



# Rochester Public Library News and Events

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## Libraries Change Lives

by Liliana Elliott (3 years old), as translated by her mother, Elissa Elliott



Liliana Elliott enjoying an armchair adventure with her library book.

Okay, so. I've been to the House of Bounce. I've been to Apache Mall. I've been to lots of playgrounds—even to the fantastic one at Soldiers Field. I've been to Oxbow Park and the Minnesota Zoo. But my favorite place of all time would have to be... THE LIBRARY. Yep, the library. I mean, have you seen what's inside?

You haven't? Well, come along, then. I'll show you around. First, there's the fish tank. See those long dark fish, hiding in the caves? Mama says those are scavengers, put there to keep the sides of the glass clean. And look! There's Nemo—the orange-and-white striped one. Did you hear me? NEMO. I could talk to him all day! You'll understand when you see him. He's a very friendly fellow.

Now look up. See the banners and tails—what's that?—a DRAGON?? Ooh, wouldn't you like to fly right up there with it, sort of like Peter Pan and Wendy and Tinkerbell? That would be funny, wouldn't it—all of us floating up by the ceiling and looking down on everyone else? It would be the grandest adventure of all. I'm not sure my mama would like it, though. She'd be saying, "You'll fall, you'll fall," and have her hands over her mouth.

March forward with me, please—you there, stay in line and keep your hands to yourself. Aren't these chairs and tables like Little Bear's in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, just the right size for all of us? Pull one up and grab a book. You know, I'll let you in on a little secret. I don't know

how to read yet. Mama does that for me. But when she's busy, I make up my own stories. Trust me. I'm quite good at it. I just look at the pictures and decide what the story is. I think my stories are sometimes better than the ones Mama reads. Just don't tell her. I don't want to hurt her feelings.

Now, if you're all tuckered out from making up your own stories, you can always watch stories. See that large rack of plastic covers all locked up? Ask a kind librarian to help you. It's the most marvelous thing. They're stories that move. Mama and Papa call them DVDs or movies. I call them moving pictures. Let's see... there's so many I haven't seen, but I really would recommend *The Little Einsteins* and *Sesame Street* and—oh!—have you seen *Babe* or *Brother Bear* or *Little Mermaid* or *Finding Nemo*? You have to. Mama says that she wants me reading more than watching, but I tell her that I learn just as much by watching, so she should lighten up. I think she understands. I use big words from the moving picture, just so she can see how much smarter I am. That seems to help. [Oh, and—psst!—humming the classical music from *Little Einsteins* REALLY does the trick!]

Some very cool computers are lined up against the far window. I'm sorry, but I don't know how to use them yet. You'll have to ask one of those kind faces you see behind the desk. They seem to know everything—Mama's always asking them

*Continued on back page*

# December 2009

*All events at Rochester Public Library are free and open to the public*

## Wednesday, December 2

### Author Program: Helen Chen Auditorium 6:60 pm

Helen Chen was born in Taiwan and has lived with her husband in Rochester for 20 years. She has won prizes in several writing contests. She will be presenting from her recently released book, *Jin-Ling's Two Left Feet*. It tells the story of Jin-Ling, a Chinese-American teen who struggles with clashing cultural expectation-while searching for her own sense of identity. Helen will also share her experience writing/publishing *Jin-Ling's Two Left Feet*.

## Saturday, December 5

### Polar Express and Zlateh the Goat Auditorium 10:30 am

*Polar Express* - A magical ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus. \*Please note: This is not the feature-length film of the same title.

*Zlateh the Goat* - Winter is late, so it is a difficult year for Reuven the furrier. In spite of his young son's objections, he decides to sell the family goat, Zlateh, to buy necessities for Hanukkah. But when a wild winter storm arrives, Zlateh has a chance to prove her worth.

## Sunday, December 6

### Friends of the Library Holiday Book and Bake Sale Auditorium 1:30 - 4:00 pm

Owing to the generosity of our community, the Friends are pleased to offer many gift quality (individually priced) books as well as holiday baked goods at this sale.

