



## The Frankenstein Project: Novella Contest

*"Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful."*  
- Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Southeast Minnesota authors are invited to show their fearlessness in Rochester Public Library's first-ever Frankenstein Novella Writing contest.

The beginning of the contest coincides with National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), a national event that has occurred every November since 1999.

"This is a natural time to kick off the Frankenstein Novella contest," says Lynette Perry, a Library Associate at RPL and one of the contest organizers.

Between October 2017 and March 2018, Southeast Minnesota residents are invited to participate in the contest. The novellas must be between 20,000 and 50,000 words, which aligns with the guidelines for NaNoWriMo.

Explains Perry, "Writers who participate in NaNoWriMo are encouraged to write 50,000 words during the 30 days of November. We imagine this could be used as a time

for writers to get a jump start on a finished novella for the Frankenstein Project."

Unlike NaNoWriMo, the Frankenstein Novella can be written anytime between now and March of 2018. Entries will be judged by a local panel and the finalists will have their novellas published in an anthology, which will be distributed locally and added to the Rochester Public Library collection.

The winners will also be awarded cash prizes with \$1,000 going to the first-place winner.

### Why Frankenstein?

The Frankenstein theme is being used for the novella contest to honor the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The contest is sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library and the Rochester MN Writer's Group.

For more details about the contest visit:  
<http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/novella>

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# Literacy Hub coming to Rochester Public Library

With the success of the Rochester Reading Champions (RRC) program, the Library is reconfiguring space to provide additional literacy support resources.

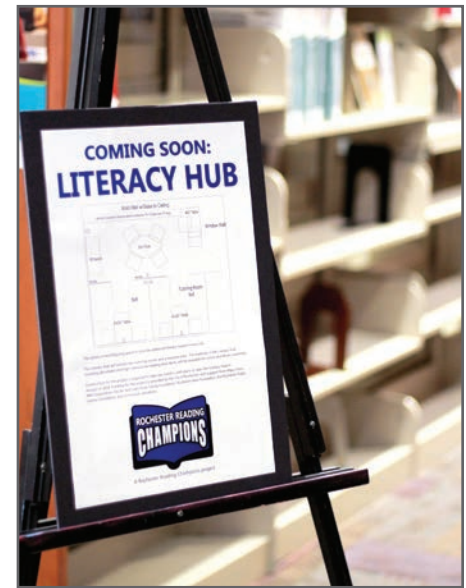
“We started RRC in 2014 with just five volunteers and now have a dedicated cohort of 27 highly-trained tutors providing free Orton-Gillingham lessons to underserved struggling readers in our community.” remarked RRC Coordinator Gail Harris. “The Literacy Hub will provide a supportive space for all, and ensure that resources are easier to find for tutors, struggling readers, and their families.”

The Literacy Hub will include two tutoring rooms and a resource area.

The materials in the Literacy Hub, including decodable and high interest/low reading level items, will be available for tutors and library customers. With space limited in the library, finding a location for the Literacy Hub on the library’s second floor was challenging.

“The Literacy Hub will be occupying an area previously used for reference materials,” says Head of Reference Louise Moe, adding, “Many of these materials are being transferred to the circulating collection or are now available online.”

Construction for the project is expected to take two months and the plans are for the Literacy Hub to open in January of 2018.



Funding for the project is coming from the City of Rochester, with support from Mayo Clinic, IBM Corporation, the Jim and Judy Sloan Family Foundation, Rochester Area Foundation, the Rochester Public Library Foundation, and community donations.

## Person to Person English Conversations

By Robin DeVries

Every Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon people from all over the world get together to practice their English at the library. Volunteers, staff, and UMR students facilitate these sessions, providing a friendly and relaxed setting for non-native English speakers to talk, get to know each other and get to know Rochester.

Sure, we practice pronunciation and vocabulary, and we have a never-ending supply of American idioms to explain, but the topics of discussion are all over the board (ah, another idiom). We talk about our different cultures, families and food – that’s a fun one. We talk about jobs, travel and history. People are full of questions



and comments about the U.S., and why we do what we do.

While our goal is to support literacy in all its forms, we’ve discovered an added bonus. These groups serve as a kind of welcoming committee for people new to the area. People appreciate seeing a familiar face. People like to laugh together. Friendships are formed. It’s a place where you can forget about global differences and experience just how much we all have in common.

**give** TO THE **MAX**   
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**Rochester Public Library Foundation is celebrating Give to the Max Day on November 16.**

Make the most of your gift by making a donation on November 16 at GiveMN.org. Search for Rochester Public Library Foundation, and then make your donation! For more convenience and better online service, **give anytime between November 1-16.** Together, we hope to raise more than \$10,000 on Give to the Max Day, and you can help us reach our goal of more Leaders!

