

## Libraries share impressive accomplishments in 2014

Iowa Library Services/State Library (IaLS) once again asked Iowa libraries of all types to share memorable stories in 2014 for the December issue of *Footnotes*, and share they did. We hope you enjoy reading about their successes.

“One of the big highlights for the Elgin Public Library was being named a “Star” Library in *Library Journal* for a second year in a row, moving up from three to four stars. We are very proud of this recognition. In addition, our circulation in October of 2014 reached an all-time high of 3,180. That’s a per capita check-out rate of 4.6 items. We also found out that our total circulation was over 9,000 items higher than the state average for a B-size library. The other new accomplishment that has helped these numbers is that I have added more outreach to the NFV Elementary School at Valley. I now read, do book talks and check out books to all students in K-6th grade every week. I love this new and exciting opportunity for our library.”

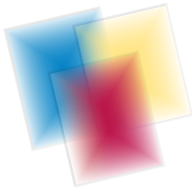
Lisa Leuck, Library Director  
Elgin Public Library

[Editors note: Other Iowa libraries that received Library Journal’s “America’s Star Libraries Award” this year were located in Alden, Churdan, Swea City, Dyersville, Boyden, Bancroft, Winthrop, Zearing, Readlyn, Hubbard and De Soto.]

“We were so thrilled to welcome former Syracuse and National Football League standout, lawyer, broadcaster, and current adult and young adult author Tim Green to Bunger Middle School (Waterloo) on October 16th. Mr. Green spent a half hour autographing books purchased and owned by students and staff (he even signed a football card a student brought in), and then gave an hour-long presentation to our entire student body. He finished his high-energy, engaging presentation by reading the first chapter of his new book, *First Team*. In addition to an amazing presentation, Mr. Green donated his speaking fee back to Bunger Middle School—and thanks to his generosity, we were able to purchase 120 copies of *First Team* to give to Bunger students.”



Kristen Hinders, Technology & Media Specialist  
Bunger Middle School  
Waterloo Community School District



"The North Liberty Community Library hosted a Minecraft party on Saturday, November 15. Minecraft is a game about breaking and placing blocks. At first, people built structures to protect against nocturnal monsters, but as the game grew players worked together to create wonderful, imaginative things. We had eight laptops set up with the game installed that the kids could play with for 20 minutes. For the four-hour program, that allotted for 96 slots of playtime. At no point during the program was a computer terminal unoccupied. The participants could sign up again after they had played 20 minutes, and we had about 70 different kids play over the course of the afternoon. We had an array of Minecraft-based crafts and snacks to occupy parents and siblings who weren't playing. We estimate there were over 125 people in attendance that afternoon. The program was a great success, and the number one question was, 'When are we doing this again?'"



"North Liberty also held the first ever Family Reading Challenge this summer and had 29 families participate. Families were challenged to have each member of their household participate in their respective summer reading program at the library and turn in their completed reading logs. They were then eligible for a drawing for a \$500 Wisconsin Dells vacation voucher donated by our Friends of the Library group. It was really fun to see kids telling their parents to get reading and to have both moms, dads and kids involved."

Jennie Garner, Library Director  
North Liberty Community Library

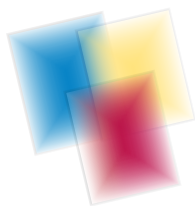
Significant highlights for this small library in 2014 included:

- repainting the interior with a grant from Keep Iowa Beautiful and Paint Iowa Beautiful
- adding more lighting over the book shelves;
- participating in the local Festival of Trails parade and hosting a packed house magic show;
- having nearly 400 people come through the library for the annual Chamber of Commerce Chocolate Walk;
- hosting Santa and Mrs. Claus, and providing crafts for children during the town Christmas celebration.

Jolene Kronschnabel, Library Director  
Hawkins Memorial Library  
La Porte City

"The Cascade Public Library celebrated our 45th anniversary this year. We also received a grant from Theisens for \$1,000 for an AWE computer or tablet."