## Tuesday, December 8

### Writing Group Meeting Room A 6:30 pm

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

## Wednesday, December 9

### iFilms: International and Independent Films Auditorium 6:00 pm

*For My Father* (Israel | 2008 | Thriller | Hebrew | English Subtitles) Terek, a Palestinian forced on a suicide mission to redeem his father's honor, is given a second chance when his explosive vest fails to detonate. Forced to spend the weekend in Tel Aviv, Terek must live amongst the people he was planning to kill. To his surprise he connects with several Israelis on the outskirts of society. Spending this time with his new friends, when the weekend ends, Terek must make the decision of his life.

Short Film: *Ali & the Ball* (Short-Drama | Australia | English Language)

*The iFilm series is intended for mature adults. Please provide guidance to your children.*

## Saturday, December 12

### Holiday Music Presented by the Choral Arts Ensemble

**Auditorium 10:30 am**  
The Choral Arts Ensemble is proud to present a Holiday Concert for children, families, and friends.

## Saturday, December 19

### Family Films: *Morris's Disappearing Bag*, and *The Small One* Auditorium 10:30 am

*Morris's Disappearing Bag*. Morris impresses his older siblings when he opens the last box under the Christmas tree--and disappears!

*The Small One*. In this gentle Christmas tale, a small boy searches for a new owner for his beloved donkey, Small One.

In observance of Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, the library will be closed on Thursday & Friday, December 24 & 25.

In observance of New Year's Eve, the library will be closed at 1:30 pm on Thursday, December 31.

In observance of New Year's Day, the library will be closed on Friday, January 1.

## Monday, December 21

### GOAT Meeting - Group Of Advising Teens

**Meeting Room A 4:00 pm**  
Join other Rochester Area youth (age 12-18) and take a leadership role to discuss ideas and make plans for youth library programs, teen web page, and other ideas. Any questions, contact Lynette @ 328-2305.

## Saturday, December 26

### Family Film Auditorium 10:30 am

*The Snowman*. A young boy dreams that his snowman has come to life. Together they travel on a magical journey which celebrates the joys of winter.

## Monday, December 28

### Family Films Auditorium 10:30 am

*Seven Candles for Kwanzaa*. A family discovers the unique traditions and celebrations of Kwanzaa.

*Mickey's Christmas Carol*. Mickey Mouse stars as Bob Cratchit in a humorous adaptation of the famous novel by Charles Dickens.

## Tuesday, December 29

### Family Film Auditorium

*Peter and the Wolf*. Peter ignores his grandfather's warning and sets out to capture a wolf.

### Young Adult Writer's Group Meeting Room A 7:00 pm

Do you like to write? Would you like to meet other tweens/teens who like to write? Would you like to share your work, and get advice on how to improve? If the answer is yes, then come join our meetings.

Wednesday, December 30

**Family Films**

**Auditorium 10:30 am**

*Corduroy and A Pocket for Corduroy.* A likeable stuffed bear named Corduroy embarks on a series of humorous adventures in a neighborhood department store and the local Laundromat.

Wednesday, December 30

**Movie @ Your Library**

**Auditorium 6:30 pm**

*Up.* Carl Fredricksen spent his entire life dreaming of exploring the globe and now in his 78th year he launches his house into the sky via thousands of balloons. Right after liftoff he discovers he has a stowaway in the form of an over optimistic 8-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell. Rated PG.

Thursday, December 31

**Family Films**

**Auditorium 10:30 am**

*Snow.* Snow begins to fall. A young boy and his dog find delight in the winter weather as snow begins to blanket the entire town in white.

*Snowflake Bentley.* As a young boy, Willie Bentley was fascinated with snowflakes. He discovered no two snowflakes were exactly alike.

**Threads of our Community Quilt**

Just because we're calling it a quilt, doesn't mean that the blocks have to be "quilted." They can be crocheted, beaded, embroidered, or anything that can be attached to a quilt block. Paper folding, tatting, feathers, leather, etc. count too!