**TODAY A READER**  
★ ★ ★ ★  
**TOMORROW A LEADER**





Percy Jackson, and toddlers painted with watercolors at the ArtCart.

“This program was able to reach people where they are and allowed them to learn and grow using a variety of literacies,” says Head of Marketing and Community Engagement, Karen Lemke, adding, “Not everyone learns best through reading alone.”

“The core of the program revolved around people tracking their participation time,” explains Head of Youth Services, Heather Acerro. “Otherwise, they had the freedom to build their personalized summer playlists from unlimited options.”

“With people logging over 120,000 activity hours, which is a huge increase over last year, I am awed by the popularity of Summer Playlist”,

adds Acerro. “Through this new program, we wanted to reach all ages and encourage people to explore personal interests, abilities, and our vibrant community.”

Summer Playlist was supported by Friends of the Rochester Public Library, Rochester Public Library Foundation, Rochester Family YMCA, Bremer Bank, Rotary Clubs of Rochester, Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester Public Transit, Minnesota Children’s Museum Rochester, and Davies Printing Company.

## Summer Playlist Results

Rochester Public Library’s “Summer Playlist” program reached over 4,000 participants this year, a 52% increase from 2016.

The Summer Playlist program also led to an increase in library visits. “We are constantly looking to create opportunities for people to create, connect, engage, and learn”, states Library Director, Audrey Betcher. “Summer Playlist broke new ground by engaging an unprecedented number of program participants, increasing materials checked-out in July by over 7,000 items.”

Throughout the summer months, babies, toddlers, kids, teens, and adults were encouraged to unplug and “read, explore, create, and connect” to earn rewards. This summer,

“Through this new program, we wanted to reach all ages and encourage people to explore personal interests, abilities, and our vibrant community.”

grandparents learned to play UNO, couples tried new recipes, teens unplugged and played wiffle ball, grade schoolers discovered



Summer Playlist raffle winner, Noah, was selected to win a private party with the Rochester Public Library Bookmobile. Noah’s 1st grade class from Sunset Terrace Elementary was treated to stories, music, party favors, and treats at the special event.

# Letter from the Library Foundation Executive Director

Fall is flying by literally and figuratively! We are finishing our current projects such as finalizing action items from our Foundation Board Retreat and starting on new ones such as our 2018 budget planning. Fall is also a time when many businesses kick off community campaigns. If you are employed at a business where you can give a yearly commitment, we would love if you would consider writing in "Rochester Public Library Foundation" and designate your dollars to us. Year-round giving is the best way for us to accomplish all the good work we do with the Library.

We also want to do a shout out to all our IBM employees and retirees! Your gifts and matching donations are a huge source of revenue for us. Please remember to use the new online IBM On Demand community portal to fill out your matching gift contribution. Don't forget to start tracking any volunteer hours you donated to the Library since 9/1/17. Thanks to your donated hours, both the Friends and the Foundation received a \$2,000 donation from IBM!

The holiday season is also right around the corner. Please think of us for gift ideas for family and friends. Wit, Wisdom & Wine tickets

make a great gift idea for our event on January 27. Amazon Smile users, please choose us as your charity of choice when making online holiday purchases. For a unique gift that will give back for years to come, be part of our Book-A-Year Endowment and we will honor someone with a book in their name in perpetuity.

Please follow us on this continued journey through the seasons and the great things that are popping up at the Rochester Public Library and Foundation. Your financial support makes all things possible. You can contribute online <http://bit.ly/RPLdonate> or via the enclosed envelope.

## THANK YOU



*Vicki Allen*  
Executive Director,  
Rochester Public  
Library Foundation  
[vallen@rochester.lib.mn.us](mailto:vallen@rochester.lib.mn.us)



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*- In recognition of the marriage of  
Alexandra Greenberg & Joshua Worisek*

Reed Bailey  
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*- In recognition of the marriage of  
Alexandra Greenberg & Joshua Worisek*

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*- In honor of all the Library Staff*

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*- In honor of Grandchildren*

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# Our Stories Capstone Event

By Kim Edson

After months of interviewing local residents, RPL and the Olmsted History Center are revealing twelve local histories.

The "Our Community, Our Stories" project allowed staff from both locations to interview, record, and archive the histories of historically underrepresented populations in Olmsted County, providing a clearer picture of life within the Rochester area.

On Sunday November 12, 2017 at 2:00 the library is hosting a public reception honoring the local residents, providing community members the chance to meet the people behind the stories.

Our Community, Our Stories was made possible with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the people of Minnesota for Library Legacy activities.



## What We're Reading: Scary Stories

Looking for a fright this Halloween season? Try one of these staff-recommended picks:

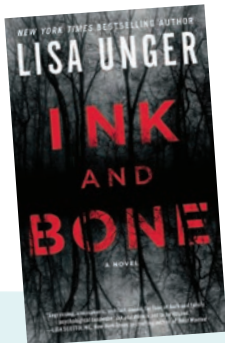


### We Have Always Lived in the Castle

by Ernest Shirley Jackson

Recommended by Beth Befort

"An eccentric family living in a dilapidated estate is surrounded by villagers who despise them. This story is complicated by an unreliable narrator, an unwanted guest, and a murder."



