

any families create weekend routines to savor time together. No alarms. No hurry to leave home.

The Neiman-Brown family's weekend tradition often included a trip to downtown Iowa City where their bikes could be locked and stowed outside the Iowa City Public Library. Then to the Bread Garden Market where two-year-old JJ (Jack Joseph) and parents Maurine Neiman and Bennett Brown, would enjoy doughnuts for breakfast, a special treat. All would be tucked in at a table overlooking the Library.

Maurine said, "JJ would joyfully run across the ped mall ahead of me, absolutely certain of the route through the double doors, and smiling as he rounded the corner to go out of my sight straight into the children's room. I would catch up and find him playing at the play kitchen making pizza with friends...he called everyone his

Continued on page 2





New Beginnings

ust after 2021 starts, newborn babies will leave Iowa City's hospitals with an amazing gift—a just-published unique Begin with Books picture book. *Iowa City Counts* was written, illustrated, and published by Hills Bank to honor the 30th anniversary of Begin with Books. It is a partnership between the Iowa City Public Library and Hills Bank which has presented a book to some 60,000 babies since it began in 1991.

Iowa City Counts is perfect for reading aloud. It features colorful scenes of local treasures and words to help reinforce learning numbers from one through ten. Dwight Seegmiller, President of Hills Bank, said, "All of us at Hills bank believe reading is a positive influence in the life of a child. We enjoy being part of the Begin with Books program as it celebrates a special occasion for families in our community. We look forward to

helping launch a new generation of children with this book and this program."

Inside the colorful Begin with Books box, families will find the book, congratulatory letters from Seegmiller and Elsworth Carman, ICPL Director, with information to encourage Library visits and reading. Carman said, "This gift could be the baby's first book. It's great that anyone in the family can read it to

THE WINDOW

Winter 2020

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Library building and Bookmobile are closed until further notice.

Programs are available online and through social media 24/7.

Mon - Sat, 10am - 6pm

Pick up reserved Library materials from the lobby or access staff help by email/ chat/phone call. No late fines.

Visit icpl.org/COVID for updates.

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JJ's Legacy, cont'd from page 1

friend..." There's a tiny strain in her voice as she describes that memory.

Maureen catches her breath before continuing to speak about their last special weekend before JJ died and his Library legacy was born. Sunday, February 2, 2020, was a rare winter day—warm enough for bike rides—and an ice cream treat before several hours in the Library selecting books to borrow and read together at home.

In late afternoon, Maurine said JJ's flushed cheeks and feeling warm to the touch prompted them to head home. Acetaminophen and a bath brought his fever down enough for dinner and a movie before he fell asleep in her lap. In his crib after a goodnight kiss, he sleepily asked to hold hands as usual until he fell back asleep. He peacefully died in his sleep. Maurine and Bennett later learned JJ, despite being fully vaccinated, had influenza and undiagnosed asymptomatic asthma. Maurine, a biologist, said, "The latter increases the risk of infection by and death associated with the flu, highlighting the importance of community vaccination to protect the vulnerable along with yourselves."

A month short of his third birthday, the passing of this energetic, curious, friendly child who loved to dance to

WHOO-KU
HAIKU
BRAVE

PARCE

A Manuary

A Man

Prince music, is the reason there are dozens of new children's Library books on ICPL's shelves. You'll know them because each includes JJ's bookplate as seen in the photo above.

JJ's parents requested memorials be made to "charities that uplift women and children." Hundreds of dollars flowed to the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation in JJ's name. His legacy is books that reflect his passions: animals, especially birds and from Australia/New Zealand, science, sign language, languages other than English. His favorite story, *And Tango Makes Three*, mirrors his love of everyone.

Maurine says that sharing JJ's story doesn't, "Stop the heartbreak. But it's eased a little by thinking about other families picking up and reading JJ's books. We're amazed at everyone's generosity and want them to know how much we appreciate them. The Library is a huge part of so many lives. It's central to our family and it's a comfort that he lives on there."