Melissa Kane, Library Director  
Cascade Public Library



"The Oelwein Public Library built a 'Reading Garden' centered around an Iowa theme. We built a retaining wall using limestone blocks from the old Oelwein Chicago Great Western Railroad Shop building which had been recently torn down. All of the plants in the garden are native to Iowa. We commissioned special Anamosa Limestone benches and tables. One of the benches is supported by inscribed 'books' that are either about Iowa or were written by Iowa authors. This project was made possible by gifts and donations to the library."

Susan Macken, Director  
Oelwein Public Library

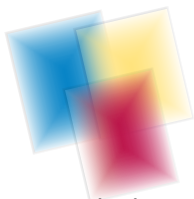
"We did a lot of fun stuff this year, but a highlight was being able to introduce a whimsical fun corridor leading to the children's department. Also, Eric Litwin, author of the famous *Pete the Cat* books was here to meet kids and sign books. His book, *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* won the Dubuque Picture Book Award (Bridge to Reading Award) last year, so it was a special treat to have him in town."

Susan Henricks, Library Director  
Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque



"Clinton Public Library was the largest giver of books for World Book Night (April 23rd) of any library in the United States. In November we were able to re-open the Lyons Branch of the library, which had been closed in the spring due to budget cuts. It has been re-purposed into a special collections library with a focus on genealogy and local history."

Bradley J. Wiles, Director  
Clinton Public Library



"Albion Municipal Library had a significant year. All items in our collection were entered into a digitized catalog system – we became 'automated.' Because of it, our volunteer hours totaled almost 700! Our programming highlights:

- Storyteller Darrin Crow (Cedar Rapids) did an excellent program on Iowan Inventors.
- Musician, author, artist Chad Elliott performed. We were one of his first stops on his 'One Horse Town' library tour. His book and CD set were hot off the press.

- We had three youth art open houses where we celebrated student art work from an adjacent school district. We honored students from three different districts during the month of March. Each school district displayed for a week at a time."



Julia E. Ohrt, Director  
Albion Municipal Library & Heritage Center

"The Dunn Library at Simpson College celebrated '50 years@Dunn' with the tag line, 'Decades of transforming learning opportunities.' Throwback Thursday photos went up on Facebook and open houses were held for the President's Society, the Simpson and Indianola communities, and the Employee Council. These self-guided tours encouraged attendees to explore the library and all of its service offices, including the college archives, Hawley Academic Resource & Advising Center, Student Support Services (TRiO program), EMERGE (business incubator), the Research Assistance Center (RAC), and Simpson Writing Center. We also showed the 1927 movie 'Ace of Hearts,' and added piano music. With proceeds from estate and card catalog sales, plus a large family gift, the Walt Historical Preservation Fund will provide funding for a college archives remodel next summer and the start of digitizing materials such as the college history, newspapers, and year-books. A new discovery system for all library resources was just installed -- Encore Duet is a combo of Encore from Innovative Interfaces and EBSCO EDS. Collaborative projects this year included BikeShare, Book Art Contest, Doggies@Dunn, Events@Dunn monitor, and Long Night Against Procrastination."

Cyd Dyer, Director  
Dunn Library, Simpson College  
Indianola





"Our biggest accomplishment this year was winning the Washington Chapter AAUW (American Association of University Women) Education Award. It was the first time the Washington AAUW has chosen to honor a group, rather than an individual, and the award was given to the staff of the Washington Public Library during their annual reception. The award is given to individuals who promote education in the community. We also hosted an incredibly successful Healthy Relationship Summit in October. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the library, along with many partners, had events throughout the day raising awareness of domestic violence with special focus on building healthy relationships. Most powerful was a Learn @ Lunch panel discussion that included a woman who shared her personal story of domestic violence survival and is now an advocate for others in the same situation. There were programs for all ages after school including a family 'pajama' storytime at the end of the day. One amazing connection that came of the day was the opportunity for me to speak to all of the sixth and seventh graders in the school district about healthy relationships. Next year we will partner with the school district to get the sixth graders into the library during the event. Our motto was 'Healthy Relationships Build Healthy Communities' and we have taken that to heart."

