Join 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten encourages parents and caregivers to do just that: read 1,000 books to a child before they enter kindergarten. Doing so strengthens a child’s language skills and builds their vocabulary — two important tools for beginning readers.

Program registration is ongoing and can be completed at the Children’s Desk during regular Library hours. Each 1,000 Books participant receives a bookmark to record their first 250 books. Once it’s complete, children can bring it to the Children’s Room for their next bookmark. There are four in all, each one tracking 250 books. Children will receive a prize for every bookmark they complete.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten launched in February, backed by the support of a $10,000 Employee Challenge Fund for Literacy grant from Pearson. To date, more than 200 early readers have signed up to participate.

For more information, visit icpl.org/1000books.

Is there a baby or a toddler in your life? If the answer is yes, sign up for the Iowa City Public Library’s newest early childhood literacy initiative.

Saturday, May 21
6:30-8:30pm, Pedestrian Plaza

Gather on the Ped Mall for a special Saturday night concert to wrap up our year-long Music is the Word series welcoming the University of Iowa School of Music to downtown Iowa City. Join Catfish Keith for some foot-stomping deep-delta blues and American roots music. Come see why he has been described as “The real acoustic blues king.”

Rain Location: Iowa City Public Library Meeting Room A. icpl.org/mitw

Catfish Keith
When a classic book ages into the public domain, anyone can publish it, often resulting in auto-generated cover designs for some of the world’s greatest literary works.

These books deserve better.

In 2013, Recovering the Classics asked designers from around the world to reimagine the covers for books in the public domain. This literary makeover resulted in hundreds of recreated covers.

Now, they’re taking the show on the road with 50x50, Recovering the Classics’ travelling exhibit of 50 redesigned book covers. The goal is to make an appearance in all 50 states.

ICPL will continue to honor book cover design during the 2016 Art Purchase Prize competition, also held in October. While the same rules as years past apply (visit icpl.org/art/prize for entry criteria), all of this year’s submissions must be a redesign of a book cover in the public domain.

Check icpl.org for more information as it becomes available.

Children’s Day!
Saturday, June 4, 10am–3pm
Pedestrian Plaza, Iowa City at the Iowa City Arts Festival
Businesses have a new opportunity to participate in the continued growth of the Iowa City Public Library.

The Board of Directors of the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation created the Business Partner of the Month sponsorship for those businesses interested in exposure to the average 2,200 daily Library visitors.

A banner announcing the support of this special sponsor will be displayed for an entire month just inside ICPL’s entrance so it cannot be missed. The Business Partner of the Month will also be announced on the Library’s public communication platforms, including social media, website, electronic signs and Channel 20.

The Business Partner of the Month is the top level of sponsorship of the Library Friends Foundation. Opportunities begin at $250 annually.

For more information, contact Patty McCarthy, ICPL Development Director; patty-mccarthy@icpl.org or (319) 356-5249.

Every contribution has a positive impact on your Iowa City Public Library! Thank you for giving as generously as you can to ensure the Library’s continued success.

Giving is easy

Online - Visit our secure site at www.icpl.org/support/donate to use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express.

Payroll deduction - Give through Iowa Shares if you work for City of Iowa City, Johnson County, University of Iowa, Iowa City Community School District, and other local public and private employers.

Check or Credit Card - Use the form below. Mail to ICPL Development Office, 123 S. Linn St., Iowa City, IA 52240.

Questions? Contact Patty McCarthy, Development Director, at (319) 356-5249 or patty-mccarthy@icpl.org

I/We are proud to support the Iowa City Public Library with a contribution to the Friends Foundation Annual Fund at the following level:

- Literary Circle $2,500 and more
- Publisher’s Circle $1,000-$2,499
- Editor’s Circle $500-$999
- Author’s Circle $250-$499
- Reader’s Circle $100-$249
- Book Lovers $50-$99
- Bookplate $1-$49

Enclosed is my/our contribution of $ __________________________

Payment Type:  
- Check made payable to the ICPL Friends Foundation
  - Please charge my:
    - Visa  [ ]  MasterCard  [ ]  Discover  [ ]  American Express  [ ]

ACCOUNT NUMBER  EXP. DATE  CVV CODE

__________________________  ____________________________  

SIGNATURE (REQUIRED)

NAME(S)

ADDRESS  CITY  STATE  ZIP

PHONE  EMAIL
All eyes will be on Rio de Janeiro in August, the host city for the 2016
Summer Olympic Games — when they aren’t on a book.

