

@Robey Memorial Library

monthly news



Live & Learn: Karen Land, Iditarod Musher

Robey Memorial Library (RML) invites the community to an exciting and educational presentation featuring veteran Iditarod dog musher Karen Land on Saturday, June 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the library’s lower level Community Room.

This special event is part of RML’s Live & Learn: Enriching Lives Through Monthly Learning Series and is designed for “kids” of all ages—from preschoolers to retirees. Karen Land brings 25 years of mushing experience to the stage, offering a firsthand look at the world of long-distance sled dog racing, including the legendary Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Audiences will meet Sophia, Karen’s 8-year-old Alaskan husky and the star of the show, and have the unique opportunity to interact with a real sled dog.

The presentation features authentic gear from the trail, including an actual Iditarod dog sled, mushing equipment, and arctic clothing. Attendees will learn what it takes to survive the extreme Alaskan elements and gain insight into topics such as the history of mushing, sled dog breeds, races around the world, and the

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2026 Adult Reading Challenge

RML invites you to embark on a literary adventure with the 2026 Adult Reading Challenge, Plant a Seed, Read. Beginning January 1st and running through December 31st, this year-long challenge encourages adults to explore new genres, themes, and authors while earning chances to win fantastic prizes.

Challenge yourself to read one book from each of the twelve exciting categories:

- Agriculture-themed
- Book from your Childhood
- Cross-Cultural
- Family-themed
- Foodie/Cookbook
- Garden-themed
- Health-themed
- History
- Humorous
- Midwestern Author or Theme
- Recommended
- Set in Summer



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:

The success of this program is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors: Ashbachers Building Supplies, LLC; Cook Agency, Inc.; FreedomBank; Hacker, Nelson, & Co., P.C.; Holthaus Tax & Accounting; Joe & Matt's Plumbing and HVAC, LLC; Kerndt Brothers Savings Bank; Palmer Abstract; Peoples State Bank; Prime Electric; R. W. Pladsen, Inc.; Sweeney Real Estate, LLC; Torkelson-Waukon; Upper Iowa Insurance Services Corp.; and Yen Hing Dragon.



Thursday Night Book Club



The Thursday Night Book Club, a monthly gathering for book enthusiasts, announces its 2026 discussion topics. Meeting **every third Thursday of the month at 6 PM**, the club invites members and newcomers alike to delve into a range of captivating themes and authors, offering both in-person and virtual participation options to accommodate everyone's preferences.

Each month, we explore a new theme, providing participants the opportunity to dive into diverse genres and discover captivating stories. Whether you're a seasoned bookworm or just looking to read more, our book club offers something for everyone.

- **June 18** — Garden-themed book
- **July 16** — Beach read
- **August 20** — Historical fiction NOT set in the United States
- **September 17** — Agriculture theme
- **October 15** — A book that knocks your socks off
- **November 19** — Humorous book
- **December 17** — A book from your childhood

Teen Book Clubs

Robey Memorial Library invites teens in grades 7–12 to take part in two exciting book club series this summer: the Summer Book Club and the Classic Book Club. Both clubs will meet once a month in June and July, giving participants the opportunity to enjoy snacks, lively discussions, and engaging books with fellow readers.

The first five registrants for each session will receive a free copy of the featured book, courtesy of the RML Foundation. Additional copies of each title will also be available for checkout at the library.

Summer Book Club Schedule



Wednesday, June 10 | 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Accountable by Dashka Slater

Wednesday, July 8 | 10:30–11:30 a.m.

The Grandest Game by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Classic Book Club Schedule



Monday, June 15 | 4:00 p.m.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Monday, July 20 | 4:00 p.m.

The Arabian Nights (selections)

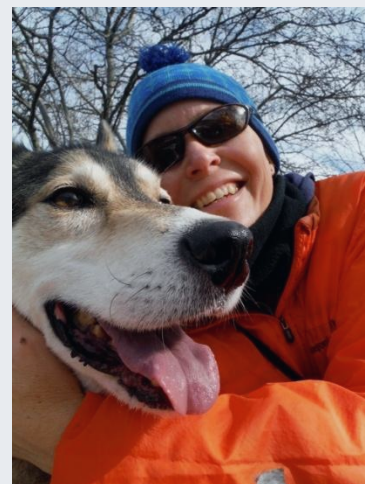
Please note: Registered teens who receive a free book and do not attend that month's book club meeting will be ineligible to receive a free book for the following month's session.