New Beginnings, cont'd from page 1

the baby. Begin with Books is a foundation for reading every day which complements the early literacy programs offered by ICPL."

"This new beginning for the Begin with Books program with Hills Bank is greatly appreciated. It ties with our decision to highlight the impact of donations to the Friends Foundation by purchasing more for children. During this Year of the Picture Book, hundreds of new titles will be added."

You can make a difference with a financial contribution to the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation. Mail a check in the envelope from this newsletter or give online at icpl.org/about/donate. Questions? Contact Patty McCarthy, Development Director, 319-356-5249 or development@icpl.org.



Laura Ebinger
President, Board of
Directors ICPL Friends



Elsworth Carman Library Director

Dear Friends,

Library are named Patience and Fortitude? They were named by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia during the Great Depression after the qualities he felt New Yorkers needed to get through those trying times. The year 2020 has required all of us to summon our patience and fortitude (so very much!) and I'm proud of how the ICPL and our community have found ways to forge on during this tough time.

Foundation

As this letter reaches your mailbox, we will have been learning to live with the virus for 10 months. We are so grateful for your patience while the Library found safe ways to offer services and connect during this time. It takes fortitude and innovation to find entirely new ways to offer services, but our wonderful staff has met that challenge head on. Zoom classes, expanded digital offerings, Book Bunches, Grab and Go, the list goes on.

Demand for books and digital offerings has increased dramatically over the past months and your generous gifts have enabled the ICPL to meet that demand. Gifts to the Friends Foundation stock our eBook supply to keep our community well-read, informed, and entertained at home.

The ICPL staff is working tirelessly to prepare the Library for a full return to services. Libraries provide a light in times of darkness, and your support and solidarity will keep the ICPL standing strong during these uncertain times. Please join me in supporting the Library this winter.

Seamus Heaney said "If we winter this one out, we can summer anywhere." While Heaney referred to the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the quote has significance now.

We will winter this one out with patience and fortitude and may all of our summers come soon. — Laura



Dear Friends,

hope this edition of *The Window* finds you feeling safe, warm, healthy, and connected to the people and resources you love. For many of us, winter events will look different this year, but you can count on ICPL to provide you with information and entertainment all winter long, just like "usual"!

Early on in the closure, we developed a phased reopening plan designed to guide us through stages of service development. Maintaining public health and safety is our primary goal. At the time I am writing this letter, services and stages are being revised because the situation is changing. To better navigate between phases, Library service spaces have been retooled and staff have been cross trained to efficiently respond to community needs. We continue to work with Johnson County Public Health to determine safe practices while striving to promote access to the best of our ability during this time.

As a director, it's hard to put into words the appreciation I have for the work of Library staff and volunteers during the pandemic. Over the last ten months, our Library Board of Trustees, Friends Foundation, and staff have stretched and learned how to continue our shared work in new ways. This has been rewarding, even in the most difficult moments. Traditional programs have been virtualized, meetings have been moved online, and countless other things have shifted, but the commitment to serving our patrons in a safe way has never wavered. With humor, grace, and perseverance, staff and volunteers have made sure ICPL remained an active hub of community life...even when our services are limited.

And our patrons! What a joy it is to see your masked faces back in the lobby. I am so thankful for the ways you have been patient with our process, trusted our plans, followed our new safety guidelines, and kept us on our toes with suggestions for service changes and materials requests. The deep winter months are a great time to explore all the things your Library has to offer; please consider this a personal invitation to participate in our virtual classes and programs, holds pickup, crafts to go, reference and personalized recommendations, and collections.

As always, your feedback is highly valued and welcome any time. Stay well! — Elsworth

Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation Donor Honor Roll

Generous donations from the following friends of the Iowa City Public Library made a difference for the thousands of people who interact with the Library. The generous gifts of money, books, movies, music, and other items were received from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Please contact us at development@icpl.org with any questions.

Thank you for showing your library love with your generosity.

