Focus
The newsletter for friends and the foundation of the Cedar Rapids Public Library

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Mission
Friends supports the Cedar Rapids Public Library services and programs; promotes literacy through outreach programs that encourage and enhance reading throughout the community; and conducts fund raising activities to assist with library and outreach projects.

Mission
The Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation secures resources in order to enhance and enrich library programs, services and facilities not normally met by public resources.
Letter from the Foundation

It is with great excitement that I write the first of many letters to you, our CRPL Foundation supporters. With just over five weeks of work under my belt, I am thrilled to begin this new adventure leading your CRPL Foundation. With new leadership, there often come uncertainties and questions. Please know that together with the Library staff and volunteers, the Foundation and its board are committed to continuing support of the innovative community programs offered by the Library. I fully understand the Foundation's support would not be possible without the generosity of donors like you.

Philanthropy is important; it is the mechanism through which the Foundation is able to provide funding for the Library's innovative programs. Philanthropy is what makes the impossible possible. In future newsletters, I hope to share stories of philanthropy in the library, so you can see how your gifts are having a positive impact on the Library and the families, individuals and organizations it serves.

This summer and fall are certain to bring a different kind of anticipation for the Cedar Rapids community and the Library, as much discussion will revolve around whether a library levy will be brought to the citizens of Cedar Rapids for vote in November. The CRPL and Foundation staff hope to be a resource to those wanting to learn more about this matter, and we will have information prepared and available for your review later this month.

I am looking forward to working with all of you, and I sincerely appreciate your continued support of the CRPL Foundation.

Warm regards,

Charity Tyler
Executive Director,
Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation

Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation Board of Directors
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Derek Johansen, Treasurer
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Guests mingle at the CRPL Foundation Open House on Monday, June 15.
Letter from Friends

Your Cedar Rapids Public Library FRIENDS have had a busy year. Since the new library opened there have been many changes for patrons, employees and FRIENDS. The new building has given us space to have board meetings, to sort our books, and most importantly, to hold our sales. Best of all, we interact with patrons and employees every day. The Cedar Rapids Public Library is a community center serving ALL in MANY ways. FRIENDS is proud to be part of that commitment.

During your regular visits to either the main library, downtown, or to the Ladd Library, our west side location, you may have perused our Book Nook, offering gently-used books at affordable prices. We are able to stock our Book Nooks because of the quality materials donated to FRIENDS by community members. Whatever the reason for giving us books – downsizing households, making room for new books, or simply committing to an action that supports literacy – we appreciate the generosity of book donors who know there is life beyond their shelves for the books they love. We truly are a community of readers.

As all organizations make changes in the way they do business according to the times, FRIENDS has made a major change in its annual fall used book sale. Longtime followers remember, with pleasure, the big sale at Veterans Coliseum and at other locations throughout the area. The cost of that large sale is now thousands of dollars in rental, moving books, and handling the books remaining after the sale. Stewardship of our hard-earned money prompted our decision to move to smaller sales with less overhead.

So many good friends of FRIENDS have “taken their turn” and recognize the important role of volunteers in our community. I would like to publicly thank board members who rolled off our board this year - Sally Harms, Nancy Kodros, Sue Reider, Catherine Basile and Barb Feller. We thank them for the countless hours of dedicated work in support of FRIENDS.

In closing, let me extend an invitation to join us in the work of FRIENDS. We need volunteers to sort books, set up, work, and take down at sales. We also need drivers with large vehicles and flexibility to pick up large quantities of books and help move supplies between storage areas. If interested, email us at crFRIENDS@gmail.com.

Read On,

Cindy Monroe
President, Friends of Cedar Rapids Public Library
Focus on Foundation

Summer Dare Program

The CRPL is daring YOU to take summer reading to a whole new level in 2015! The CRPL Summer Dare is not your average summer reading program. It is a newly designed twist on conventional summer reading programs that introduces a new challenge to the entire community each week. We dare you to read it, picture it, celebrate it, move it, write it, share it, explore it, imagine it, make it, change it, learn it, and wing it!