Debbie Stanton, Library Director  
Washington Free Public Library

"Under the guidance of now retired director Jean Casey, our library celebrated its Quasquicentennial (125 years) in 2014. Al Batt, a storyteller from Hartland, Minnesota, and author William Kent Krueger were both guests during the year. Library patrons were invited to become part of the 'Fourth Street Book Club' and read 125 titles as individuals or teams. Fourth Street was the location of the first Clear Lake library above a store front, as well as the street on which the current library building exists. Also, a commemorative sculpture of two children reading, named 'Stories are Forever' was placed on the library grounds thanks to the library's foundation, Friends group and community donations."



Martha Boyes, Youth Services Librarian  
Clear Lake Public Library



"Laura Ingalls Wilder visited the library last summer in the person of Sarah Uthoff. We heard about the Wilder family's pioneer life on the prairie and fledgling towns in the Midwest. Afterwards, our circulation of the Wilder books really picked up for a while. Our event was well-attended and everyone seemed to enjoy it."

Gayle Anstey, Assistant Librarian  
Corning Public Library

Laura Ingalls Wilder



Before



After

"After eight-plus-years of building our trust fund, we were able to update our circulation desk and work area. It's much more modern and functional."

Jude Zweibohmer, Director  
Ossian Public Library

"Ames Public Library opened its renovated and expanded building September 14, 2014. The renewed building is about 78,000 square feet - a 63 percent increase - and includes the original Carnegie library which opened in 1904, the 1940 addition, the 1984 addition, and now the 2014 addition! In just the first month after reopening, 714 people signed up for new library cards, 124,813 items were checked out (that's an average of over 4,100 a day), 4,500 people used their library card, and many more used the building for a variety of activities. On December 20, Ames Public Library unveiled its new bookmobile, the fourth in Ames' history. Designed by best-selling children's book illustrator, author and Ames native, Derek Anderson, the eye-catching new bookmobile will be stopping throughout Ames beginning in January."



Jillian Ocken  
Community Relations Specialist  
Ames Public Library

"This year we received a grant from Elevate Iowa and started a new LEGO robotics program this fall that will run throughout the year. We also achieved Tier 3 status this year. We also had a very successful Harvest auction, raising over \$7,000 to fund a new reading garden and a lamination machine."

Tami Coil, Librarian  
Sloan Public Library



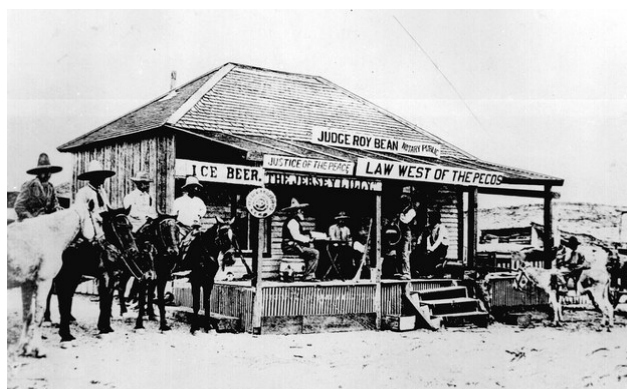
“The Cresco Public Library celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2014 (100 years since construction) and will celebrate 100 years since the present Carnegie building was dedicated in 2015. We had an open house in November with guest speaker Shana Stuart, director of the Carnegie Libraries in Iowa Project. I created a Cresco Public Library Centennial Memory Book on Shutterfly, which will go into circulation at our library soon.”

Carmen Buss, Director  
Cresco Public Library



“The University of Iowa Libraries’ Conservation Lab celebrated its 30th anniversary which included a year’s worth of exhibits, events, and concluded with an auction of fine bindings that raised over \$15,000 for the William Anthony Conservation Fund. Other achievements included:

- The UI Libraries was named 2014 Regional Depository Library of the Year
- BuzzFeed listicle includes three UI crowdsourcing transcription opportunities among their ‘13 Things for History Lovers to Do Online When They are Bored.’ After this post, some 3,000 pages were transcribed in 48 hours. Nearly 52,000 pages have now been transcribed as part of the UI Libraries’ DIY History Project. *Photo right from collection.*



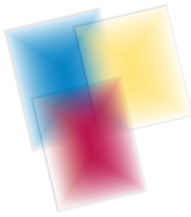
- The spring Friends of the UI Libraries event featured Michael and Rick Mast who discussed chocolate and their recently published cookbook. A book signing and chocolate tasting followed the event.

