



# LIBRARY SERVICES

APRIL  
2022

## Over 100 People Take a Vacation Through Time

Vacation Thru Time took over 100 BPL patrons back in time to the night of the Titanic's sinking. Each participant received a passport and a boarding pass before going through the exhibits and doing some hands on activities. Bethany and Becky pulled off a magical evening that had people raving and excited for the next voyage to Egypt in July!



### The Amazing Public Library

By Eli Bender – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

The Burlington Public Library is the best place in Burlington! It has lots of good books! There are over 160,000 things to checkout and they are free! It is huge and has nice workers. They checkout over 300,000 books every year. My brother takes robotic and Lego classes at the Burlington Library. If you have not gone there, you are soooooo missing out!



## Library Super Fan

Eli, an 8 year-old super fan of the library, came in to present his first research paper, which he wrote on the Burlington Public Library. He called the library to talk with the staff as primary sources for the information that he included in his report, and was enthusiastic and read with gusto as he presented his paper to the staff! \*See the library's Facebook page for recording of Eli reading.

ADVENTURES  
IN IOWA'S  
CULINARY  
HISTORY

\*ADULT  
PROGRAM



The Burlington Public Library is taking a step toward inclusivity by becoming one of Iowa's first sensory-friendly public libraries.



THEHAWKEYE.COM

How the Burlington Public Library is creating inclusive space with sensory bags, diverse books and training

## Sensory Initiative Gets Attention

The Sunday edition of the Hawk Eye on April 24th ran an article on our inclusivity project, garnering attention from the community as well as nationally with the AP picking up the article for further distribution! An excited patron was even compelled to give a \$250 donation for the cause after reading the article! The team also was invited to present on a podcast. Community members commented on Facebook about the article "FANTASTIC!!!! LOVE this!!!!!" and "Love our library! Love these ladies who give quality service!"

## Library As Family Search Affiliate

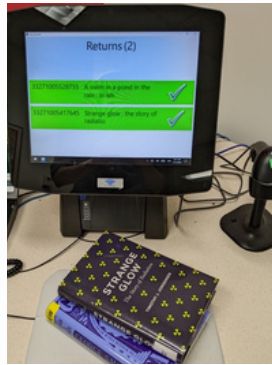
Community members now have access to scanned images of thousands of records. The FamilySearch.org site is a free genealogy research site, but, as one of our users noted, many of the links to records tell researchers that they need to go to their local LDS Family History Center or to an affiliated library. The Burlington Public Library is now one of those affiliated libraries. Anyone using the FamilySearch site on our library computers can see all of the content. For example, the user who told us how excited she was that we now are affiliated shared that she used to have to drive to Nauvoo to follow the link to the record. On that evening, she came the short distance to our library and was able to copy marriage records from Germany in the 1700s.

## April By The Numbers

21,331 physical items borrowed & 5,158 items downloaded  
1,554 participants attended 78 programs  
59 new borrower accounts opened  
5,847 uses of online databases  
213 items borrowed and loaned through interlibrary loan  
314 meeting room reservations made

## Process Improvements

As we prepare for the new Smart Bins, we've already been able to improve our circulation processes thanks to the Sort Assistant that we have set up to use with the bins. This new device makes checking in materials faster. The RFID pad can check in multiple items at once and the software presents the barcode/item name/item status in a much larger, more readable font and color codes the materials for easier sorting.

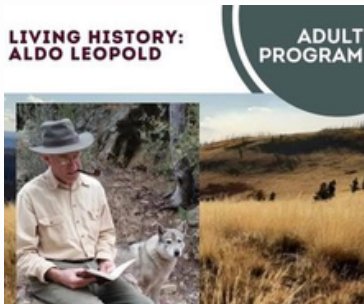


The Sort Assistant also made it possible to switch from our laminated hand-written hold slips to automatically printed ones. This integrates hold slips more seamlessly into the check in process and standardizes the look of the slips on the holds shelf. We eagerly await the smart bins to make the process even faster, safer, and more reliable.



## Staff Training

Four members of the library team travelled to Ames for a conference focused on serving youth in public libraries that is offered by the State Library of Iowa on alternating years. From fabulous author keynotes, to practical sessions on programming and much more in-between, their days were filled with valuable workshops, networking and motivation!



## Leopold Month

In partnership with The Leopold Landscape Alliance, the library hosted actor Steve Morgan who portrayed Aldo Leopold. The library also hosted a discussion of Leopold's Sand County Almanac.

## Friends News

At their April meeting, the Friends board granted the library funds for program expenses, including more tote bags and incentives for the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative.

The Friends also held their annual election and membership renewal drive.

## Family Night Celebrates Earth Day



The Master Gardeners joined us for this month's after hours family night celebrating Earth Day. After offering a craft for all the children, the volunteer gardeners said they enjoyed the experience so much that they want to come back next year. Families also got to play Sustainability BINGO, do a recycle relay, and pick out some flower and vegetable seed packs.

## Community Comments

A Facebook post for National Library Week generated some library memories in the following community comments:

- "Our kids found so much joy in reading with Miss Debbie at story time. She introduced us to so many lovable characters and stories. (She is greatly missed!)"
- "Miss Kathy read to me when I was younger - so it's been fun to have my kids talk with her about books, also!"
- "There are so many wonderful librarians and employees at the library that have given us great recommendations to enjoy and stretch our imaginations!"

## More News and Projects

In April Kindness Club ran a Bee Kind campaign focusing on honeybees. They posted videos, including one where Lois put on the beekeeper gear and got up close and personal with Brittany's bees. The campaign will culminate in May with the distribution of 50 Bee Kind kits containing wildflower seeds & informative materials.

Local history requests range from those which can be resolved quickly & easily, such as emailing an article or obituary from Newspaper Archives, to the more in-depth furniture lookups and obituary requests in which the person being researched was difficult to track down and no information was readily available from the usual sources. One very interesting request came from a correspondent who is writing a story for a major newspaper about his ancestors, Lucy & Eunice Woodward, early Burlington photographers who had a studio on Jefferson Street for several years in the 1890s/early 1900s.

We also had a request from a researcher interested in "Aunt" Rachel Bundy, who came to Burlington about 1839 with a Captain Eastman as an enslaved person, was supported by a group in the community in a bid for her freedom and whose case was heard in the Iowa Territorial Legislature in Old Zion. "Aunt Rachel" was granted her freedom and eventually retired here in Burlington in her own home at 230 South Boundary Street (somewhere near what is now Division St & Central Ave). When she died in 1879, Aunt Rachel was speculated to be the oldest woman in Iowa at somewhere around 105 years old. This request led to the creation of a local history clipping file for Aunt Rachel and an offer by the researcher to present a program.