The CRPL Summer Dare is a reading challenge for all ages that combines weekly themed activities designed to encourage lifelong learning, intergenerational connections, and unexpected experiences at the library and beyond. The program began on June 1 and runs through August 22. You still have time to register online at http://summerdare.crlibrary.org. Three weeks into the CRPL Summer Dare, over 350 babies, 1800 children, 300 teens, and 800 adults have accepted the Library’s challenge!

Participants can stop by either library location throughout the summer and visit the Dare Desk to register, record their progress, turn in their completed reading logs, and get tokens to add to the Dare Drop. The Dare Drop is a physical representation of all the reading and dares completed throughout the summer.

We encourage all participants to share their progress with us on social media using the hashtags #2015summerdare and #notyouraveragelibrary.

Programs for all ages will be held throughout the CRPL Summer Dare. For a complete list of programs, visit the event calendar on our website at www.crlibrary.org or pick up a CRPL Summer Dare program at the library.
Paying it forward for volunteers and children…

In May 2015, a number of employees from The Gazette Company had the honor of volunteering time and “performance talent” to the Cedar Rapids Public Library (CRPL) through the United Way’s Day of Caring. Our assigned mission? To educate area children about the launch of CRPL’s new, innovative Summer Dare program by performing short skits in schools. The value in the opportunity to share with children a means to discover their own community by embracing reading was enough of a reason for many of us to accept the challenge…and yet there was so much more to our experience than we could have ever anticipated. Through the coaching and organizational expertise of library staff, our teams performed for over 2600 elementary students in less than six hours—reminding us at some points, it’s ok to be silly and spirited with the intent of spreading excitement to our young generations. Though in the spirit of full disclosure, we also found that safety in numbers does help! A huge thank you goes to the tireless efforts of the library staff for not only the implementation of the highly anticipated Summer Dare Program, but for inviting The Gazette Company to share in the critical message that learning comes in all shapes, all sizes, all seasons—and truly never ends.

Quinn Pettifer, The Gazette Company

Quotes from Gazette Company volunteers:

"My face hurts from smiling so much today. It’s a good kind of hurt!"

"As we were leaving the school, a little girl ran up, hugged me and thanked me for coming to her school. I was really touched. It really feels like I’m making an impact!"

"After our performance, a child stopped us and said, ‘I’m totally going to do this program at the library this summer. My mom’s poor. We can do this because it’s free!’"

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and donors for all of your support. Your selfless generosity, your philanthropy, and your commitment to our public library make a significant impact on many lives. Together, we are making a difference.
FRIENDS Board Welcomes Five New Members

The newest members of the CRPL FRIENDS Board of Directors bring a myriad of talent and experience to the table. According to Cindy Monroe, FRIENDS Board President, “These new board members are the Dream Team!” Retired school administrator, Holly Becker, is serving as Vice President of the Board. Bankers Ben Russell and Riley Williams are providing critical finance experience in their role as Co-Treasurers. And Jerry Campbell and Lynn Ocken are both seasoned sorters from the FRIENDS Sorting Center, with Campbell assuming the additional role as Volunteer Coordinator for FRIENDS. The new board members began their two-year terms in May.

Books-By-Mail

Library patrons who are homebound can still check out books from the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Staffed by volunteers, the Books-By-Mail program serves those who can’t visit the library in person because of a temporary or permanent disability. A patron of this program recently sent a letter of thanks to the CRPL FRIENDS.

For more information, please visit: www.crlibrary.org/library-services/books-by-mail/. Books-By-Mail is a program of the CRPL FRIENDS.

Wagon Ho!