### Ink and Bone

by Lisa Unger

Recommended by Ruth Wentz

"This book features missing children and ghosts lurking."



### Bad Girls Don't Die

by Katie Alender

Recommended by Laura Randolph

"Lexi's younger sister starts acting strangely and odd things are happening in their old Victorian house. Just a coincidence? After researching the history of the house, Lexi's not convinced."

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ONE YEAR AND ONE WEEK  
- Tim Penny -

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NEW WORLD: WHERE DOES  
YOUR PALATE LIE?  
- Tessa Leung, GRBC and  
Tessa's Office -

COOKING WITH KAY:  
SPINNING HOMEMADE  
MAYONNAISE INTO  
SUPER SAUCES  
- Kay Hocker -

THE RESILIENCE OF A  
SOMALIA SHEPHERD GIRL  
- Habibo Haji, RN-BSN -

HOLISTIC EMPOWERMENT:  
FROM SERVICE TO PAGEANTRY.  
- Madeline Van Ert -

REIDS ON THE ROAD: HOW TWO  
RETIREES ARE TRAVELING THE  
WORLD ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET  
- Karmen and George Reid -

WHAT IS A ZUMBRO?  
SIX VIEWS OF THE RIVER  
- John Weiss -

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Register by: [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/wit](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/wit)  
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For tax purposes, the fair market value for this event is \$45/person.



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# MALF Standout Friend: Nan

By Karen Nath

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library are delighted to announce that Nan Frie received an award from the Minnesota Friends' organization as a Standout Library Friend.

Nan has been an amazing "Friend" for 15 years and has devoted her expertise and energy to the Friends and the Library, making an enormous difference at the Rochester Public Library.

For 12 years Nan was the Friends' Membership Coordinator. This is not a small task as there are a LOT of Friends. Not only did Nan work tirelessly to keep comprehensive records and recruit new Friends' members, but she remembered most

Friends' names and faces.

Nan works in the Friends' Bookstore, constantly going out of her way to find a customer that special book. She has patiently trained new volunteer cashiers for the Friends' Bookstore.

Nan's tireless commitment and support of the Friends has inspired and motivated countless others.

The Friends are most fortunate to have Nan on our team and are thrilled that her extraordinary efforts have been recognized.

Congratulations, Nan!!



## Friends of the Library Auditorium Sale Hits New Record

It was a record-breaking book sale over the summer months, as hundreds flocked to the library's auditorium to peruse and purchase used books.

During the busy Rochesterfest Week, the Auditorium Sale brought in \$8,855, an all-time high for this type of sale.

Thousands of books are collected, sorted, and stored for the quarterly auditorium sales, which are coordinated by the Friends. In addition to selling books at the auditorium sales, some are added to the Friends' Bookstore, bringing in additional funding to support the library's mission.

## Friends' Board Looking for New Members

The Friends of Rochester Public Library board is looking for new members, as long-time board members vacate their positions. The Friends' Board is responsible for directing the activities of the non-profit Friends' organization.

Anyone interested in either joining the Friends or becoming a member of the Friends' Board can contact Karen Lemke at [klemke@rochester.lib.mn.us](mailto:klemke@rochester.lib.mn.us) for more information.

## 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.*

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**Sunday** *(school year)*  
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**Saturday** *(summer)*  
9:30AM - 1:30PM

**Sunday** *(summer)*  
CLOSED

507.328.2300  
[www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org)

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Layout/Design

## It Could Be Your Line Anyway – Improv Workshop at the Library

You don't need to be a world-famous comedian or a seasoned actor to join in the fun at the Improv for Beginners Workshops at the Library at 7pm every Thursday night and on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

Viewers of the television show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" understand how wild and creative improv can be. Improv is all about listening to the other players, working to the top of your intelligence and building a scene together.

The workshop is welcome to absolute beginners and to more experienced players – everyone learns from everybody else. Starting with some simple warm up exercises, participants then work their way up to improv scenes. There is no audience watching and the group fosters a safe, supportive environment.

"Even if I've had a difficult day, it's amazing how much better I feel after improv – I can never believe how quickly



90 minutes passes," says Brian Lind, co-leader of the Monday night workshops.

The group is always looking for new people to join in the fun. Those interested can join in at any time, with no registration needed.

For more information, contact Brian Lind at 507.328.2374



## See the Stars

A new telescope has been added to the library's collection, giving patrons a new way to see the stars. The telescope, donated by the Rochester Astronomy Club, is available for checkout at the Reference Desk.

Find us on social media:

