



Book Gala '98 Offers Shopping, Launches *Titanic* Dinner Effort

The ICPL Friends Foundation's fifth annual Book Gala takes place at Prairie Lights Books on Sunday, Nov. 8--and it promises to be a night to remember, for a number of reasons.

Once again, the Library's contributors, volunteers and other special friends are invited to join the ICPL staff at Prairie Lights for an evening of special shopping. The book store will be open from 6:30 to 8 p.m. exclusively for Book Gala '98 participants. Prairie Lights owner Jim Harris will contribute 20 per cent of the evening's total sales to the Friends Foundation. Since 1994, Book Gala has generated some \$8,000 in support of the Library.

This year's Book Gala has an added feature--the official launching of another Friends Foundation special event, "The Last Dinner on the Titanic," a fund-raising dinner that will recreate the dining experiences aboard the H.M.S. Titanic. The Jan. 15 event is based on the 1997 book, *Last Dinner on the Titanic: Menus and Recipes from the Great Liner*, co-authored by Rick Archbold. Mr. Archbold will attend dinner, guiding participants through an evening of fine dining, musical entertainment and dancing.

Invitations to "Last Dinner at the Titanic" will be mailed the week of Nov. 8-14 to all households receiving *The Window* through the mail. Persons attending Book Gala '98 on Nov. 8 will receive advance information about the Titanic dinner and have a chance to win a free ticket to the Jan. 15 event.

East-Side, West-Side Sites Chosen for Library's New Remote Book/AV Drops

Two sites for ICPL's newest patron service--remote drops for book and audio-visual materials--have been selected and will be operational by mid-November, Library Director Susan Craig announced.

On the east site of Iowa City, Library patrons will be able to return books and AV items by driving through the pharmacy lane at the Hy-Vee Food Store at 812 S. First Avenue. On the city's west side, the same service will be available at the University of Iowa Community Credit Union's facility at 825 Mormon Trek Blvd.

"Our thanks go to these two local businesses for providing a place for the book drops and allowing the Library to extend its services beyond the downtown Library building," said Heidi Lauritzen, ICPL Circulation Services coordinator. Watch for announcements for the specific date on which this long-awaited new service begins.



Students from Iowa City's public and private grade schools have started this year's Project Holiday children's book drive. Pictured are (left to right) Drew Oetting, R.J. Jerrick (both of Lincoln School), Kristie Pyle (Mann School), Sam Kienzie (Lincoln) and Kenora Wallace (Lincoln). Books collected through Dec. 31 are distributed to area families in need by the Salvation Army.

First National Bank Renews Annual Support for Popo's Puppet Festival; Diverse Midwest Puppeteers Featured

First National Bank of Iowa City, soon to be Mercantile Bank, has renewed its underwriting of Popo's Puppet Festival, the Library's annual celebration of puppetry, imagination and good, old-fashioned family fun. This year's Festival will be Saturday, Nov. 21 in Meeting Room A from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is the sixth Popo's Puppet Festival funded by First National Bank which recently extended its commitment to the Library with a three-year pledge that also increased its support to allow additional family programming at the Library.

"We thank the bank for continuing its sponsorship and for increasing its generous support to include other Library programming for families," said Debb Green, ICPL Children's Services coordinator. "This year's festival is better than ever and features multiple performances, demonstrations and two puppet-making classes."

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