Yes, a book wagon is a part of many library memories from coast to coast and the FRIENDS has a real live one moving throughout the city! Look for the book wagon at sales, United Way meal sites for children, and in the Freedom Festival Parade. Dedicated volunteer, Don Frischkorn, takes care of the CRPL wagon with the same care and love as the vintage tractor he drives. Thank you, Don.

For more information about how to become involved with Friends of the Library, send an email to: crfriends@gmail.com
Out Loud!

Out Loud! The Metro Library Network Author Series recently featured three outstanding authors in 2015. The collaborative program of the Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, and Marion public libraries presented Maureen Corrigan, Rainbow Rowell, and Piper Kerman for free events at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center. All authors took questions from the audience, visited with attendees and signed books following their presentations.

**Maureen Corrigan**, Pulitzer Prize juror and nationally-known book critic for NPR's *Fresh Air*, opened the series Friday, June 12. Corrigan's event was made that much sweeter with a private reception for Friends of the CRPL and Marion Library members prior to her public reading. She is the author of literary memoir, *Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading!* and *So We Read On: How the Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why it Endures*.

**Rainbow Rowell** continued the series Friday, June 19. Rowell is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fangirl*, *Eleanor & Park*, and *Attachments*. Her latest book, *Landline*, received the Good Choice Reads Award for best fiction in 2014. Rowell was a hit with fans of young adult fiction and adult fiction alike, meeting that crossover demographic that is becoming more ubiquitous.

**Piper Kerman** finished the series Friday, June 26. Kerman is the author of the best-selling memoir *Orange is the New Black*, which was adapted into a critically-acclaimed series of the same name. The memoir chronicles what the author calls her “crucible experience,” the 13-months she spent in the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut. Kerman shared her experience with hundreds of people in attendance, including discussing the third season of the hit series, on which she now consults.

Out Loud! The Metro Library Network Author Series is supported by the Giacoletto Foundation with media support from *The Gazette* and event book sales provided by Barnes & Noble Booksellers. This was the eighth year of the series, which began in 2008.

**Membership Has its Privileges**

FRIENDS of the Cedar Rapids Public Library were pleased to jointly sponsor the Out Loud! Author Series with the Marion and Hiawatha public libraries, and to team up with Friends of the Marion Library to sponsor a members-only reception with Maureen Corrigan before her public presentation on June 12. During the reception, Ms. Corrigan circulated among the guests, holding conversations with all attendees. She was as gracious and interesting one-on-one, as she was engaging and entertaining on stage. FRIENDS sends a big thank you to board members Lisa Morris and Barb Rhame, who helped organize the reception.
2015 Book Sales – Proceeds Benefit CRPL FRIENDS

**Farmer’s Market Sales**
Saturdays, 7:30 am - Noon
Downtown Library- 450 5th Ave SE
July 4 & 18
August 1 & 15
September 5 & 19

**2015 Annual Fall Book Sale**
November 6-8
Cherry Building- 329 10th Ave SE
Friday, November 6, 10 am-6 pm
Saturday, November 7, 9 am-5 pm
Sunday, November 8, 12-4 pm

Upcoming CRPL Events*

**Free Book Friday for Teens**
July 17 @ 3 pm, CRPL Downtown Union

**Up on the Roof:**
*Change it! Presto-Change-o!*
July 22 @ 1:30 pm, LivingLearning Roof
*PreK, Elementary, Everyone*

**Recycled Art:**
*Turn Old Objects into New Art!*
July 23 @ 6:30 pm, Ladd Community Room
*Adults*

**Chocolate Making Class for Teens**
August 4 @ 3:30 pm, Ladd Community Room
August 5 @ 3:30 pm, Beems A

**Summer Dare! Morning Movie**
August 12 @ 9:30 am, Ladd Community Room
*PreK, Elementary, Everyone*

**Coffee Connoisseur:**
*Love coffee? Learn more!*
August 13 @ 4 pm, Beems A
*Adults*

*For more information and a complete listing of CRPL events, please visit www.crlibrary.org.*