Winter 2024/2025

ibraries transform to meet the needs of their communities. Some of the earliest public libraries in the eastern U.S. included the word 'free' in their names to signal a shift from earlier models of libraries as private institutions, which charged membership fees and were typically accessible only to white, affluent men (Garrison, 1979). The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation in public spaces, further expanded access to libraries.

For over a decade, libraries like the Iowa City Public Library have evolved to meet the changing landscape of digital access, as advancements in technology have made information more accessible to the public than ever before. Libraries have evolved into vibrant community centers designed to address diverse civic and social needs, while continuing to feature even larger and more diverse collections of books for

continued on page 3

LIBRARIES AS BEACONS

Katie Roche, Development Director, ICPL Friends Foundation

during 'StoryJam,' a program held each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Iowa City Public Library.

SAM FOR LIBRARIES

Sam Helmick, Community and Access Services Coordinator

Casey Maynard, Children's Services Librarian,

'm excited to step into a new role as an advocate for libraries as the 2024-2025 president-elect of the American Library Association (ALA) and want to share my passion for how libraries serve as incubators of opportunity. Libraries, as I see them, are not just places to borrow materials—they are hubs of innovation, learning, and connection. They open doors to new ideas, provide access to resources for personal growth, and create places for everyone, regardless of background. Whether you're learning video editing in the Digital Media Lab, attending lectures in the meeting rooms, or enjoying a "Stories in the Park" before hopping on the ICPL Bookmobile, libraries offer something for everyone everywhere.

The American Library Association supports and advocates for libraries in their essential work nationwide. With this support, libraries continue to serve as pillars of democracy, ensuring free and open access to information.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

Amber Capps, Development Assistant, ICPL Friends Foundation

he Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation (ICPLFF) has teamed up with the Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center to introduce a new community program that encourages residents to donate and recycle their unwanted books. This initiative aims to ensure that usable, quality books find new homes, while those beyond repair are recycled, helping to keep them out of the landfill.

"While recycling is beneficial, it is even better if we can reduce and reuse whenever possible. Continuing to use quality books if they are intact is more impactful in reducing our climate footprint than just recycling them. Making this program even more sustainable, we are thrilled that funds raised through this

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER Elsworth Carman, ICPL Director

Dear ICPL Community,

As we move through the winter season, I'm reminded of how much our Library benefits from your support—not only through your visits and use of our services, but through your generosity in time and donations. Every time you attend a program, check out a book, bring your family to storytime, or participate in an event, you're contributing to the strength and vitality of the Iowa City Public Library.

We are grateful to our volunteers who give their time and talent to help keep things running smoothly. Whether it's greeting patrons at the Welcome Desk, assisting shoppers in The Book End, organizing book sales, or serving on the ICPL or Friends Foundation boards, your efforts help keep the Library a welcoming, inviting place for everyone.

Thank you, too, to those who have made financial contributions. Your generosity helps us expand our programs, grow our collection, and create more opportunities for learning and engagement in our community. These gifts ensure that the Library remains a hub for education, culture, and connection for everyone in Iowa City.

Your continued support—whether through your time, participation, or donations—allows us to do more for our community. On behalf of the Library team, thank you for being such an important part of our community and for helping us make the Iowa City Public Library a place for all.

In gratitude,

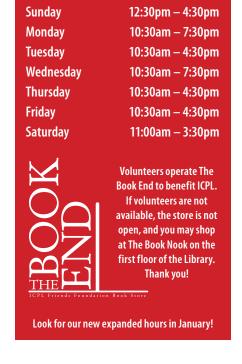
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THE BOOK END

The Book End, located on the second floor of the Iowa City Public Library, features gently used books for sale at extremely affordable prices! You're sure to find lots of great reads to take home.

- Hardcovers \$5
- Paperbacks \$2
- Young adult \$1
- Children's books 25¢

The Book End is staffed entirely by volunteers who love reading and are happy to recommend books or authors for you to enjoy. From fiction and non-fiction to audiobooks and DVDs, there's plenty to explore at The Book End! Stop by and find your next favorite book today!



check-out. Central to this transformation is the Library Bill of Rights, approved by the American Library Association (ALA) Council on June 19, 1939, during its Annual Conference in San Francisco. The statement was inspired by an earlier draft written in 1938 by Forrest Spaulding, Director of the Des Moines Public Library. The Library Bill of Rights emerged during a time marked by the rise of totalitarian regimes, beginning with a caution: "Today indications in many parts of the world point to growing intolerance, suppression of free speech, and censorship affecting the rights of minorities and individuals" (ALA, Library Bill of Rights).

