

FRIENDS OF THE IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY THE BOOKMARK



An occasional newsletter

NOVEMBER, 1992



MARY LEA KRUSE — NEW FRIENDS PRESIDENT

During the yearly changing of the guard in June, Mary Lea Kruse became President of the FRIENDS of the Iowa City Public Library.

Mary Lea not only brings an appreciation for the Library, but a long-term love of books. It started when she was a child and pledged to read every book in the Des Moines Public Library. And while she may not have reached that goal, she feels confident the FRIENDS can attain their goals in 1992-93.

"Our major goal is to smooth transition to the new system with the Foundation and FRIENDS together," she said.

Mary Lea says that process will involve a lot of paperwork and meetings, but she doesn't expect to encounter any major obstacles.

"There's not really a problem, it's just getting it done," she said.

Once done, the change should be positive for all involved.

"I think (the merger) is good. It is different. I think it will mutually benefit the FRIENDS, the Foundation

and the Library," she said, adding that she hopes the confusion between the FRIENDS and Foundation can be eliminated.

Her other goals for the FRIENDS include getting wider visibility for the group and continuing the growth that the FRIENDS have enjoyed during recent years.

As with any volunteer position, the benefits of Mary Lea's term as president will not only enrich the organization, but Mary Lea personally. She said the FRIENDS help broaden her personal horizons, meeting people she doesn't otherwise get a chance to meet, and learning more about the Library.

"I enjoy getting deeply involved in the Library," she said. "I am still unaware of a lot of the wonderful things they do."

Mary Lea's term as president will be another chapter in her love of books and commitment to the Iowa City area — from her ambitious reading goal as a child, to teaching junior high English where "free reading" was an enjoyable activity, to her work with Project Green.

Just as she has been involved, she encourages others to do the same by volunteering at the Library or a FRIENDS' event. And help to reach the goals of the coming year.

President Profile

Name: Mary Lea Kruse

Years in FRIENDS: 4

Last library book read:
Anastasia & Other Stories by
Mary Higgins Clark

Elvis Stamp: Voted for
younger Elvis, because she
remembers when he looked
that way.