For more information or to register, please contact Robey Memorial Library at (563) 568-4424, or visit www.waukon.lib.ia.us.

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famous 1925 Serum Run involving Balto and Togo.

Additional discussion topics include climate change's impact on the sport, dryland mushing, wildlife encounters, and how Karen—originally from Indiana—became involved in dog sledding. The program will also include time for audience questions, photo opportunities, standing on the sled, and petting Sophia.



This engaging, hands-on experience is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact RML at (563) 568-4424 or visit www.waukon.lib.ia.us.



Pinterest Projects: Paper Quilling



RML invites community members to get creative at the Pinterest Projects Class on Thursday, June 11, at 5:30 PM in the Community Room (lower level) of the library. This bi-monthly class brings Pinterest-inspired projects to life, providing a fun and engaging way to explore new crafting techniques.

June's featured project is Paper Quilling. Turn colorful coiled paper strips into a unique work of art to take home. Learn the basics of paper quilling while creating a variety of decorative shapes and designs. The class is free of charge, and all materials will be provided by the library. Registration is recommended to ensure enough supplies are available for participants.

Pinterest is a popular visual bookmarking tool that helps users discover and save creative ideas. The Pinterest Projects Class brings these ideas into reality, offering hands-on instruction in a welcoming environment.



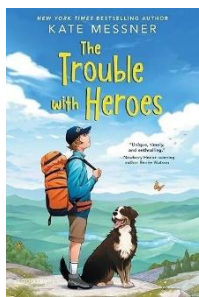
To register or learn more about this program, visit www.waukon.lib.ia.us or call 563-568-4424.

Virtual Author Visits

Robey Memorial Library invites members of the community to Virtual Author Visits in June with authors of the 2026 All Iowa Read book selections: Kate Messner, Allen Eskens, and T. L. Simpson.

Virtual Author Visits are open to all ages. While reading the book in advance is encouraged, it is not required. These programs are part of a statewide initiative sponsored by the State Library of Iowa, designed to give Iowans the opportunity to hear directly from All Iowa Reads authors about their work, creative process, and to engage in a live question-and-answer session.

Tuesday, June 9 @ 1:30 pm



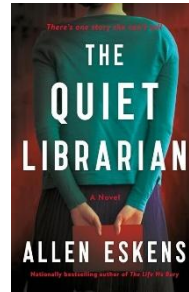
Join author Kate Messner, whose book *The Trouble with Heroes* has been selected as this year's Kids All Iowa Reads title, for a special virtual conversation alongside Janeé Jackson-Doering, Youth Services Consultant with the State Library of Iowa, and Josie Nabhan-

Warren, Iowa's 2026 Student Poet Ambassador.

About *The Trouble with Heroes*:

Finn Connelly is nothing like his dad, a star athlete and firefighter hero who always ran toward danger until he died two years ago. Finn's about to fail seventh grade and has never made headlines . . . until now. Caught on camera vandalizing a cemetery, he's in big trouble for kicking down some dead old lady's headstone. But it turns out that grave belongs to a legendary local mountain climber, and her daughter makes Finn an unusual offer: climb all forty-six Adirondack High Peaks with her dead mother's dog, and they can call it even. In a wild three months of misadventures, mountain mud, and unexpected mentors, Finn begins to find his way on the trails. At the top of each peak, he can see for miles and slowly begins to understand more about himself and his dad. But the mountains don't care about any of that, and as the clock ticks down to September, they have more surprises in store. Finn's final summit challenge may be more than even a hero can face.

Tuesday, June 16 @ 6:30 pm

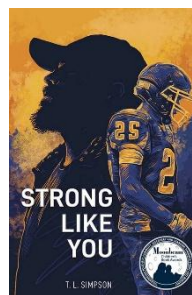


Join author Allen Eskens, whose book *The Quiet Librarian* has been selected as this year's All Iowa Reads title, for a special virtual conversation alongside Mike Jorgenson, All Iowa Reads Committee Member.