Kelly Avant  
Assistant to the University Librarian

“It was a busy, fun year for the Robey Memorial Library (Waukon).

- Construction/building of new library
- Grand reopening open house - held on Saturday, September 13
- After school program with conservation naturalist Ross Geerdes of the Allamakee County Conservation Department. Ross read a story and shared hand-on materials. He’s very popular with the kids and parents.
- Teddy Bear Sleep Over. Children are invited to bring their stuffed animals to story time, participate in a craft and then leave their critter to spend the night at the library.”

Ellie Krousie, Children’s Librarian  
Robey Memorial Library (Waukon)



“There were several great accomplishments this year for Drake University’s Cowles Library:

- Continued progress in the Central Iowa Collaborative Collections Initiative (CI-CCI). CI-CCI will create a shared collection of over 1 million titles held in five college and university libraries. In the first stage of this collaboration, 148,000 titles were identified for ‘retention.’ These titles are protected — the five colleges will retain at least one copy for the next 10 years. Drake’s portion of the total came to 38,000 volumes. We worked throughout the spring semester and early summer to verify that all of these 38,000 volumes were actually on the shelf and were in good condition. Drake is now engaged in phase two, in which a custom web application allows university faculty to evaluate 54,000 titles held at our partner libraries and to flag any of the titles for retention of a local copy. To learn more about CI-CCI, visit the organization’s site at <http://ci-cci.org>

- Academic Support Services at Cowles. Cowles Library is collaborating with several campus units to centralize peer-driven academic support services. In collaboration with Dr. Joan McAlister (professor of Rhetoric), Drake Technology Services provided peer coaching in public speaking at the Speaking Center and provided a practice space, the Speaking Studio, where students can practice and record speeches or presentations.

- In collaboration with the English Department, the Writing Workshop moved into new space in Cowles during the fall semester. The English Department provides writing assistance to hundreds of students each semester.

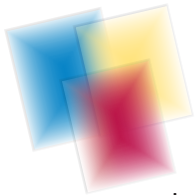
- Finally, we collaborated with Academic Achievement to provide space for course-based peer tutoring. Academic Achievement also offers assistance in topics such as time management and study skills two evenings a week in Cowles.”

Marc W. Davis, Program, Planning & Projects Specialist  
Cowles Library, Drake University

“Thanks to a generous grant from the Marion County Community Foundation, we were able to initiate a new service - musical instruments for loan from the library. As of now, this is open to students in middle school band who would not otherwise be able to participate in music education. We hope to expand the service as our collection grows. Generous people in the community have pitched in and donated their musical instruments. Grant money was also used to purchase guitars for an after-school folk music program for elementary school kids. The library owns the historic Dixie Gebhardt house which the Chamber of Commerce recently moved into. We look forward to working together to boost economic development in Knoxville. The library staff participated in the Homecoming Parade, the Living Windows event downtown with a window decorated as ‘Little House on the Prairie,’ and the Marion County Historical Society’s Festival of Trees.”



Roslin Thompson, Director  
Knoxville Public Library



“Here are some great accomplishments that happened at Grinnell College Libraries in 2014:

- Peer Mentoring and Collaboration Space. With funding from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation and in coordination with the Academic Space Planning Committee, the Grinnell College Libraries opened Peer Mentoring and Collaboration Space on the main service floor of Burling Library in September 2014. The space is a venue for one-on-one and small group peer-to-peer mentoring, especially in writing, humanities and social studies disciplines. The space features moveable tables (both fixed and adjustable height), whiteboards, screens for semi-privacy, and acoustical controls.
- Student narrated video tours. In August 2014, the Grinnell College Libraries launched student narrated video tours introducing main areas of the Burling Library.
- Grinnell Beowulf. In March, the Grinnell College Libraries hosted a reading group for The Grinnell Beowulf translation. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the college were invited to participate by reading this epic poem and joining in a series of discussions with assistant professor of English Tim Arner and his team of six student translators to reflect on this work of literature and on the process of translation. The Grinnell Beowulf is the first translation done by undergraduate students for undergraduate readers.
- Faculty Book Talks. The Grinnell College Libraries successfully hosted two book talks by associate professor of Sociology Karla Erickson and associate professor of Gender, Women’s and Sexuality Studies Astrid Henry. These two co-curricular events played a key role introducing our faculty members’ scholarship to the students and broader campus community while highlighting the library as a place where students are connected to a larger intellectual community.”

