies to eager readers.

Know of a nonprofit that would like free books to distribute to clients?
Contact Friends of the Library at: crfriends@gmail.com



Call for volunteers!

Eager to get out of the house? Want to serve your community in a fun and mind-expanding way? Consider being a volunteer with Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Look at the ways you can help (below) and send an email with your interest to Barb at: barbrhame@gmail.com

- In-Person Book Sales
- Internet Sales
- Book Sorting Center
- Friends Board of Directors
- Book Transport Team



Friends of the Library President, Libby Slappey, distributed free books at the annual Labor Day picnic at Hawkeye Downs.

All Sorts of Fun: A day in the life of the Sorting Center

From one day to the next, volunteers never know the size of “book mountain” awaiting them in the Friends’ Sorting Center.

During the height of the pandemic when people were confined to their homes, scores of bibliophiles found it a perfect time to “do some cleaning” and Friends of the Library was the lucky recipient of the weeding. In a short time, quite a backlog of books to be sorted was amassed.



Now, with things having settled down, the Sorting Center is a little more back to normal as volunteers manage a steady stream of donated books, as well as those from the downtown library and the west side Ladd Library which have been taken out of circulation.

Who are the savvy sorters who scale these literary mountains to make order from chaos? First and foremost, they are lovers of books who “adopt” particular genres to sort. From the retired attorney whose specialties include history, politics, and computers to the small business owner who tends to occult, myth, and new age titles, Friends’ sorters have discerning eyes for what will sell at an upcoming sale.

Several sorters have been taking care of particular shelves for years and are the real experts when questions arise about their specific genres. Others are new to the process and handle the initial unpacking of boxes, doing a first round of sorting before the books get shelved.

All sorters agree, it’s a fun volunteer job that satisfies their insatiable appetite for a good book and provides a real smorgasbord of choices of what to read. After all, volunteers get first dibs at books before they are offered at a Friends of the Library book sale.

Interested in being a volunteer sorter? Just pop us an email at: crfriends@gmail.com



Are you quick with Quickbooks? We’d love to talk!

The Friends’ board is currently searching for a Treasurer for our Board of Directors. The Treasurer works in concert with the Assistant Treasurer and prepares financials for monthly board meetings. If you love the work we do and could lend your financial expertise, please email us at: crfriends@gmail.com.

Spotlight on new board members

The importance of a diverse group of volunteers cannot be understated when it comes to the members of the Friends of the Library board of directors. Yes, there's the common thread of loving books, but the work of the Friends' board requires a variety of talents.

Our most current class of new board members is testament to that.

Alice Blazek, a long-time volunteer with Friends of the Library, combines her love of reading with her desire to promote literacy. And she's always eager to recommend good literature to others. Definitely a "giver" she cheerfully volunteers at the Olivet Mission – something she's done for 14 years. By her own admission, she's "led a very good life" and is now trying to give back to others.

Alice's current role as one of the sorting center co-chairs gives her the opportunity to work with other volunteers to sort the books donated to Friends of the Library. Separating books by genre is just the first step in determining where the books will go. Alice has a keen eye for mass market paperbacks and keeps that section well-organized.

Alice recently discovered bestselling author, Shari LaPena, and loved her books *The End of Her* and *The Couple Next Door*. What's Alice currently reading? *The Better Sister* by Alafair Burke.

Matt Burns is a real looker.

Matt spends most of his time either looking for books or looking for rocks. As a volunteer for the Friends of the Library, he not only serves on the board of directors, but also helps out in the sorting center. His favorite genre is science fiction, so he curates that section for Friends. A quintessential bibliophile, for years he was a regular shopper at the Friends of the

Library's book sales. He was a natural for the board of directors because of his familiarity with the Friends operation.

In addition to his science fiction expertise, he's equally appreciated for the muscle he brings to the Friends' board. He's been dubbed the Friends' *Transportation Czar* because he willingly transfers boxes of books from the sorting center to our off-site storage center at the Cherry Building.

When he's not engaged in lapidary work or Friends' board work, he's usually got his nose in a book. What's Matt currently reading? *Cosmic Engineers* by Clifford D. Simak.

For **Leslie Wright**, it's all about love. She loves to read; she loves the Cedar Rapids Public Library; and she loves how the team engages with the community. She's definitely a community connector and immediately volunteered to work on Outreach for Friends.

When she's not volunteering with Friends, you can find her at Prairiewoods where she serves as Executive Director. Or at a board meeting of the Kirkwood Trustees, or at a board meeting of the African American Museum of Iowa, or teaching at Mt. Mercy University. Somehow she also squeezes in gardening, reading, and enjoying life with her husband and 3 dogs – and the occasional offspring who come home to "hang out."

What book currently has Leslie's attention? *The Web of Meaning* by Jeremy Lent, who will be the keynote speaker for Prairiewoods' Spirituality in the 21st Century program next spring. Lent's book has Leslie fascinated by how humans make meaning and experience consciousness. She gives it a *thumbs up*, so far.



Alice Blazek



Matt Burns



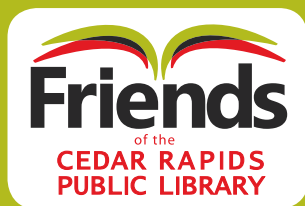
Leslie Wright

Focus

450 5th Ave. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Return Service Requested

Non-profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #381
Cedar Rapids,
Iowa 52401



Please visit www.crlibrary.org to see details and a complete list of programs.

Annual Fall Sale

NEW LOCATION!

Downtown Library

Friday, November 4
9 AM – 5 PM

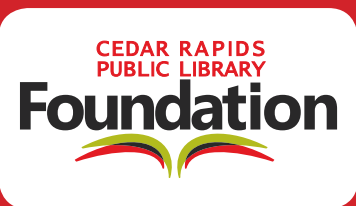
Saturday, November 5
9 AM – 5 PM

Sunday, November 6
1 PM – 5 PM

Very Cherry Open House

Cherry Building in the
New Bo District
329 10th Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids

Saturday, December 3
9 AM – 4 PM



Literary Vines: A Food & Beverage Tasting To Benefit the Library Foundation

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, May 5, 2023
6 PM – 8:30 PM
Invitation to follow.