BookMarks™ statues awards, auction date announced

From the excited squawk of the child who just read his name on the gigantic, book name inside the Iowa City Public Library, to the breakfast “OMG,” I’m in Iowa City and just walked by these two huge painted books, and they’re as cool, and I’m sending you pictures, overheard during a young-woman’s cell phone conversation, everyone’s talking about BookMarks™. Book Art of Johnson County.

The BookMarks are the results of a one-of-a-kind, and believed to be the first in the world, book-themed public art display. It is a partnership between the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature, Coralville Public Library, North Liberty Community Library, local sponsors, and artists from throughout the Midwest who created the 28 statues. You can tour all of them until late October.

A guide map is available at the public library, or downloadable at http://bookmarksoj.com. Each of the statues sports a plaque announcing the artist, artist and sponsor. Two BookMarks have an additional plaque because they are the People’s Choice Award Winner and Runner-up. During online People’s Choice Award voting hosted by the Iowa City Press-Citizen this summer, nearly 5,600 votes were received. Mehly Dick, created by artist John Demory of Iowa City, and sponsored by the City of Iowa City, came out on top with 2,095 votes. Nearly 5,600 votes were received. Moby Dick, created by artist John Demory of Iowa City, and sponsored by the City of Iowa City, came out on top with 2,095 votes. The runner-up was Treasure Island, created by artist Tim Boblik-Bryk, for sponsor Hands Jeweler.

Each of the statues completed during the time of the balloting received votes. The time of the balloting received votes. The runner-up was Treasure Island, created by artist Tim Boblik-Bryk, for sponsor Hands Jeweler.

The Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature and the public libraries of Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty. Additional auction information will be available later in the fall at icpl.org.

Reading helps residents reminisce

Carol Bodenstein,
who grew up on an Iowa dairy farm, writes about country hospitality, the country feel, milkin’ cows, house chores, and other topics she misses with people who gave up and left in the city.

Recently, volunteers have been taking Bodenstein’s book, “Growing Up Country: Memories of an Iowa Farm Girl,” and leading discussions about childhood memories at 31 sites around the community. Bodenstein’s book talks about how she came to write the memoir and will read short selections from the book.

As part of this series, ICPL will host Bodenstein for an author visit on Wednesday, Oct. 26, in Meeting Room A, ICPL. Bodenstein will discuss her book and invite participants to share their story of growing up in Iowa. She will talk about how she came to write the memoir and will read short selections from the book.

I pulled out a magazine—it was dated October 1968. At first, Bob didn’t seem interested and stood up. Then, I turned the page to pictures of different pickup trucks. Bob sat back down and looked at the pictures while I read the caption. Then, he turned to me and said, “I had a pickup just like that once.” He had a smile on his face. We had made a meaningful connection.

—Iowa City Hospital Volunteer

What it means to be free

Ben Stone says that what we’re witnessing in our government today is a profound misunderstanding of the role of individual liberty in our society. “Many people seem to think that when you neglect individual liberty, you neglect their freedom to ignore the social contract and insist on kind of a hooligan attitude,” said Stone. “I think what people need to think is that being free means not having to contribute anything to the greater society. It’s really not what individual freedom is.”

Stone, the Executive Director of the Iowa American Civil Liberties Union, hopes to bring greater understanding of how the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court cases shape and reflect civil society in his presentation, “What’s the Bill If We Don’t Get It Right? Individual Freedom and the Constitution.” It is the second in a series of eight monthly community conversations being co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Johnson County and the Iowa City Public Library.

One Community, One Book

One Community, One Book is an annual community-wide reading project coordinated by the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights. Join ICPL staff at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in Meeting Room A for a discussion of “Zeitoun” by Dave Eggers, the 2011 selection. “Zeitoun” is the true story of a family caught between America’s two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina. The discussion is co-sponsored by the Iowa City Johnson County Senior Center and is part of ICPL’s Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival.

The talk is just one event planned as part of the 2011 Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival. Other highlights include a documentary film caused by ICPL staff about intellectual freedom, a children’s evening about banned books, and a discussion of the 2011 One Community, One Book, Johnson County Read-Along, “Zeitoun.”

In 1995, the Library established the annual banquet to honor Spaziani’s 20-year career at ICPL and lifelong commitment to the freedom of speech. “Spaziani believes the public library’s role is to be a resource and a forum for individually-personal and expression of diverse voices of time.”

Individual rights are about people’s thoughts, freedom of belief, right to privacy, right to fairness if you’re accused of a crime, right to position the government. It is not about freedom to ignore your responsibilities as a citizen in a democracy,” said Stone. “Treason doesn’t really have much of a role. You don’t have the rights to not be tried. It just is not in the Constitution.”

“Individual Rights and the Constitution” presented by Ben Stone, Executive Director of the Iowa ACLU.

The Iowa City Public Library building, collection use reach all-time highs

For a decade of more people have been using their library, no longer needed, everything is still the online, a physical space is a library is not necessary. And yet, across the country and the state, the library use continues to grow.

The Iowa City Public Library adds to that growth.

Use of the Library building and collections reached all-time highs — more than 768,000 visitors visited the library and 2,578,805 items were borrowed or downloaded in Fiscal Year 2011. Highlights for the year included completing a facilities renewal study, working with the University of Iowa to provide students and faculty access to children’s literature, expanding children’s outreach programming, offering video streaming, increasing access to electronic collections, improving customer service, and beginning a staff reorganization.

E-Collections & Content

As a part of this series, ICPL will host Bodenstein for an author visit on Wednesday, Oct. 26, in Meeting Room A, ICPL. Bodenstein will discuss her book and invite participants to share their story of growing up in Iowa.

Free and open to the public. Books will be available for sale. Bodenstein will autograph “Growing Up Country” at the end of the program.

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Annual Report, extracted from front page

By The Numbers

Last year records were set for people entering the building and number of items borrowed or downloaded. We had a high of 3,836,486 last year at more than 2,200 non-Library meetings booked. Use of electronic databases increased by more than 50 percent and downloads increased by more than 100 percent in FY11.

The Library contracted to provide access to children’s literature materials for students and faculty of the University of Iowa College of Education and School of Library and Information Science following the closure of their Curriculum Laboratory. This brought new users to the Children’s Room. Funding from the contract provided an increase in hours for the part-time staff. The extra hours resulted in an increase from 133 children’s outreach programs in FY10 to 237 in FY11.

The number of questions asked at both the Children’s and the Reference Desk increased, and the use of Reference Chat service at the Reference Desk up 66 percent.

Partnerships

ICPL celebrates one of its oldest continual partnerships in February. Hills Bank and Trust Company was recognized for supporting the Region with Books project for 29 years. Hills Bank and Trust Company has provided 2,900 books and reading kits annually to preschoolers at Iowa City hospitals since the program began.

ICPL’s partnership with the City of Iowa UNICOLO City of Literature continued and took on a new look this year – a BIG book look. In June, the Bookmarks project debuted with some 26 banners by Midwest artists. Bookmarks is a joint public art project of the City of Literature and the public libraries of Coralville, Iowa City and North Liberty. The banners will remain on display through October and then be auctioned at a fundraiser.

ICPL staff once again planned Children’s Day at the Iowa Am Fest and contributed to the Iowa City Book Festival. Other partners included Ochtrapp Iowa, Therapy Dog of Johnson County, Ragetti Shirts, Iowa Public Television, Johnson County Library’s Community, Prairie Lights, Iowa City Hispanic, and Friends of Filmmaker.

Consumer Service

“Several significant changes were made this year with the goal of making things easier for our customers,” said Craig.

Staff at all service desks were trained to explain express options on library card accounts. Previously, patrons with an expired card were directed to the Circulation Desk. Now they can receive help in the closer desk. Training for staff also focused on reporting users with electronic devices that don’t work. Reminders of Library materials were improved by allowing a second email on non-renewed three-week material, and for the first time, offering the option to renew items in the online catalog.

In January, an Express Internet Kiosk station was introduced near the Fiction Desk on the first floor. This provides short sessions and no library card is needed. More Express stations are planned for the coming year. In the spring, a fifth self-checkout station was added in the Children’s Room, just in time for the busy summer season.

