

CELEBRATING 73 YEARS OF SERVICE

# Stubbs Memorial Library Annual Newsletter 2020-2021

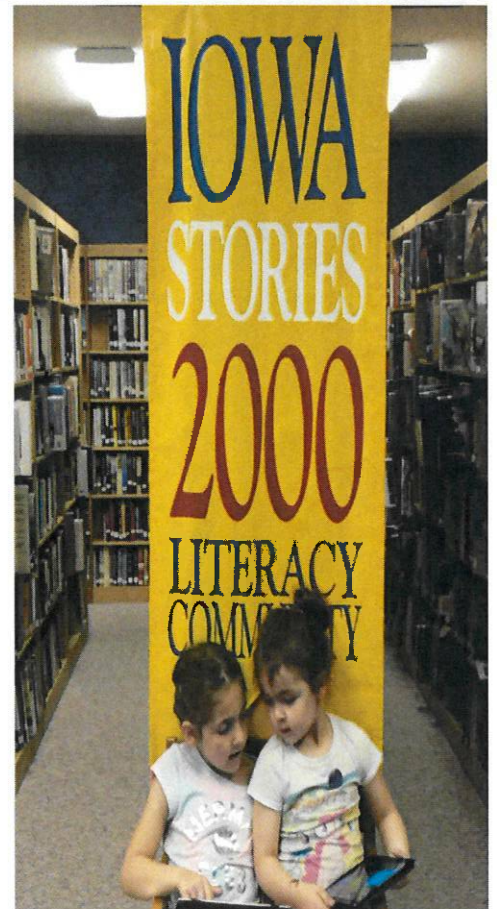
## Holstein, A Brief Library History

The history of the Stubbs Memorial library begins in 1948, when The Women's Club and Nacrima began the project of a public and free Holstein Lending library. They received donations of used books and set up shop in the council room of the Old Fire Station/City hall building. It opened to the public in June 1948. The library was manned by volunteers.

In 1950, the Holstein State Bank generously donated the use of one of their rooms for the library. That same year, Ethel Stubbs was hired as the librarian. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1950 the City Council voted for the city to take over the library and create an ordinance and levy for its continued operations.

In 1961, the library was moved to Turner Hall. The library outgrew the room it operated in and the Library Board began plans for raising funds to build a new library building.

Ethel Stubbs retired in 1972 and generously donated \$50,000 to help build the library. All funds raised to build the library were private donations. The City of Holstein donated the lot. In 1974, the new library was finished and in January 1975 the fixtures and books were moved from Turner Hall. Since then, the library has continued to grow, adding two additions, the Christina Buettner room in 1987 and the Coffee Room in 2006. Today, the library continues its mission to educate, empower, and enrich the citizens of Holstein and Ida County.



## • Library Board

Gary Jensen, President

Kathy Breyfogle

Carmen Koth

Kimberlee Gerritsen

Brock Boling

Kathleen Wulf

Linda Mentzer



## • Library Staff

Emily Todd, Director

Brenda Bennett, Assistant

## Library Hours

Monday: 2:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday: 2:00pm-6:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am-12:00pm

2:00pm-6:00pm

Thursday: 2:00pm-6:00pm

Friday: 2:00pm-6:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am-1:00pm



We come to the end of another strange year. This year continues to be different from previous years. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of 2020 and 2021 revolved around our resourcefulness in providing services and programs. There were lessons and yes, fun to be had!

When we left off in October 2020 we saw the Stubbs Memorial library ready to take on the fall. Story-Time returned as a program virtually as "Story-Time on Your Time" which was hosted twice a month until May. The average reach was 25 children each session.

The Game's Afoot Adult Mystery game was held for the 4th year. Patrons can play in the library with a printed copy of the mystery or play on Facebook where the mystery is posted. Emily writes each mini mystery herself and tries to include local businesses and areas that patrons would recognize as settings.

Emily passed out glow necklaces at the City Pumpkin Parade on Halloween in front of City Hall. 160 necklaces were passed out to help make our community's children more visible while trick or treating. Speaking of glowing, the library and cupola got a bit of a makeover with some new decorative outdoor building lights. The lights are quite brilliant at night and have a wide range of colors.

The library was fairly quiet over the winter months, since it was not safe to host our usual open house we played host to Santa's mailbox after Thanksgiving to just before Christmas. Children could leave their letters to Santa in the mailbox and received a free book. Our Christmas Bears also took it upon themselves to do a little reader's advisory and recommend their favorite winter titles throughout December.

The library mini-park was able to receive some much needed attention this past year. New benches and a picnic table were purchased and installed to help make the park more inviting. In partnership with the ALA/Microsoft Grant the library was able to receive a WIFI access point to help boost our WIFI signal into the mini-park. New device friendly outlets were also installed by the Cupola in early Spring 2021. In October 2021 a new stamped concrete walkway was installed to replace the old brick walkway.

In February, we held a virtual program with the Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque on Otters. The program spotlighted live river otters from the aquarium, though these otters don't hold hands like their famous sea otter cousins, their playful antics behind our host were very amusing.

The library also decided to continue its "Where's Jolly?" program completely through Facebook. Jolly, the library bunny had his photo taken in several businesses all over Holstein. He hid in strange spots and participants had to guess where he was in each photo. The program lasted three weeks. Each week three photos were posted. All ages were invited to participate. The winner received a stack of books and a gift card to the State Theatre. Debbie Baillie was this year's winner.

Our Summer Reading program began June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. We really liked the use of the Readerzone app from last year and decided to use it again to help our young participants keep track of their minutes. We had 91 children and 20 adults and teens sign-up for the program this summer.

Most of our programs were done outside. We hosted three Chalk Art days with other activities such as a quick story and a color scavenger hunt, and "fishing" afterwards. We also hosted two virtual story times, Clifford and a Dinosaur themed one. Both had good turnouts and each had an accompanying goodie bag. Ida County Extension was another popular program.

All ages enjoyed a virtual visit to the Omaha Zoo to explore the Rainforest and the various colorful creatures who call it home. We held a free movie *Trolls: World Tour* at the State Theatre to end our Summer program on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Our young participants read almost 58,000 minutes over the summer!

The library continued its summer program for adults this year renamed Book Nerds it was held 4 times across the summer and was an informal discussion on the books participants were reading.

Yet, summer wasn't quite over. In August we hosted two more activities. On August 6<sup>th</sup> we hosted Magic & Bubbles with 23 in attendance. The library also sponsored the Traces traveling Bus-eum which was in Holstein on August 29<sup>th</sup> and displayed history and artifacts over several 20<sup>th</sup> century topics. A 2PM lecture was held the same day.



# Statistics for 2020-2021

- Total Circulation  
10,722
  - Rural Circulation  
4,253
- Bridges  
1,182
- Door Count  
3,651
- Computer Usage  
339
- WIFI Usage  
1,423

The Holstein Mini-Park is now covered by the library's WIFI network! Click « Stubbs Library » for WIFI network.

Stubbs Memorial library also offers:

Cake Pans  
Puzzles  
Lamination service  
VHS to DVD Burner  
Paper Shredder  
Inter-library loan

Programs :

Adult Coloring  
Story Time  
Book Nerds  
Summer Reading Program  
The Game's Afoot  
Where's Jolly ? Photo Bunny Hunt