Staff

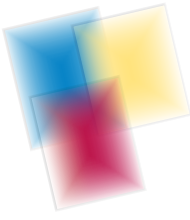
Grinnell College Libraries



“Perry Public Library had a busy year. Our project began in January 2011 with the formation of a Visioning Committee. We went through a simplified ‘Planning for Results’ methodology where we dreamed BIG, and tapered to realistic goals within a budget approved by the library board. The project was paid for with grant money, approximately \$110,000. We started in late December 2013 with the painting and the new security cameras. Over the next 10 months we steadily worked through our to-do list. Our big push came in April when we closed for a week to move bookcases, remove carpet squares, cut trenches in the cement to lay new data and electricity lines, patch the cement trenches, put carpet squares back, and then relocate our public access

computers. The major changes we experienced from the project were lighting updates, rearranging the library to better meet patron needs, new furnishings, instillation of ‘New Book’ area bookcases and sitting area, and relocation of our Donor Recognition Boards. We finished the entire project in early October 2014. In the midst of all these changes we also retrofitted our air handler, installed a new condenser unit along with a new HVAC controls system. We also installed a large art project by Betsy Peterson in the children’s area which was funded by three memorials. I am looking forward to 2015 as a year of ‘normal.’ “

Mary K. Murphy, Director  
Perry Public Library



"In 2014, the Albert City Public Library celebrated its 75th anniversary. They opened the doors as a tax supported, city-owned library in 1939. The library occupied many different locations around the city over the years and in 1999 the present library was built and dedicated. Much time and effort by many individuals with a vision, and the largest financial contribution by the Ed Sundholm Foundation along with many others, brought the vision to fulfillment. Since then the library has been the center of vitality in the community, offering quality programming, interlibrary loan service, books, movies, magazines, computer access with links to Job Service of Iowa and Learning Express and the latest in downloadable e-books access for hand held devices. Over the years the library has earned and maintained a Tier 3 status ranking in the state that qualifies it for the highest level of state aid.

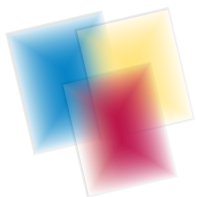


Submitted by Bonnie McKewon, IaLS Consultant  
Sioux City

"2014 was a good year for winning grants at the Burlington Public Library. We received a Target Early Literacy grant for outreach storytimes, an Ezra Jack Keats Foundation grant for a community youth art project, an Alliant Energy Foundation grant for e-content and readers, a YALSA grant for our staff person who does teen events to go to the national conference, an ALA New Member Round Table grant for our newest librarian to attend the ALA conference in Las Vegas, a Google Maker Camp grant from Google+ and Make Magazine, and one of the YALSA Dollar General grants for two teen summer internships. We also were one of the libraries in the Southeast Iowa e-Reads group that received a state technology grant for e-readers and tablets, and we received a grant from our local Fine Arts League. Burlington was chosen to be an IPTV Ready to Read community which provided us with programming, training, and a grant for tablets. We had our first "Appy Hours" to help parents explore apps for children. Partnerships were another theme of 2014. We partnered with our local school districts to bring in authors, including a recent visit from Neal Schusterman. We also have a wonderful relationship with the schools that allows us to do monthly book talks in the Burlington middle schools and the West Burlington high schools. We are presenters each month for the middle school and elementary afterschool programs in Burlington. The local Christian school brings students to volunteer two mornings a month during the school year. Thanks to these outreach efforts we ended FY14 with 49 more teen programs and about 1,300 more attendees at those programs.

Rhonda Frevert, Director  
Burlington Public Library





## New look for IaLS website



Iowa Library Services is proud to announce a new and improved website which debuted December 1, 2014.

