

Today in EYE-OPENER April 18, 2016

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**1) State Library Wins “Friend of Extension” Award:** Last month, the State Library was honored to receive a “**Friend of Extension**” award. This special recognition was given for our agency’s efforts in promoting “**Smart Investing @ Your Library**” in partnership with Iowa State University Extension.

**Smart Investing @ Your Library** was developed with a grant through the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation and the

American Library Association. The program was offered at more than 40 public libraries from 2010-2013, and taught by ISU Extension specialists who delivered financial and investor education to rural communities across Iowa. And the State Library was a primary partner is helping to facilitate the project.

**Smart Investing** provided each library with resources to present three events to patrons: a finance-related program and discussion, a six-week investment class, and a post-class speaker. The programming used a variety of technologies and outreach strategies to bring quality financial and investor education opportunities at no cost. Librarians received training on the use of web-based investment resources, and each participating library also used grant funds to expand their collection of financial and investment materials.

The award was given by the Iowa Alpha Mu Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP), Iowa State University Extension and Outreach’s honor society. Thanks to Emily Bainter for this article and photo. With special thanks to Alysia Peich for much of the coordination!

**2) Be RAGBRAI Receptive:** It’s still about 3 months out, but already conversation has surfaced on IOWALIB regarding **RAGBRAI** and how libraries along the route can be involved. This year’s **Great Bike Ride Across Iowa** happens **July 23-30**, taking a southern track beginning in Glenwood and ending in Muscatine.



Last summer, the **Eye-Opener** included ideas and stories from libraries that have been actively involved, alongside other community boosters, in rolling out the welcome mat to bike riders from literally around the world. Libraries should rightfully be involved because **RAGBRAI** means wonderful community engagement opportunities. Maryann Mori, Consultant with Central IA District, is an avid cyclist and **RAGBRAI** rider herself. She wrote this article last year and we feel it bears repeating!

Maryann writes: "...As a **RAGBRAI** rider myself, I can tell you that the riders love libraries, especially if your library is right on the path of the ride. Some riders will hunt for you even if you're off the designated route. It's a given to have bathrooms open, AC, water fountains, and places to recharge portable devices. Here are some other welcoming things that libraries have done over the years when participating in **RAGBRAI**:

- Offer freebie paperbacks (no need to have a library card, just take a book and enjoy)
- Allow cyclists to stay overnight in the library. Knoxville and Waverly, among others, have done this and it's a wonderful service
- Offer WI-FI and computers; find a way to have extra outlets and charging stations for portable devices and make those recharging areas obvious
- Provide a "recoup room" via a meeting room where cyclists can crash for a few hours just to stretch out, sit in quiet, or soak up the A/C
- Extend normal hours of operations to coincide with RAGBRAI's arrival (possibly staying open later or opening earlier in the morning)
- Have a guest book for cyclists to leave impressions of your library's hospitality
- Purchase a RAGBRAI poster and have cyclists sign it with their home cities notes. Zearing PL did this; the poster is now a great memento.
- Offer homemade cookies; if libraries are planning to do a food booth, I recommend goodies on the healthy side. Try hard-boiled eggs on a stick, fresh fruit such as baggies of chilled grapes, cold strawberries, or watermelon slices as a welcome alternative.
- Be sure to contact and coordinate with your city's RAGBRAI committee if you plan to host a food booth or overnight guests. In fact, you should be in contact with your local committee about any activities you plan to do during RAGBRAI.

*Most of all, have a welcoming attitude toward the cyclists. Many of us scope out libraries along the route, and it's a little disheartening to learn that the library is closed on the day RAGBRAI comes to town. If you can keep your doors open and provide at least one of the aforementioned amenities, please do! Participating in RAGBRAI is a great way to showcase the city's amenities, and a great opportunity for you to meet very cool people from all over the U.S. and beyond!..."*