During the 2024 legislative session in Iowa, several bills were introduced that threatened the essential work of libraries, unprecedented in our state's history. These proposals aimed to undermine library governance, intellectual freedom, and First Amendment rights by restricting access to information. Some even sought to criminalize the professional practices of libraries and librarians, as seen in prior efforts like HF 2176 in 2022. This type of censorship poses a serious risk to preserving the rights, stories, histories, and diverse perspectives that libraries strive to protect and promote.

It is crucial that we stand together to defend our libraries and the essential role they play in preserving and promoting a diverse and inclusive society. Libraries are not just places for books; they are safe havens for all individuals, offering resources and support that reflect a wide range of voices and experiences. By fostering an environment where everyone feels welcome, libraries contribute to the richness of our communities and empower individuals to share their stories. As we face growing challenges to access and expression, it becomes even more important to advocate for these institutions that champion the values of equality and understanding.

Take action by reaching out to your local representatives and city council members, expressing your support for library funding and policies that protect intellectual freedom. A personal message about what your library means to you can make a meaningful difference. Together, we can ensure that libraries continue to thrive as beacons of knowledge and inclusivity for generations to come.

And remember, the easiest and most accessible way to advocate for your libraries is to use them and use them frequently.

Garrison, Dee. Apostles of Culture: The Public Librarian and American Society, 1876-1920. New York: Free Press, 1979.





THE LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

Approved and adopted by the American Library Association (ALA) Council on June 19, 1939 Inspired by an earlier draft written in 1938 by Forrest Spaulding, director of the Des Moines Public Library

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the oriain, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

This aligns with my belief that libraries are our community anchor institutions in their knowledgeable curation and equitable provision of the information, technology, and support which transforms lives.

Locally, the Iowa City Public Library is a shining example of this mission. It serves as a gathering space, a digital data hub, and a platform for



lifelong learning. Whether it's offering educational programs for children, skill development for job seekers, or free access to resources, our Library is a beacon of opportunity for everyone.

While the White House is often referred to as the "People's House", in many communities, the public library is the real "House of the People". It provides shelter, space, camaraderie, and the chance to better understand our shared humanity. Our library is a place where everyone belongs and has the opportunity to simply be but also grow.

In this presidential role in ALA, my goal is to continue advocating for the incredible work libraries do, while remaining fully committed to my work as the Coordinator of Community and Access Services at the Iowa City Public Library. I want to ensure that everyone recognizes how essential libraries are in fostering strong, educated, and connected communities. Through my role at ICPL, I've seen firsthand how libraries create opportunities every day, serving as the heart of our towns and cities by promoting economic growth, supporting public education, and advancing social inclusion.

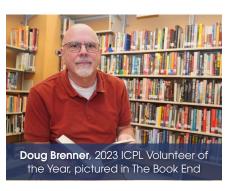
It is a daily joy to work at the Iowa City Public Library and to be supported by our Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation. Together, we celebrate our vital community institution as we champion for the bright future of our library and all the opportunities it brings.

Our Environmental Commitment, continued from front page

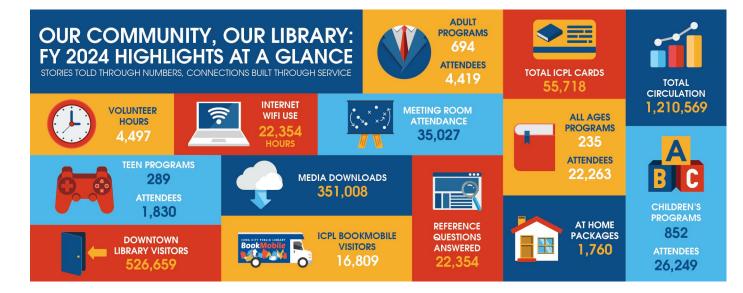
program can offer direct support to our local public library, a vital community resource," stated Jane Wilch, Recycling Coordinator.

Supporting the Iowa City Public Library and caring for the planet is easy—just self-sort your used books and other accepted media at either the Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center or the

Iowa City Public Library. Materials that meet donation criteria at the Landfill will be sent to Thrift Books for online sales which are expected to generate about \$10,000 annually for the Library. Materials donated at the Library generate about \$30,000 annually and are sold online, at book sales, and at The Book End bookstore located on the second floor of the Library.













ICPL Friends Foundation Honor Roll of Donors

Generous contributions from the following friends of the Iowa City Public Library made a difference for thousands of people. The special gifts of money, books, movies, music, and other items were received from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2024) by the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation. Please contact us at development@icpl.org or **319-356-5249** with any questions. *Thank you for showing your library love with your wonderful generosity.*

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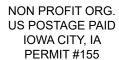






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