About *The Quiet Librarian*:

Hana Babic is a quiet, middle-aged librarian in Minnesota who wants nothing more than to be left alone. But when a detective arrives with the news that her best friend has been murdered, Hana knows that something evil has come for her, a dark remnant of the past she and her friend had shared. Thirty years before, Hana was someone else: Nura Divjak, a teenager growing up in the mountains of war-torn Bosnia—until Serbian soldiers arrived to slaughter her entire family before her eyes. The events of that day thrust Nura into the war, leading her to join a band of militia fighters, where she became not only a fierce warrior but a legend—the deadly Night Mora—ultimately forced to flee to the United States with a bounty on her head. Now, someone is hunting Hana, and her friend has paid the price, leaving her eight-year-old grandson in Hana's care. To protect the child without revealing her secret, Hana must again become the Night Mora—and hope she can find the killer before the past comes for them, too.

Wednesday, June 24 @ 3 pm



Join author T.L. Simpson, whose book *Strong Like You* has been selected as this year's Teen All Iowa Reads title, for a special virtual conversation alongside Janeé Jackson-Doering, Youth Services Consultant with the State Library of Iowa, and Josie Nabhan-Warren, Iowa's 2026 Student Poet Ambassador.

About *Strong Like You*:

Walker Lauderdale hasn't cried once since his daddy went missing. And even though everyone says he's dead, Walker won't give up hope. He knows his father is out there, somewhere, cutting a wild trail through the Ozarks like always. But when a relative threatens to kick Walker and

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his momma out of the family home, Walker realizes he has no choice but to look for his daddy—a search that leads him straight to a drug-addled and dangerous man named Lukas Fisher. While attempting to balance life as a normal fifteen-year-old boy and star player on the football team, Walker begins a desperate search across the hills of the Ozarks for the man who, for better or worse, taught him everything he knows about strength.

About All Iowa Reads

Established in 2003, the purpose of All Iowa Reads is to foster a sense of unity through reading. Iowans are encouraged to come together in their communities to read and talk about a single book title in the same calendar year. All Iowa Reads consists of three programs, each with one title chosen per year: adults, teens ages 12-18, and kids ages 8-12.

All Iowa Reads is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of Iowa.

Find out more about All Iowa Reads



Senior Wellness Chat & Bingo

PRIZES

BRING A FRIEND

Tuesday June 2nd
4:00PM - 5:30PM

Robey Memorial Library
401 1st Ave NW, Waukon, IA 52172

Senior Wellness Chat & Bingo

The new Senior Life Solutions department at Veterans Memorial Hospital will be hosting a Wellness Chat and Bingo on Tuesday, June 2nd in Waukon at the Robey Memorial Library from 4:00pm-5:30 pm. Any seniors, age 65 and over, are invited to attend and enjoy playing bingo while sharing some social time together. Prizes will also be awarded.

Spring Book Sale

Friday, June 19 10 am-6 pm
Saturday, June 20 10 am-4 pm

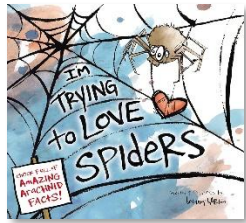
Lower Level
Robey Memorial Library
401 1st Ave NW, Waukon, IA 52172
(563) 568-4424

All proceeds benefit the Robey Memorial Library Foundation.

Foundation Spring Book Sale

Robey Memorial Library Foundation will be having a Spring Book Sale on Friday, June 19th from 10 am-6 pm and Saturday, June 20th from 10 am-4 pm--fill a bag of books for \$5.

Main Street Story Walk



The Robey Memorial Library, in collaboration with the Oneota Valley Literary Foundation (OVLS), is inviting families to take part in the Main Street Story Walk throughout downtown Waukon this June.

This year's featured book is *I'm Trying to Love Spiders* by Bethany Barton. Families can enjoy the humorous and fact-filled story as it unfolds page by page in the windows of six participating local businesses along West Main Street.

The Story Walk encourages families to spend time outdoors, read together, and explore downtown Waukon in a fun and interactive way.

