



200 N. Phelps St., Decatur MI 49045/PHONE 269-423-4771/FAX 269-423-8373

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For more information, contact Library Director Ryan Wieber, 269-423-4771

VBDL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

DECATUR, MICHIGAN - - - Van Buren District Library announces the retirement of long-time employee Debby Stassek. The public is invited to celebrate her 34-year career during an open house at Webster Memorial Library in Decatur, Saturday, May 20, 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

The Bloomingdale resident began her tenure with the library in 1983 as a part-time story hour leader and was named Assistant Director in 2009. For many years Stassek helped oversee the district's technology needs, but also gained a following with a variety of programs she developed such as the Crazy Cat People Party, Cookbook Club, Writers' Group, and ongoing jewelry-making classes.

"Debby has touched many lives over the years in her various roles as a jack-of-all-trades librarian," Library Director Ryan Wieber says. "She's a friendly and compassionate teacher of library skills, technology and craft arts."

One of Stassek's lasting contributions is the Internet Users' Group (IUG), which she founded in 1995, the year Intel introduced the Universal Serial Bus interconnect device, commonly known as the USB, the first Yahoo! Search interface was founded, and Amazon.com sold its first book. The group continues to meet the second Saturday of most months to explore various topics in technology, enjoy potlucks and learn from each other. According to Stassek, a number of charter members continue to attend.

Wieber also commends and thanks Stassek for her expertise in building an excellent nonfiction collection and providing technology advice to patrons.

"We are thankful for Debby's longstanding dedication to providing great public service for all patrons of Van Buren District Library."

VBDL is headquartered at Webster Memorial Library in Decatur, with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

Decatur * Bangor * Bloomingdale * Covert * Gobles * Lawrence * Mattawan