

Rochester Public Library News and Events

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Libraries Change Lives

When I was asked how libraries changed my life, I reflected how libraries around the world have been a great source of recreation, inspiration, and even preservation. My earliest memories are of books, always being surrounded by books of all kinds. I am 58 now and still love the privilege of the library. I was raised in an American military service family. As such we moved regularly. But one constant my six brothers and sister shared with me was the joy we always had in our library cards. Mother always made sure we had. Montgomery, Alabama, to Hampton, Virginia, to Washington DC, to Garden Grove, California, we were always part of a community; we had somewhere to go.

We could explore the world, do a homework assignment, catch a film, or learn how to use a tool. Before we could read, Mom read to us from so many authors: Lewis Carroll, Robert Louis Stevenson, Mark Twain, Daniel Defoe, Charles Dickens, Walt Whitman, John Steinbeck, Sinclair Lewis, C.S. Lewis. I experienced great pleasure when the Chronicles of Narnia were recently rediscovered. My sister Anne sniffed, "What's the big deal? Mom read that to us in the 50's." She should know, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* was one of the first books she brought home from the library for our mom's nightly reading session. Every week we went to the library and picked out one to share and at least one for ourselves. Rain or shine, winter or summer, we read – and we were read to! Time went on, colleges were attended, our own



Dan Chase

families started, parents passed on and still all seven of us have our cards (some even have several). Some years ago, yet late in my life having just retired for the first time, I started my master's degree. My thesis advisor took pity on me and gave his biggest tip on academic survival. "There is no way any one person can know everything about one subject. What you need to know is how to find everything there is to know about a given subject. My first rule of scholarship is to know where to find a good librarian."

So, scared of computers in the beginnings of the information age (and nearly incapable of writing legibly) I went in search of a typewriter at the University library. They don't exist; how am I ever

going to write these almost daily assignments and get them in on time? The librarians introduced me to the computer in the student lab.

Then I found myself frequently in Rochester as well as in Lincoln. Here I discovered one of my most cherished friends and resources, Frank Hawthorne in Reference. Through him I learned to refine my searches, use the most current material, and improve the efficiency of my time. Because of Frank and his colleagues in the library, I was able to complete my literature search and get my thesis project approved. Eventually I graduated and went on to teach for a few years.

--continued on back page

Library News Bulletin

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July Events @ Rochester Public Library

All library events are free and open to the public

101 2nd Street SE

www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

507-285-8000

Tuesday, July 1 Bedtime Stories Auditorium

Stories, puppets and films to give you sweet dreams.



6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 9 Summer Music with Justin Roberts! Auditorium

Musician and children's songwriter Justin Roberts will perform some favorite tunes from his well-known children's recordings and introduce some new songs from his latest release called Pop Fly! *Sponsored by Friends of the Library*

10:00 am & 1:00 pm

Wednesday, July 2 Special Program: Baseball Fun! Auditorium

Join us for some baseball fun! Meet some members of the Rochester Honkers baseball team, collect their autographs, and see a baseball film.

10:00 am & 1:00 pm

Wednesday, July 2 Movie @ Your Library - Spiderwick Chronicles Auditorium

From the beloved best selling series of books comes this fantasy adventure about the Grave family who moves into the secluded house of their great, great Uncle Arthur Spiderwick. Once there, they begin to notice strange accidents and disappearances that seem to happen on a daily basis and they begin to uncover the fantastic truth of creatures which inhabit the Spiderwick estate. Rated PG.



7:00 pm

Wednesday, July 9 iFilms: International and Independent Films Auditorium

XXY (Drama | Argentina) For just about everybody, adolescence means having to confront a number of choices and life decisions, but rarely any as monumental as the one facing 15 year-old Alex (Ines Efron,) who was born an intersex child. As Alex begins to explore her sexuality, her mother invites friends from Buenos Aires to come for a visit at their house on the gorgeous Uruguayan shore, along with their 16-year-old son Álvaro (Martin Piroyanski.) Alex is immediately attracted to the young man, which adds yet another level of complexity to her personal search for identity, and forces both families to face their worst fears. *The iFilm series is intended for mature adults. Please provide guidance to your children. Admission is free.*



6:00 pm

Monday, July 7 YA Game Night Auditorium

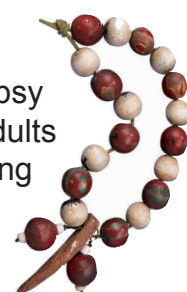
Want to try your hand at Wii Sports? Need to challenge your Guitar Hero skills against others? Do you like to Dance, Dance Revolution or play other computer games? Then come to our game night and have some fun playing games with other local teens.

7:00 pm

Tuesday, July 15 Bead Jewelry Class Auditorium

Beth Kraft and the staff of Nordic Gypsy will be leading a class for young adults ages 12-18. Participants will be making a beaded bracelet as well as learning about other bead crafts and jewelry making projects.

2:00 pm



Tuesday, July 8 Writing Group Meeting Room A

Stuck on your first draft? Not sure about your plot? Let's get together and help each other out.

6:30 pm



Tuesday, July 15 Bedtime Stories Auditorium

Stories, puppets and films to give you sweet dreams.

6:30 pm

Tuesday, July 8 Bedtime Stories Auditorium

Stories, puppets and films to give you sweet dreams.

6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 16 10:00 am & 1:00 pm
Hans Mayer's Silly Concert For Kids
Auditorium

Feeling silly? Popular children's recording artist Hans Mayer will have you laughing and singing along to his ear-tickling music!