Staff Reorganization

A new organizational chart was introduced that changes the names and responsibilities of some of the Library’s departments and creates cross-departmental teams with many different experience levels and multiple selections, technology, customer service and staff development.

In anticipation of combining support at the Circulation and Fiction Desks into one new Help Desk, some staff have started to cross-train. More people will work in multiple departments and he trained to work more easily between service points. Continue reorganization all Library has to offer this year, and look for new opportunities created as patrons enjoy the improved access to public computers at a new ten remote location convenient for residents of eastsider Iowa City.

Spotlight on the Collection

Puppetry takes center stage

In the Iowa City Public Library has long enjoyed the world of puppetry. Since back in the days of the Carnegie building, the library has offered puppetry for children to check out and do puppet shows. These include performances by the KidzPuppets drama group and shows about Popeye the Pepper and Magic Man. For 20 plus years, ICPL has hosted the annual Popeye Pepper Fest with professional puppet troops from the Midwest and local puppeteers.

This year’s Puppetry Festival will feature three special performances on Saturday, October 29. Liz Schachterle, a professional puppeteer and theatre artist from Minneapolis, will perform for “Three Vignettes” show featuring a shadow puppet show called “An Afternoon Nap,” a performance of “Bury LOG” by local puppeteer Ruby Quaen, and a third show to be announced. Pope, the star of the festival, will appear with Magic Man in a Spooky Poo Fest featuring Dennis Woyman and Dance Parent. And the Library’s own KidzPuppets drama group will perform “See Me Timmee, a Pirate Yall” followed by nuke and take home puppetry crafts.

The venue is free and open to all ages.

Interested in learning more? ICPL offers great puppetry resources. These include books for all ages related to puppetry and puppet shows plus hands-on activities for check out. Children’s branch also encourage kids to use the Storytime Room puppet theatre to create their own shows. Also, for fourth to sixth graders who enjoy acting, a weekly KidzPuppets youth club is offered for children to learn puppetry and creativity.

For more information, contact Debbie Dunn at 319-887-6028 or ddunn@icpl.org.
Auction Date Announced

The Midwest who created the 28 statues. Public Library, Iowa City Public Library, a partnership between the Iowa City, is a part of ICPL’s Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival. “The Bookmarks are the fruits of a seed of a kind, and believed to be first in the world, book-themed public art display. It is unique, and believed to be first in the country. The Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature, Coralville Public Library, North Liberty Community Library, local sponsors, and artists from throughout the Midwest who created the 28 statues. You can tour all of these until late October. A guide map is available at the public library, downloadable at http://bookmarksicpl.org.

Each of the statues represents a person or group who proposed the program said, “We end of the program. Everyone is invited to the public auction of many of the statues. Mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, Nov. 10, at the new Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, to bid on the one you love, or one that you and a group want to purchase for one of our local schools. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature and the public library of Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty.

Anna’s additional auction information will be available later in the fall at apl.org.

Reading Helps Residents Reminisce

Carol Bodenstein, who grew up on an Iowa dairy farm, writes about country hospitality, the country life, sailing in corn, horse chores, and other rustic resources with people who give up their lives in the Midwest. Recently, volunteer readers have been sharing Bodenstein’s book, “Growing Up Iowa, Memories of an Iowa Farm Girl,” and leading discussions about childhood memories at 11 area retirement residences and care centers. These discussions are part of a program Iowa City Hospice and the Iowa City Public Library have partnered on for the past three years. Volunteers read aloud and their live discussion intended to stimulate memories. For this year, volunteers have contributed more than 100 volunteer hours reading to more than 360 people.

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— Anna Iowa City Hospice Volunteer

The peak of the reading program is to:

Make meaningful connections

Help people reminisce

Provide companionship and stimulation

As a part of this series, ICPL will host Bodenstein for an author visit on Wednesday, Oct. 26, in Meeting Room A. Bodenstein will discuss her book and invite participants to share their story of growing up in Iowa. She will talk about how she came to write the memoir and will read short selections from the book.

Join Bodenstein, a volunteer reader who proposed the program said, “We look forward to the opportunity to meet Carol Bodenstein and talk about her memoirs with the people who attend the readings and discussions.” For more information, call the Fiction Desk at 319-356-5200, ext. 4