How It Works

Participants will visit six stops along West Main Street, with each location displaying a portion of the story. As families move from one business to the next, they'll continue following the adventure of *I'm Trying to Love Spiders*.



Participating businesses include:

1. Wax by Amber
2. Howard's Home Furnishings
3. Waukon State Bank
4. Teslow's Formal Wear
5. KNEI Radio
6. Fiesta Vallarta Mexican Restaurant

After completing the walk, families can stop by the Robey Memorial Library and either show a photo of their family enjoying the Story Walk or provide the secret code word to receive a free book.

Whether you're a longtime resident or visiting the area, the Main Street Story Walk offers a wonderful opportunity to experience downtown Waukon while sharing the joy of reading together.



Reading Dragons & Friends

RML invites young readers to embark on an literary adventure with "Reading Dragons & Friends". Designed to foster a love for reading while leveling up skills, this program offers participants the chance to collect and play with dragon-themed cards.

June through August, pick up a reading log from the library or print one from our website to begin your journey. Each participant will earn collectible dragon cards by logging their reading time in 30-minute increments.

Summer Explorers

Selected Wednesdays in June & July | 10:30am

- **June 3** *Absolute Science: Foam Cannon*—Treat this program like a pool party & bring your own goggles and towels!
- **June 17** *Cardboard Construction*—Create your own design using cardboard and imagination.
- **July 1** *Native Plants & Seed Bombs*—with Sara Berges, USDA Soil Conservationist.
- **July 15** *Paper Quilling Art*—Design a unique work of art by coiling colorful paper strips.
- **July 29** *Monarch Program*—Presented by Lynne Campbell, AmeriCorps.

Lego Club

RML in Waukon hosts Lego Club in June & July of 2026.

Students ages 7 to 17 are invited to participate in Lego Club on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30am in June and July.

Legos are available at club but you may bring your own. Weekly build challenges and mini-figure trading is encouraged! This is a walk-in event no registration required.



June Events

June 1-30

- Main Street Story Walk

Tuesday, June 2

- Story Time, 10:30am
- Lego Club (ages 7-17), 10:30am
- Stay & Play, 11am
- Senior Wellness Chat & BINGO, 4pm

Thursday, June 4

- Tech Tutor, 10am-12pm
- Snuggle Story Time, 5:30pm

Tuesday, June 9

- Story Time with the Driftless, 10:30am
- Lego Club (ages 7-17), 10:30am
- Virtual Author Visit: Kate Messner, 1:30pm
- RML Board Meeting, 4:30pm

Wednesday, June 10

- Grab & Go for Kids & for Teens: first-come, first served
- Teen Summer Book Club: *Accountable* by Dashka Slater, 10:30am

Thursday, June 11

- Tech Tutor, 10am-12pm
- Pinterest Projects: Paper Quilling, 5:30pm

Saturday, June 13

- Live & Learn: Karen Land, Iditarod Dog Musher, 2pm

Monday, June 15

- Classic Book Club for Teens: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, 4pm

Tuesday, June 16

- Story Time, 10:30am
- Lego Club (ages 7-17), 10:30am
- Virtual Author Visit: Allen Eskens, 6:30pm

Wednesday, June 17

- Summer Explorers: Cardboard Construction, 10:30am

Thursday, June 18

- Tech Tutor, 10am-12pm
- Foundation Book Sale, 2-6pm
- Thursday Night Book Club: Garden theme, 6pm

Friday, June 19

- Foundation Spring Book Sale, 10am-6pm

Saturday, June 20

- Foundation Spring Book Sale, 10am-4pm

Tuesday, June 23

- Story Time, 10:30am
- Lego Club (ages 7-17), 10:30am

Wednesday, June 24

- Virtual Author Visit: T.L. Simpson, 3pm

Thursday, June 25

- Tech Tutor, 10am-12pm

Tuesday, June 30

- Story Time, 10:30am
- Lego Club (ages 7-17), 10:30am



Robey Memorial Library

www.waukon.lib.ia.us

563-568-4425

401 1st Ave NW
Waukon, IA 52172

Secret Word Search

In this newsletter, there is a random word in a sentence. The word is totally unrelated to the subject matter. Mention the word to Staff while visiting RML this month & select a free book from the book vault.