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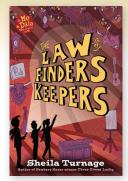
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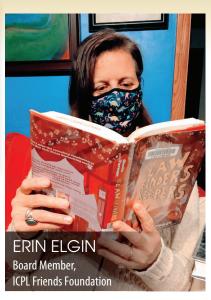




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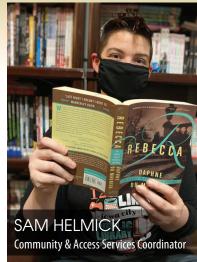
The Law of Finders Keepers by Sheila Turnage



We discovered Mo & Dale—rising sixth graders—this summer and it was love at first chapter. If you like witty dialogue, quirky characters and intriguing mysteries, check out *Three Times Lucky* and work your way to *The Law of Finders Keepers*. We read all the books aloud and recommend doing the same. Enjoy!



Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier



"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again" is a fantastic opening line in literature and certainly belongs in the same space as "Call me Ishmael." Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* has a woman, a man, another woman's shadow, a landscape, a house, and a hidden history. These six elements are the heart of this romantic gothic classic. Reading the struggle between two powerful women, one waking up to a new life and one not content to remain a ghost, is a delight which I return to again and again.

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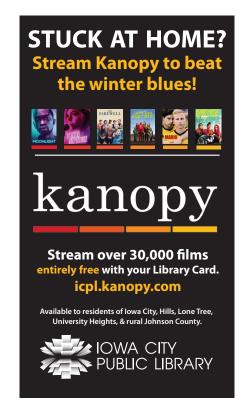
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We have suggestions for YOU!



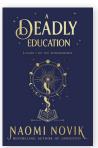
Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo



This novel in verse follows two young women navigating identity, forgiveness, the utter numbness of grief and what family really

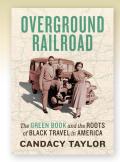
means. Acevedo is celebrated as a YA author, but her adeptness at developing plot and characters that resonate with what it means to be human transcends a predefined audience.



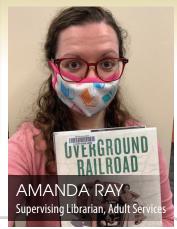


A Deadly Education by Naomi Novick

Fast-paced adventure Fantasy set in a boarding school for magical teens who are desperate to learn enough spells to survive the terrifying monster-gauntlet that is Graduation Day. A good choice for older teen and adult fans of Buffy, The Magicians, or other dark comedy Fantasy stories.



Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America by Candacy Taylor



This book is not only a history of the publication of

the Green Book, it's also full of great illustrations

and stories of Black Americans across the country

making their own spaces during Jim Crow, and a

fascinating look at the evolution of road travel



THE HEART'S INVISIBLE FURIES JOHN BOYNE

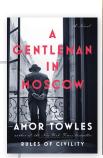
in America.

The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne

I'm currently reading *The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne. It's the story of a Irish man who was born to a single mother and adopted by a wealthy, but unaffectionate couple. The book follows him every seven years throughout his life.

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

This book has a terrific plot and engaging characters that grab you from the start. The writing is excellent. You get a little bit of everything-love, politics, history, twists-through the view of one man's life during the Bolshevik era. There is truly something for everyone in this title.

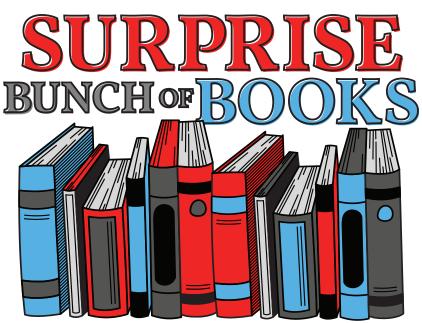






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We'll create your surprise bundle and arrange for you to pick up curbside from the lowa City Public Library. Or your surprise can be delivered, free of charge, in lowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty thanks to the lowa City Downtown District.

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