We have moved the deadline to submit your fabulous pieces of art to **Monday, January 11.** Photos of the blocks that have already been submitted can be found on our facebook page. The instruction packet can be picked up from the second floor administration office. Oh, and the ivory piece of cloth that comes with the instruction packet is just a guideline, go ahead and use different fabric if you so choose. Happy crafting! 

**What's @ the Library?**

**The experience**

'Tis the season for family gatherings, food, and gifts. No matter how or what you celebrate, just being surrounded by holiday decorations, sounds and smells can bring those warm fuzzies of holidays past. Kind of like when you walk into a library... You know what I'm talking about. The rows of bookshelves, the feel of the book spines when you run your hand across them, the smell of paper... doesn't that bring back memories of your first visit to the library?

The seasonal warm fuzzies are just that ... seasonal. You can get that warm fuzzy library experience all year around (except, of course, when we're closed on holidays).

Remember when you entered the library and the first image you saw was the librarian sitting behind the big desk with her glasses hanging around her neck on a chain. The only sound you heard was the librarian's rubber stamp clunking back and forth from the ink pad to the check-out card, on which you actually had to write your name. "Shhhh," occasionally echoed through the whole library making heads turn to see who was getting shushed.

Those too young to remember the card catalog, don't know what you missed. Sure, finding titles and subjects is quick and easy using the online catalog but sometimes it seems a little distant and detached. There was a more intimate connection when you actually had to flip through the cards, smelling the paper and typewriter ink. You could tell which were the most popular by the slightly ragged edges that would stick out just a little further than the rest.

Ah, those were the days.

The sights, sounds and smells of the library have changed through the times. The card catalog has been replaced by computers. It's no longer a surprise to see a librarian wearing jeans and sneakers; maybe even

having facial piercings and tattoos. When is the last time you have heard, "Shhhh," in the library? OK, there are times when some people get a little too noisy and they need to be reminded not to yell or scream in the library.

Books no longer show only their spines; now there are displays of books showing their covers - bookstore style. The shelves hold more than just books printed on paper; they include electronic versions of books on CDs and cassettes. They even include computer software, videos, music CDs, etc. We still have magazines and newspapers but we also have online databases to get the same information - paperless. We also have online resources to learn how to fix cars, learn different languages, take practice tests and even find out how many McDonald's vs. Subways there are.

Just think, the next generation of library lovers will probably remember the library as a place to get free wi-fi, or to download audiobooks to their iPods and MP3 players, play Guitar Hero, etc. No matter when they occurred or what they are; your fondest library memories can be brought back by visiting the library.

We still have rows of shelves full of books and story times. We still have information and entertainment resources. We still have library lovers of all generations coming and making more memories.

How did you become a library lover? We would love for you to share your library stories with us. Call John Hunziker 328-2343 and your story could be the next Libraries Change Lives feature. 

| Library Newsletter |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
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questions! That reminds me. I must ask Mama to explain those to me. She'll probably say the same thing to me about computers that she does about watching moving pictures, but I've hatched a plan. Here's what I'll say. "The goal of computers and other such paraphernalia is to exercise and stimulate my brain. Who wouldn't want their daughter to be quick and clever in solving problems?" Do you think that will work? I hope so.

Have you enjoyed my tour? It's much better in person, so go, first thing, after you finish your breakfast of waffles or oatmeal or Cheerios.

The best part? You get to stay as long as your mama and papa let you, and you get to take all those books home and read them over and over again.

The library is the best place EVER; you just have to agree. 📖



Chicka, Chicka 1 • 2 • 3, I'll race you to the library!

Save the Date!  
January 16, 2010

# 9th Annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine

A fund-raiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation

We are grateful for the generous support of our co-sponsors for this event.



**Help promote your business while supporting the library.**

Please donate items for our silent auction. Items or services of value, i.e. gift certificates, gift baskets, collector's items, art pieces, books, etc... Along with your donation, include business cards or brochures available for attendees to read and to take home with them. For more information call 328-2343 or visit [www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org).

We are grateful for the generous support of our in-kind donors.



We are grateful for the generous support of our speaker sponsors for this event.



*"This event really makes a difference in our ability to serve the community,"* Audrey Betcher, Library Director.