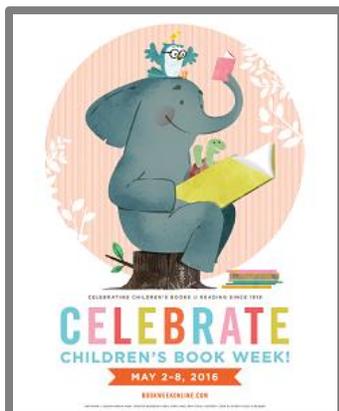
**3) “Here’s To Your Health” Webinar Series:** At Iowa Library Services, we’ve put together a 3-part webinar series on health and wellness topics. With *Employee Health & Fitness Month* in May, *Men’s Health Month* in June, and this year’s Summer Reading theme all about healthy kids, these webinars offer plenty of resources to move you into a

healthier groove! These begin in late April and continue in May and June. Register for one, two, or all three in the c.e. catalog <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/> Here’s a summary of what’s included in each session:

**April 26 (1:30-2:30PM) De-Stressing Your Job & Life.** *“...You won’t often see “librarian” noted on lists of stress-filled occupations. However, as much as we love working in a library, we know the job is not without stress. In this session, we’ll review some of the causes of stress as well as provide simple yet effective ways to help reduce stress on the job and in your personal life...”*

**May 25 (10:00-11:30AM) Serving Mentally-Challenged Library Users: A Crash Course on Controlling Clashes** *“...Patrons who show signs of mental illness can be confusing and upsetting to the toughest and most seasoned among us. This webinar will increase your understanding of mental illness, help you protect staff and patrons in rare instances of possible violence, and show you how to locate possible resources to lean on when necessary...”*

**June 2 (10:00-11:00AM) Introduction to Free Health Information Resources.** *“...June is recognized as Men’s Health Month, so what better time to learn more about free health resources online. Chris Childs with the University of Iowa’s Hardin Library leads this webinar, showcasing a variety of websites from the National Library of Medicine. Attendees will be introduced to wellness resources that cover genetics, environmental health, and toxicology awareness for adults and children. All freely available online and all great resources to share with your community.*



**4) Children’s Book Week May 2-8, 2016:** No doubt, you just celebrated National Library Week, the premier annual recognition of libraries and their contributions to community vitality. Keep the celebration going by participating in another recognition week **May 2-8** when libraries across the country will celebrate **Children’s Book Week**.

For 97 years, **Children's Book Week** has been an annual celebration of books for young people and finding joy in reading. Established in 1919, **Children's Book Week** is the longest-running national literacy initiative in the country. Every year, commemorative events are held nationwide at schools, libraries, bookstores, and homes—wherever young readers and books connect.

**Children's Book Week** is administered by [Every Child A Reader](#), a 501(c)(3) literacy organization dedicated to instilling a lifelong love of reading in children. The [Children's Book Council](#), the national non-profit trade association for children's book publishers, is an anchor sponsor.

Each year, the Children's Book Council enlists popular children's book illustrators to design the commemorative **Children's Book Week** poster and bookmark. At this website, you can download the winning 2016 poster by Brian Won and bookmark by Cece Bell. You'll also find digital items to add to your websites, flyers, press releases, and teacher resources. Let us know how you'll celebrate **Children's Book Week 2016 @ your library** ☺

**5) Meetings / Events This Week:** This week, I'll join Sioux City PL's board and management team as they begin revising their strategic plan.

**Website Worktimes** for those with **PLOW websites** will be held online this week in an Adobe Classroom. Two sessions to choose from: either Wednesday April 20 at 10:00AM or Thursday April 21 at 9:00AM. Everyone who works with a PLOW website is welcome to join Marie Harms and District LRTs in this Adobe classroom <https://ials.adobeconnect.com/webwork> No registration is required, simply type your name and library in the GUEST box and join us!

Find an assortment of national webinars in April at this link, registration details there too <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>

**April 19.** 10:00-11:00AM. *12 Things: New Directions for Collections* sponsored by Montana State Library <https://app.mt.gov/cal/html/event?eventCollectionCode=msl>

**April 19.** 1:00-2:00PM. *Successfully Implementing Volunteer Program Changes* sponsored by Volunteer Match <http://learn.volunteermatch.org/>

**April 20.** 10:00-11:00AM. *Collaborative Community Outreach for Local History and Genealogy* sponsored by Nebraska Library Commission <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL>

**April 20. 1:00-2:30PM. *Able Young Readers, Healthy Growing Bodies: Connecting Early Literacy to Health*** sponsored by Early Childhood Investigations  
<http://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/>

**April 20. 4:00-5:00PM. *Digital Collection Development - It's Still the Wild West!***  
sponsored by edWeb <http://www.edweb.net/emergingtech>



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