In 2014, IaLS and SILO staff worked with a consulting firm to create a new look for the site, which showcases the Library Support Network, Specialized Services division, and the State Data Center.

The navigation did not change and more importantly the URL did not change. You'll still find us on the web at [www.statelibraryofia.org](http://www.statelibraryofia.org).

The new home page contains more information, links and pictures. With the upgrade to Plone 4, the site is a lot faster. The search feature has also improved so the newest items are returned first. IaLS staff hope others enjoy the new look and ease of use.

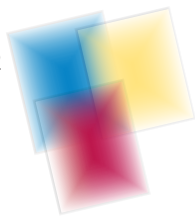
## New online bibliography of Iowa history and culture

The Cowles Library, Drake University, recently announced IOWA BIB, an online bibliography of Iowa history and culture covering the years between 1987-1997. Eventually the database will cover 1953-2013 and beyond.

IOWA BIB can be accessed at <https://library.drake.edu/iowa-history-and-culture/>. The bibliography is organized into subject areas, searchable by author, title and keyword, and contains books, periodical articles, and specialized materials. Included are local history magazines; house organs; dissertations; theses; and town, centennial, church, and business histories. The broad subject areas allow for browsing as well as content-specific search capabilities.

For further information, contact Pat Dawson at [dawson1383@gmail.com](mailto:dawson1383@gmail.com) or Claudia Frazer at [claudia.frazer@drake.edu](mailto:claudia.frazer@drake.edu). The pilot project is funded by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Inc.





## Congratulations!

After 16 years, Fran Fessler, secretary, IaLS Des Moines Office, is retiring. A reception for her will be held at 2 p.m., December 31, Room 300, Miller Building in Des Moines. All are welcome.

"I have really enjoyed my work here and all the people that I have been fortunate to work with, both at IaLS and around the state," said Fessler. "A lot of changes have taken place since I started and I am glad I was able to be a little part of it."

Fessler said she plans to spend more time with family and grandchildren, do some traveling, work on family history and genealogy and maybe do some volunteering.

Said Nancy Medema, IaLS Library Program Director, "Fran has been an integral part of Iowa Library Services, making sure we all have what we need to do our best, being a friendly voice on the phone and a welcoming smile at workshops. Her friendly greeting every morning and her sense of humor is going to be missed."



Amanda Grom has accepted the position of library resource technician for Northwest District in Sioux City. She will fill the position vacated by Janie Beaulieu's retirement and will begin her new job January 12.

Grom is originally from Rock Valley, but has lived in Sioux City for several years. She has an Associate of Arts degree from Western Iowa Tech and is currently employed at Sioux City Public Library in its technical services department. She has experience with e-books, SILO, OCLC, Horizon automation systems, and Microsoft Office Suite. Please join Bonnie McKewon, IaLS NW District Consultant, and all of the IaLS staff in welcoming Amanda.

## Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the  
Iowa Library Services' Public Library Director Certification Program

Lindsay Anderson, Webster City  
Celeste Aronson, Woden  
Tamie Bird, Clinton  
Keziah Cline, Lohrville  
James Cox, Marathon  
Jeanne Cox, Marathon  
Michele Deluhery, Lake City  
Mary Earll, Sibley  
Kristen Fagre, Waverly  
Heidi Feuerhelm, Monona  
Tami Finley, Clarence  
Vickie Gochenour, Fenton  
Anne Graham-Nau, Winterset  
Angie Happel, Lamont  
Michelle Johnson, Atlantic  
Colleen Loetz, Cleghorn

Cathy Maxwell, Stanwood  
Lisa Metheny, Griswold  
Ramona Miller, Palmer  
Kimberly Nelsen, Sac City  
Elizabeth Norton, Logan  
Jessica Reints, Clarksville  
Clara Dee Schrodtt, Alexander  
Sarah Sellon, Ely  
Jennifer Smith, Le Grand  
Beth Sorenson, Milford  
Shanna Speer, Nevada  
Ashley Squibb, Scranton  
Mara Strickler, Algona  
Diane Tracy, Carroll  
Amanda Vazquez, Orange City  
Michael Wright, Dubuque County