On Your Mark, Get Set… Read! is the theme for this year’s Summer
Reading Program. Be part of our team May 31 through July 31 for a
lineup of programs and events that brings the spirit of the games to
ICPL! Our starting roster includes all ages, babies to adults, because
reading benefits everyone!

Registration for the 2016 Summer Reading Program begins May 31.
You can register online at srp.icpl.org
or in person at the Library.

The Library thanks the Iowa City
Public Library Friends Foundation
and other sponsors for supporting the
2016 Summer Reading Program.

School-Age Children and Teens
Studies have shown that students experience
learning loss when they do not engage in
educational activities during the summer.
According to United We Serve: Let’s Read,
Let’s Move, part of President Obama’s
United We Serve Initiative, reading just five
books this summer can help prevent summer
learning loss, while also improving students’
thecy, vocabulary and comprehension.

Babies and Toddlers
Research shows that the most reliable
predictor of school success is being
ready to enter early childhood.
Reading to children helps
close the vocabulary gap
and prepares them for
kindergarten. Sharing
books with children also
promotes a lifelong
love of books and
reading.

Adults
According to research
published in Neuropsychology, reading
can help slow down the decline
in memory and brain function
that comes with aging. If that’s
not reason enough to pick
up a book, a study published in
Science found that literary
fiction helps readers develop
more empathy, while Ohio
State University researchers say
nonfiction books that focus
on someone who overcame
obstacles may motivate you
to meet your own goals.
A Sugar Creek Chronicle: Observing Climate Change From a Midwestern Woodland
by Cornelia Mutel
I’m just starting this nonfiction work pairing ecology, memoir, and climate change study published by University of Iowa Press. It is very readable and I’m learning more about changes to Iowa woodlands.

The Queen of the Night
by Alexander Chee
Celebrated opera singer Lilliet Berne is asked to play the lead in a new opera—a role that seems to uncannily follow her life—her secret life. Who of the four people in Paris gave her secret away? I dare you to pick up this historical novel and then try to put it down.

A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms
by George R.R. Martin
It’s a nice book to tide you over as you wait for the next installment of the Game of Thrones books.

My Father, the Pornographer: A Memoir
by Chris Offutt
Offutt sifts through the manuscripts, letters, and other remnants of his father’s life, seeing him in a new light and gaining some sort of understanding of the man whose career as a pornographic novelist had a profound effect on his family.
The group at Briarwood Health Care Center is small but lively, the conversation growing louder as they flip through the travel books in front of them, pausing at pictures of food or castles to share a comment or ask a question. By the time the hour ends, everyone is smiling.

“We love when you come and visit,” one resident says.

The Library recently launched a new outreach program for local care facilities called Tales & Travel Memories. Geared towards individuals with dementia, the goal of the program is to facilitate conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. Each hour-long visit focuses on a particular country or region, with participants encouraged to share their travel experiences or other recollections.

“It brings back memories,” a resident replies when asked what she likes about the program.

“It reinforces stuff we learned long ago,” another resident adds.

Thanks to a grant from the Pilot Club of Iowa City, the Library has created Tales & Travel Memories kits for three locations: Iowa, Germany and the Tropics. The kits include facts about the location, and a folktale or story that represents the area, which are read aloud by the program facilitator. Illustrated books selected from the Library’s collection are distributed for participants to browse at their leisure.

To date, eight care facilities have hosted Tales & Travel Memories. Library staff are working to expand options beyond the original kits.

“I love the atmosphere that’s created during the program, which is different each time depending on the group and ranges from mellow to boisterous,” says Stacey McKim, the Library’s Volunteer & Outreach Assistant. “It’s a delight to hear people's stories, however big or small, and see connections being made.”

For more information, or to schedule a Tales & Travel Memories program at your facility, call 319-887-6025 or e-mail stacey-mckim@icpl.org.
Sign up for Check It Out, our online newsletter.

Delivered the third Thursday of every month, Check It Out has the latest information about upcoming events and other Library news. To subscribe, visit the City of Iowa City’s website (icgov.org) and fill out the E-subscription form under the Connect header.