Thursday, July 17 1:30 pm
Senior Techies - Digital Camera
Meeting Room B

Participants will learn some basics about digital photography. Also participants will be able to use the library's digital camera to shoot photos and view them on a computer. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or call 285-8002.

Tuesday, July 22 6:30 pm
Bedtime Stories
Auditorium

Stories, puppets and films to give you sweet dreams.

Wednesday, July 23 10:00 am & 1:00 pm
Storyteller and Juggler - Bob Kann
Auditorium

Performer Bob Kann uses humor, storytelling, and juggling to encourage kids to explore the magic of reading.

Thursday, July 24 1:30 pm
Senior Techies - E-mail/Scan Photos
Meeting Room B

The class will cover how to e-mail a photo as an attachment to an e-mail account. Participants should have an e-mail account and must be comfortable using computers. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or call 285-8002.

Friday, July 25 9:30 am
Senior Techies - Computer Practice
Meeting Room B

Need a quick refresher on any of our Senior Techies classes? Want some practice using your new e-mail address? Do you need access to a computer, a scanner, a digital camera or the Internet? Join us in Meeting Room B to practice your computer skills as you've always been meaning to do! Computers are provided and a librarian will be there to answer basic computer questions. No registration is necessary, just "drop in". Recommended for patrons 55+.



Monday, July 28 7:00 pm
YA Game Night
Auditorium

Want to try your hand at Wii Sports? Need to challenge your Guitar Hero skills against others? Do you like to Dance, Dance Revolution or play other computer games? Then come to our game night and have some fun playing games with other local teens.

Tuesday, July 29 10:00 am
Improv Acting Class
Masque Youth Theatre - 14 Fourth St. SW

The Masque Youth Theatre will be presenting a FREE 3 hour improv acting class for youth ages 12-18. Register online, at the Fiction, Movies and Music desk or call 285-8006.

Tuesday, July 29 6:30 pm
Bedtime Stories
Auditorium

Stories, puppets and films to give you sweet dreams.

Wednesday, July 30 10:00 am & 1:00 pm
Ventriloquist Gary Wick & Clarence the Duck
Auditorium

Clarence the Duck and his best friend Gary Wick will tickle your funny bone with jokes, songs, and amazing ventriloquism!

New Class!

Thursday, July 31 1:30 pm
Introduction to Editing Digital Photos
Meeting Room B

Do you want to touch up and crop your digital photos? How about learning how to convert them into e-mail friendly file sizes? This class will demonstrate free online tools for basic editing of your digital photographs. Please bring a digital photo you want to play with on either a flash drive, CD-ROM or other storage device. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or call 285-8002.

**In observance of
Independence Day,
Rochester Public Library will
be closed Friday, July 4**

Now, in my fourth adult incarnation, I work and teach in retail technology. I stay current in my profession through all the resources, just a ten-minute walk from my home. Every week I teach more effectively because I can find the answers, in words other than my own, to my students questions. It's all because I have a library card.

I get the great joy of seeing this remarkable tradition continue for future generations. One of my students lives in a remote area and is home schooled. After joining me for my classes, he wished to explore the art and science of digital photography further at home. Could I recommend a couple of current texts? Of course, because just coincidentally one of my special friends in the library had just discovered and purchased for the collection two very timely and well written text's which he had just sent me an e-mail about.

I forwarded them to my student by e-mail thinking

he might chose to buy one online from an on-line service or something. Wonder of wonders, he called our library. Two days later he checks them out from the bookmobile. Our library staff was watching out for me again and saw that my client got the same great service I always received: true academic professionals, true customer service professionals who chose to make a difference.

My father once took me to the Stanford University Library. There he quietly showed me not only his original dissertation in the collections but explained why he had chosen a life as a military officer. His statement was simple, "I choose to defend this." As I reach his age when he shared that thought I, too, understand his thinking. Our greatest privilege is not just our freedom to think and speak, but to explore the recordings of how others choose to do so as found in our libraries.

Rochester Public Library's New Automated Materials Handling System

Andy Stehr

In mid-march the Rochester Public Library installed a new Automated Material Handling System. The library's goals were to get items back to our shelves faster, decrease the number of items missed during the check-in process and to have items immediately taken off a patron's record. Though the automated materials handling system has been working very well for the most part, there have been some challenges.

The automated materials handling system, or AMH, can accept only one item at a time. This means it takes longer to return items. This was a drawback of which the library was aware when we purchased the AMH, but we hoped that any inconvenience would be off-set by the items being directly checked in. If a patron puts more than one item thru the mouth, it can cause the system to shut down. Although, this does happen, this problem can be remedied by using the correct return procedures.

There is also a learning curve. Library staff has noticed that patrons who take the time to read the provided instructions experience a high level of success. Also, library staff and volunteers have been stationed diligently at the external AMH for weeks to assist patrons who are having a difficult time adjusting to the new system.

The basic steps for a successful return are: place an item in the AMH mouth with the title up, flush with the right side of the opening. Then slide the item forward until it catches on the rollers. Wait until you see either a green bar of light at the mouth of the AMH or a green check mark on the screen. Then insert the next item. If you're at the external book drop, you'll need to press the black button to start the process. If the AMH sends an item back, it means it could not read the barcode. Simply wait for the green light and try the item again.

It can be a challenge to reach the external AMH from inside a vehicle. We're currently working with our vendor, FKI, to re-engineer the external drop. We hope this will help with some of the reach issues.

The AMH has been working very well, and has helped the library return items to the shelves much faster. The library is committed to using the AMH, and we hope that, given time, our patrons will adjust to this new procedure. If you see someone struggling, be sure to help them out. If we all work together, all of us can benefit with the Automated Material Handling System.