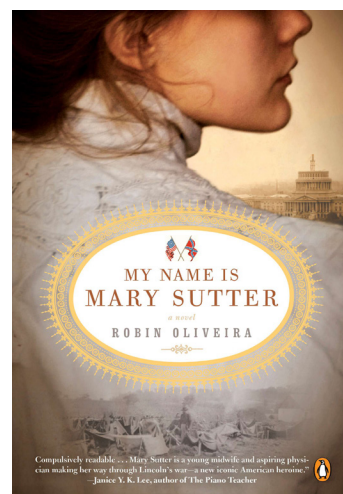


## Robin Oliveira's *My Name is Mary Sutter* chosen for All Iowa Reads 2015

Robin Oliveira's stunning Civil War epic is about a young headstrong midwife determined to become a surgeon striving to overcome the prejudices against women in medicine. Fully drawn characters, family conflicts, the politics of war, and achieving humane medical care in the aftermath of violence are some of themes that will be at the center of discussions among hundreds of Iowans during 2015.

"In the last year marking the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, it's good to step back from accounts of politics and battles to be reminded of the important role women played during the war despite the obstacles they had to overcome to make their contributions. Many Iowa women, most notably Annie Wittenmyer and the women she recruited and supervised, made their own significant contributions during the war, so Iowans will have much to talk about in response to this engaging and enlightening fictional portrayal of a remarkable woman's experiences during the Civil War era," said Marv Bergman, Annals of Iowa Editor and All Iowa Reads committee member.

On learning of the award, Oliveira said, "I am beyond delighted and thrilled to hear this wonderful news! Thank you for choosing *My Name is Mary Sutter*. It is an extraordinary honor to join the ranks of your previous authors."



## Plan to attend webinar on AIR 2015

A webinar designed to help library staff, trustees and community book club leaders plan a discussion of the 2015 All Iowa Reads (AIR) selection "*My Name is Mary Sutter*" will be held from 10:30 a.m. to Noon Wednesday, January 21.

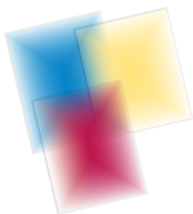
The AIR webinar elements will include:

- mini reviews of books that were AIR 2015 finalists;
- review of the criteria used to select "*My Name is Mary Sutter*;"
- resources available on the Iowa Center for the Book website, including publicity materials, tips on how to make your discussion successful, information on the availability of multiple copies for libraries, and instructions for adding your upcoming program to the Iowa Center for the Book AIR Calendar of Events.

There will also be an in-depth exchange between Susan Craig, director of the Iowa City Public Library, and George Minot, professor of English at Kirkwood Community College, who will summarize the story, introduce the characters, and identify topics and themes important to librarians planning their own discussions.

The session will be recorded and available on the IaLS website for librarians who cannot attend the live session.

[Sign up for the webinar on the IaLS Continuing Education website.](#)



## Check out new IA Reading Research Center website



The Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC) has launched a new website which offers a wide range of high quality literacy resources for families and educators in Iowa. Iowa libraries can be instrumental in making their customers aware of this new resource.

The purpose of the IRRC is to apply current research to the development and dissemination of best practices in literacy instruction so that every child in Iowa will achieve reading proficiency. Included in this mission is a strong focus on facilitating effective school, parent, and community partnerships to improve student literacy.

Launched in October, 2014, [the new IRRC website](#) offers a collection of online resources for families to support literacy development with children at home. These high quality videos, articles and activities are suitable for use with children from birth to 6th grade. All have been carefully reviewed and evaluated by both parents and educators to ensure quality and accessibility, and they can be sorted by key word, skill, age group, and resource type. The website also includes links and information to help families connect to other literacy resources and services throughout the state.

IaLS Youth Services Consultant Merri Monks was a partner in helping IRRC connect Iowa families.

*Iowa Library Services staff wish all of you  
a Happy New Year!*

Jay Peterson and Fran Fessler with gifts IaLS staff contributed  
to this year's Toys for Tots program



*This publication is made possible by a grant from the  
U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and Iowa Library Services.*