

# LIBRARY Connections



## City Council Shows Support for Library Expansion; Work Continues

The Rochester City Council showed their support for the library's proposed expansion at a committee of the whole meeting in March, telling Library Director Audrey Betcher the city will back the project if she can secure additional funding.

"This project needs to be a complete partnership," says Betcher, "and the largest partner, the city, has already stepped forward. Now we will continue talking with other partners: Olmsted County, DMC, and community donors."

In April Betcher made an initial presentation to Olmsted County Commissioners where questions were raised about the proposal and the overall cost. According to Betcher, the proposed county portion is \$6.3 million, or about 12 percent of the overall cost. "We used the county's annual operating cost support as a guide for what we're asking for. The 12 percent is in line with how much the county pays annually for library service."

Olmsted County has a long history of supporting the library financially, with the first documented payments dating back to the early 1900s.

Throughout the spring months, Betcher says she will keep talking to county officials and keep focusing on how to solve the library's problem of not having enough space. "The library is busy and will continue to be busy," she says, adding, "so we will keep working to provide the Rochester-area community the space it needs for library service."

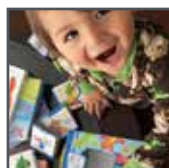
Expanding and renovating the library has been part of the library's strategic plan since 2012, when a group of community members and leaders took part in RPL's long-range planning process. "Four years ago we heard what the top needs were in Rochester, and we shifted how we do business," explains Betcher. "Once we started intentionally working to meet those needs, we saw an increase in visitors, program attendance, and now we're at a point where we're hearing stories of impact."

One example is the Bone Builders exercise program, part of the library's Wellness Corner. The idea grew out of the library's goal to "engage the community." Bone Builders started in 2014 as a way to promote wellness, but developed into a program that also creates connections. Read more about the program on page 5.

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# On the Road Again!

By Heather Acerro

With warmer weather, the BookBike is returning to the road, making regular stops at downtown parks May 16th - September 9th.

- 1st & 3rd Mondays, 10AM – 11AM at Soldier’s Field
- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1PM – 2PM at Kutzky Park
- 2nd & 4th Mondays, 10AM – 11AM at Slatterly Park
- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1PM – 2PM at Silver Lake Park

Check RPL’s online calendar for a full schedule of BookBike events including Rochester Downtown Farmers Market, Thursdays on Flrst, Honkers games, and more!



# Neighbors Read: Olmsted County

By Heather Acerro

In 2013, Rochester Public Library launched the Neighbors Read program in the Slatterly Park neighborhood with support from the United Way of Olmsted County. Through the Neighbors Read program the library connects with families of preschool children, bringing them to the library for early literacy activities and then planting a mini-library in their yards. In 2015 RPL partnered with Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Greater Rochester class to install even more mini-libraries in the community. Due to the ongoing commitment of Friends of the Rochester Public Library, RPL now supports over 120 mini-libraries in Rochester and we estimate that over 20,000 free books have been distributed through mini-libraries since 2013.

This year, we are taking Neighbors Read to greater Olmsted County. We are currently looking for applicants living in the following locations:

- |               |             |                |           |               |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| Byron         | Elmira      | Kalmar         | Post Town | Salem         |
| Cascade       | Eyota       | Marion         | Potsdam   | Salem Corners |
| Chester       | Farmington  | New Haven      | Predmore  | Shanty Town   |
| Cummingsville | Genoa       | Orion          | Quincy    | Simpson       |
| Douglas       | Haverhill   | Oronoco        | Ringe     | Viola         |
| Dover         | High Forest | Pleasant Grove | Rock Dell |               |

We hope to install 30 mini-libraries throughout these communities. If you live in one of our target locations for *Neighbors Read: Olmsted County* and are interested in hosting a mini-library in your yard or community room of an apartment complex, please contact Jon Allen at 507-328-2353 for application materials.



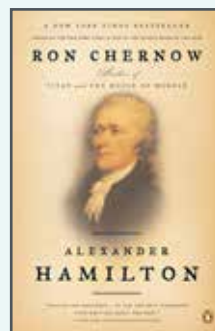
# What We’re Reading

Looking for a great read? Try one of our staff picks!



**Leaving Time** by Jodi Picoult  
*Adult fiction, suggested by Vicki Allen*

“Leaving Time tells the story of several lives intertwined as a young girl tries to determine why her mother left her. Through her mother’s journals, you will gain insight into what happened and why.”



**Alexander Hamilton** by Ron Chernow  
*Adult non-fiction, suggested by Audrey Betcher*

“The only thing I remembered from my grade school history class was that Hamilton was killed in a duel by Aaron Burr. With all the hype from the Broadway musical and a glowing recommendation from a friend, I knew it was time to read it. The biography gave me new context for the beginnings of our country and gave me appreciation for this incredibly talented and flawed man.”

# Memory Café

By Beth Nienow

A new program at Rochester Public Library aims to help those affected by Alzheimer's and other conditions affecting memory and thinking skills.

Memory Café is a way for people with memory loss and their care partners to come together to make new friendships and support one another. It's a time and place where people with dementia, including Alzheimer's, along with their companions (care partners, families, friends, and professionals) can connect and interact with their peers and find encouragement and acceptance. Memory cafes provide an opportunity for participants to meet regularly to exchange experiences and to give and receive emotional support.

Starting in May, Memory Café will be held at Rochester Public Library on the first and third Tuesdays of the month between 10:30 AM-12:30 PM in Meeting Room B. It will be facilitated

by trained volunteers with the support of health professionals, including faculty from the University of Minnesota-Rochester and their students.

Memory Café is a partnership program with RPL and Rochester ACT on Alzheimer's, a volunteer driven group that is part of a statewide collaboration preparing Minnesota for the impacts of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Locally, Rochester ACT on Alzheimer's is working toward the goal of making Rochester a "dementia friendly" community.

This program is free and open to everyone affected by dementia-related illnesses, along with their care givers.



## Rochester Public Library Books on the Fly!



Flying out of Rochester International Airport? After you check your luggage, check out RPL's new "Books on the Fly" kiosk.

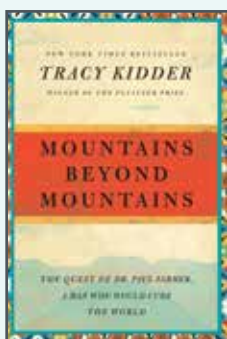
Connected to thousands of digital ebooks and audiobooks, the Power Tower kiosk allows library patrons and visitors a chance to quickly add digital content to their phones, tablets, and other devices.

Kim Edson, Head of Reader's Services at RPL, says the kiosk is the first of its kind in Minnesota. "We are actually a pilot program for the state," explains Edson, adding, "RPL likes to be the first when it comes to trying new services."

Aside from a digital kiosk, the "Books on the Fly" program also includes a new mini-library at the airport.

Books on the Fly was made possible, in part, by funding from the Minnesota Department of Education through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This project will serve as a pilot for other transit hubs throughout the state of Minnesota.

## What We're Reading Looking for a great read? Try one of our staff picks!



**Mountains Beyond Mountains** by Tracy Kidder  
*Adult non-fiction, suggested by Greg Sauve*

"One of the most inspirational books that I've ever read. Dr. Farmer, an infectious disease specialist, runs a clinic in Haiti treating the poorest of the poor. The author gives a vivid picture of rural Haiti and the challenges in treating TB cases in an impoverished region. A moving portrait of how one man with a vision can bring people and resources together to aid thousands living in the most difficult conditions."



**Trouble Boys: the true adventures of the Replacements**

by Bob Mehr  
*Adult non-fiction, suggested by Brian Lind*

"Best book about the Minneapolis band, the Replacements, ever written."

# Rochester Public Library Foundation 2015 Annual Report

## Rochester Public Library Foundation Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	2015	2014
Bank Accounts		
US Bank Brokerage Account	10,004	10,002
US Bank Checking	54,130	93,552
Total Current Assets	65,134	103,554

Fixed Assets	2015	2014
Furniture & Equipment	1,898	1,898
Leasehold Improvements	11,275	11,275
Total Fixed Assets	13,173	13,173
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	1,898	1,266
Total Fixed Assets	11,275	11,907

Other Assets	2015	2014
Investment Portfolio	2,248,608	2,305,719
Accrued Interest	3,464	2,331
Total Other Assets	2,252,073	2,308,050

Total Assets	2,327,482	2,423,512
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Equity	2015	2014
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	2,191,399	2,191,399
Unrestricted Net Assets	229,936	64,270
Net Revenue	(93,853)	167,843
Total Equity	2,327,482	2,423,512

## Letter from the Library Foundation Board President & Executive Director

2015 may seem like the distant past, but there have been many developments in the Library's proposed expansion that have already occurred in the first quarter of 2016. Many of the foundations for those developments were set in 2015.

The major event for the Foundation in 2015 (other than Wit, Wisdom & Wine, which occurred just after the turn of the year) was the funding and coordination of a Feasibility Study conducted by Paul J. Strawhecker, Inc. Paul and his team, led by Scott Larson, spent time speaking to locals to gauge community opinions about the expansion project. The community was overwhelmingly in favor of expansion at our current location. Your dollars also supported online catalog upgrades, database searches, security items, paging system, materials and marketing.

As a Foundation, we are committed to engaging with the community in furtherance of our mission of supporting the Library. In 2015, we engaged new community partners, such as the Rochester Area Foundation, Bremer Bank, and others as well as holding volunteer appreciation events. We will continue to create new partnerships and new opportunities in 2016.

Sincere gratitude to all who showed support for the Library and the Foundation in 2015 by donating items for sales, attending an event, volunteering, writing to local government in support of the proposed expansion, attending a public forum or other meetings. Please continue to show your support for the Foundation and Library! We will need you to share our vision as the expansion project progresses. Best wishes in 2016.

**Christopher C. Wendland**  
Foundation Board, President  
Attorney at Law  
Wendland Utz, Ltd.  
chris@wendlaw.com

**Vicki Allen**  
Rochester Public Library,  
Executive Director  
vallen@rochester.lib.mn.us

## Rochester Public Library Foundation Board Members

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**Bill Wiktor**  
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and Services



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Karmen Gusa

## Visitors Understand Library Value

Laura Kurland understands the value of a library, as she doesn't have one near her in Peru. When Laura and her son Camillo visit Rochester, she always makes sure to visit the library.

"Sadly we live in a small town in Peru where libraries don't exist and book availability is little to none. This is basically our entire collection. I desperately miss the Rochester Public Library and adore the kids' section."



## Bone Builders

Every week the Bone Builders group meets at the Rochester Public Library to do more than just exercise. Group leader Carol Fishbune says the twice-weekly class that she guides has become a close group of friends. See more about the Bone Builders on the library's YouTube channel or Facebook page.

[bit.ly/RPLvideos](http://bit.ly/RPLvideos)



**Come join us!**

## Letter from the Presidents of the Friends

On April 18, as a part of celebrating National Library Week, The Friends hosted the Library Staff Breakfast which is an annual tradition. The turnout was great, the room looked beautiful and the food was superb. A fun time was had by all.

The other highlight we want to share with you is that we went to the Minnesota State Capitol. This was in connection with the 2016 Library Legislative Day on April 13. We went with Kim Edson and Karen Lemke,

both staff at the RPL, to lobby for \$10 million in the Library Construction Grant Program for maintenance and update of older library buildings and construction of new buildings. Getting this grant (or at least part of it) will greatly help RPL during this time of our own planned expansion project for \$55 million – especially since each state grant dollar has historically leveraged the use of seven local dollars.

The second aim was to facilitate the use of convenient, affordable and world class broadband networks for all Minnesotans.

We met with six of our legislators and came back home with the hope that we managed to educate them about our Library's need to expand and modify due to the tremendous growth in population and demand for additional computer services.

*Phyllis Hambright and  
Lathika S. Nair*

*Friends of the Rochester Public Library  
Presidents*

## Best Little Bookstore

Did you know the best little bookstore in Rochester is in the Public Library? As you come into the library it is located right next to the elevator. There is also an entrance in the foyer on Second Street.

It is the only family friendly bookstore downtown. The Friends' Bookstore accepts donations of books, DVDs, CDs and magazines and re-sells them.

Did you know we have VHS tapes, audio cassettes and books and music on CDs for sale?

Our gift certificates make great end of the year teacher gifts.



In the store, our Biography section has switched places with our Young Adult section.

We recently received a donation of a large number of Civil War books and DVDs which are on display.

We also have a display of books on cooking with kids.

## Friends' Bookstore Hours:

**Monday** 10AM-7PM

**Tuesday** 10AM-4PM

**Wednesday** 10AM-7PM

**Thursday** 10AM-7PM

**Friday** 10AM-4PM

**Saturday (school year)** 10AM-4PM

**Saturday (summer\*)** 10AM-1PM

**Sunday (school year)** 1:30-4:30PM

**Sunday (summer\*)** closed

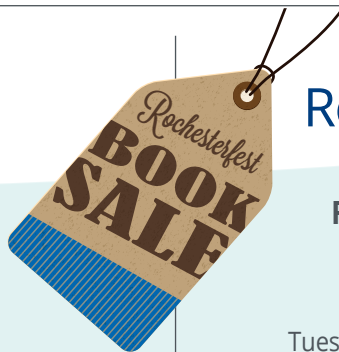
*\*Summer hours are from  
Memorial Day to Labor Day.*



## Love Books?

Looking for a fun group of volunteers? Consider joining the Friends of RPL and volunteering in the Friends Bookstore, at auditorium book sales or any library event.

Contact Marilyn Campbell at 507.328.2341 or marilyn@rochester.lib.mn.us if you have any questions.



## Friends' 2016 Rochesterfest Book Sale

Rochester Public Library Auditorium

### Friends' Members Only Preview Sale

Monday, June 20 • 5-7PM

### Public

Tuesday, June 21 & Wednesday, June 22 • 9:30AM-7PM

Thursday, June 23 • 9:30AM-6PM

Hardcovers (non-fiction and fiction) \$2.00 + tax

Mass Paperbacks \$1 + tax Trade-size Paperbacks \$1.50 + tax

Children's and non-print \$ .50 + tax

Last Day: \$7 (includes tax) per grocery bag provided by Friends.

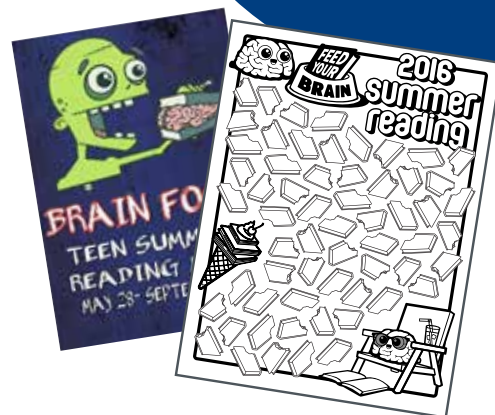
# Books = Brains This Summer at RPL

Kids and teens are invited to spend the summer feasting on brain food during RPL's summer reading programs, which run May 28 through September 3. Kids from birth through those entering sixth grade in the fall can pick up a Feed Your Brain reading log at the library, bookmobile, or BookBike. After reading for 15 hours, kids can turn in their log at the library or bookmobile for a brand new book, a reusable lunch bag, and a family swimming pass to the YMCA.

Teens entering grades 7 through 12 in the fall can pick up a Brain Food reading log and keep track of their reading all summer to win prizes. After 10 hours of reading, teens will receive a reusable lunch bag and a choice of coupons from the Rochester Area Family YMCA or the Friends of the Rochester Public Library Bookstore. After 20 hours of reading, they will choose a brand new

paperback book to keep. For 30 hours, and for every 10 hours beyond, they will receive a raffle ticket to be entered into the grand prize drawings at the end of the summer.

Feed Your Brain and Brain Food Summer Reading Programs are made possible through generous sponsors including Friends of the Rochester Public Library, Bremer Bank, and Rochester Area Family YMCA.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PRIDE PROM

**Saturday, July 16th at 6PM in the Auditorium**

Pride Prom is a special event for LGBTQIA

(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, or Asexual) teens and allies in grades 7 through 12.



## Introducing the Open Books Reading Challenge

By Jake Gauslow

The Open Books Reading Challenge is a year-long reading challenge for people interested in pushing the boundaries of their reading. Here's how it works: We've given you a list of 15 challenge categories (see below). You have until the end of the year to read a book from at least 10 of those categories. If you turn in your completed challenge log by December 31st, you'll get a coffee mug that you can use to brag about your accomplishment! Or, since we're not usually into that sort of thing in Minnesota, you can also just use it to drink coffee (which Minnesotans are definitely into).

The Open Books Challenge focuses on reading a wider variety of books, including:

- A book that has won a National Book Award, Man Booker Prize, or Pulitzer Prize
- A book by or about a person of color
- A book by an author from Minnesota
- A book with a main character that is Muslim
- A young adult novel



- A book by or about someone who is Native American
- A book originally published the year you were born
- A book about politics (fiction or nonfiction)
- A nonfiction book about science
- A book by or about someone who identifies as LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, or Asexual)
- A book that was recommended to you by a library staff member
- An audiobook
- A book with a main character who has a mental illness
- A graphic novel
- A book you were supposed to read in high school or college, but didn't

For more information about the Open Books Challenge, including book recommendations for each category, visit our website at [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/openbooks](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/openbooks)

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## Ways to Give

By supporting the Rochester Public Library Foundation, you make a profound impact on the lives of those you care about as well as the quality of life in our community.



Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.  
<http://apps.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/supporting/foundation/donation/index.cfm>

The Thrivent Choice program helps Thrivent members make a positive impact in their communities. Please consider the Rochester Public Library Foundation when directing Choice Dollars. To learn more, visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836.



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The IBM Matching Grants program enables employees and retirees to increase the value of their donations.

<https://doublethedonation.com/forms/ibm.pdf>



**United Way of  
Olmsted County**

Choose Rochester Public Library Foundation when you designate your dollars.



Support us on Give to the Max Day on November 10th, 2016 and all year long

<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Rochester-Public-Library-Foundation>



### Paycheck - Automatic Withdrawal

Set up automatic payments from your bank account for regular, tracked donations.

On your bank's website, enter the account information for your charity and select automatic payments, the bank account you wish to withdraw from, the amount you want to donate and how often you want to donate.



For more information about these giving options and others, call 507.328.2387. The Rochester Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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