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Today in EYE-OPENER August 22, 2016

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1) Fond Farewell at Akron PL: Northwest libraries are invited to an open house at Akron PL on Thursday this week in recognition of Jeannie Frerichs' retirement. Jeannie is retiring after 28 years with Akron Library, serving first as children's librarian when hired in 1988, then as director since 2003.

With an affinity for children and adult programming, Jeannie has planned hundreds of events for patrons of all ages.

Among the most impressive was a poetry appreciation weekend which Jeannie organized for many years during National Poetry Month in April. Under her leadership, Akron welcomed poets from the tri-state area, who read from their work during a dinner theater and who also taught poetry-writing workshops.

In an article with the *Le Mars Sentinel*, Jeannie expressed that retirement will definitely be bittersweet: *"...I will miss the people and the kids the most. I enjoy helping people find answers to their questions, I love doing programs, children's story time, book club, and reading programs the most. My goal was to help children have a love of learning and reading. I hope that I accomplished that by making our story times and reading programs fun and exciting."*

The open house for Jeannie is this **Thursday August 25** from **2:00-4:00PM**; you're welcome to stop by and wish her a happy retirement, which is our sentiment from the State Library—congratulations, Jeannie!

2) Town Meetings 2016 in September: The State Library's annual **Town Meetings** are coming up next month—believe it or not, September is right around the corner! **Northwest's** date is **September 8** at **Buena Vista University** in **Storm Lake**; this year's theme is *"Raising Our Standards, Planning For Success."*



Not yet registered? It's still open in the c.e. catalog for awhile longer <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/> From the c.e. catalog: "... *The focus of Town Meetings 2016 is planning for library excellence. In the morning, State Librarian Michael Scott will speak about current and future statewide library initiatives. The morning segment also includes an explanation of changes to Iowa's public library standards, previewing a revised edition of In Service to Iowa (new 6th edition, c2016) The morning concludes with a look at common elements of a good planning process...*"

Two afternoon breakout sessions are planned:

a) **overview of national trends**, including a look at ***Libraries Transform***, ALA's newest initiative to bring greater awareness to how public libraries contribute to healthy communities by aligning with social trends and responding to community needs.

b) **overview of planning tools**, including surveys, focus groups, and using census information. Participants will learn how to write effective survey questions, facilitate effective focus groups, and search for demographic data about their communities.

The day's schedule looks like this:

9:30—Welcome and State Library Updates 10:00—Revised Standards for Iowa Public Libraries—Overview 11:10—What's in Your Plan? Common Ground	11:30—Lunch On Your Own 12:30—Concurrent Session 1:55--Break 2:05—Concurrent Session 3:30—Adjourn
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Note: there is no registration fee for **2016 Town Meetings** because the State Library can no longer provide food / refreshments. Lunch is on your own, either at the BVU cafeteria or elsewhere in Storm Lake. Plus...consider bringing your own AM coffee or PM beverages.

3) RAGBRAI Riders Love Iowa Libraries: Thanks to Maryann Mori with Central District office, we have more stories showing how Iowa libraries rolled out their welcome mats to RAGBRAI riders. During RAGBRAI 2016, many libraries in the pass-through and overnight towns opened their doors to cyclists, often doing so outside of normal operating hours. Today's two examples showcase **Tabor** and **Shenandoah Public Libraries**.

On Sunday, the first day of RAGBRAI (and one of the hottest), **Tabor PL** served up a much-loved treat: ice cream! Director **Dawn Miller** writes, *"Ice Cream, You Scream, We all Scream...For a New Library in Tabor!" This was our RAGBRAI slogan and it caught many peoples' attention as they were looking for our booth after reading our roadside signs that matched our booth sign. We sold Schwann's ice cream and fruit treats along with having a donation bucket. We really didn't know what to expect for profits but we are pleased with the outcome and enjoyed our day; we ended up making between \$1000 and \$1200 toward our new library. Thanks to all the RAGBRAI riders for their generosity..."*



Shenandoah was the overnight town on Sunday. The library is usually closed on Sundays, but opened from 1:00-5:00PM specifically for the riders—over 280 of them. Director **Carrie Falk** shares this recap: *"...[The riders] came from as far away as Michigan, New York, Tennessee and Utah. We got lots of compliments on our facility and of course the air conditioning and WiFi were a huge hit. Our favorite moment was when a man walked in and asked if we had seen two bikers come through. (You think?!) We also had another gentleman who was very appreciative to use the Internet. He said we saved his marriage. He met by complete accident an old high school girlfriend when he attended mass Sunday morning. She took their picture together and was planning to post it to*



Facebook. He figured it would be in his best interest to warn his wife before she saw pictures online. Saving marriages @ your library...!"



4) ILA Conference Preview: Dubuque will be decked in autumn colors by mid-October when the city welcomes back the **Iowa Library Association's** fall conference. ILA's annual education event is scheduled for **October 12-14** at the **Grand River Center**.

Wednesday has three pre-conferences to choose from:

- Music and Literacy in the Lives of Children
- Mental Health and First Aid
- Zen and the Art of Library Management

Thursday and Friday boast keynote speakers and many concurrent sessions, among them

- Library Employee Safety
- Robotics in the Library
- Kits and Games and Puzzles, Oh My!
- Google Apps
- Innovation on a Shoestring
- Guys Read

Dubuque is Iowa's oldest city, so planners have arranged for a trolley tour of historic places. Trivia Night is also back—be sure to sign up for the Thursday night meal to be included in Trivia Night fun.

The **July-August** issue of *The Catalyst* is now available on the ILA website here; look to this issue for the conference schedule of speakers and topics
<http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/members-only/catalyst-newsletter> Registration is open via ILA's website. Make plans to number among ILA conference-goers in Dubuque!

5) Meetings / Events This Week: Sponsored by the State Library, "**Presentation Pointers: Using Infographics**" kicks off this week with workshops in 2 locations: **Tuesday 8/23** in **Sac City** and **Thursday 8/25** in **Coralville**. Starting as a pilot project for now, we'll likely bring this same workshop to more locations in the coming months. For those registered, the program runs from 10:00AM-3:00PM.

Big Ideas Book Discussion fans gather online **Friday August 26** to talk about Presence: Bringing Your Boldest Self to Your Biggest Challenges (9:30-11:00AM online)



And as noted in the first article, **Akron Library Board** recognizes Jeannie Frerichs' retirement on Thursday; area libraries are welcome to attend an open house for Jeannie **Thursday afternoon** from **2:00-4:00PM**.

Enjoy national webinars in August, find registration info and more at this link—

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>

August 23. 1:00-2:00PM. *Successfully Implementing Volunteer Program Changes* sponsored by VolunteerMatch <http://learn.volunteermatch.org/training-topics>

August 23. 1:00-2:00PM. *Stellar Series Nonfiction for Fall* sponsored by Booklist <http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents>

August 24. 1:00-2:00PM. *What Can Libraries Count? Getting a Grip on Social Media Numbers* sponsored by TechSoup <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/avoqm7zgqdqf&eom>

August 25. 2:00-3:00PM. *The Year Ahead with Infopeople: Learning You Want and Need* sponsored by Infopeople <https://infopeople.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=605>

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