

# Rochester Public Library News and Events

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www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/info/newsletter/index.html

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## Libraries Change Lives - Elizabeth Gunn

The family farm where I grew up was about half-way between Rochester and Chatfield, and I got all my primary education in a one-room country school. There were very few books there, beyond the necessary textbooks. When I was in fifth grade the district bought a full set of encyclopedias—I think it was World Book—and we were allowed to read as much as we liked after we'd finished our assigned work. We almost read the print off the pages—we were desperate for something to read.

When I was fourteen, we moved to Chatfield, so I went to High School there. The first week, they walked us across the street from the brick school on Main Street to acquaint us with the Public Library. It was smaller in those days—another one-room building. But still—a whole room full of books, floor to ceiling shelves on all four walls and a few racks in the middle. It smelled like dust and ink and was creaky-quiet. I wanted to stay forever.

My ignorance was profound, so I just started at one end and read my way around. There was a great deal of P.G. Wodehouse, I remember—my farm kid brain followed Bertie Wooster to posh English country houses. Teachers made suggestions, and I found all the usual novelists and then Shaw and Shakespeare. Rochester Junior College and the University of Minnesota furnished the rest of my formal education—I'm completely indebted to Minnesota's great public education system for the good life I've had. Where do I go to say thanks? Might as well start here.

After marriage and a career in innkeeping that included raising two daughters in Helena, Montana, my husband and I sold out and took a trip that lasted fourteen years—to Mexico in a sailboat, all over North America in a motor home, in Europe for a year of wan-

dering and finally the Florida Keys and east coast in a trawler—we had wanderlust, and there's a lot out there to enjoy. I began writing travel articles, selling them to magazines and newspapers. I think I caught the very end of that market. Just in time, I made a tiny space for a laptop in the forward cabin of the boat, and started a crime novel called *Triple Play*. My nephew, John Sibley, was deputy Chief of Police in Rochester then, and he let me come down to the station, ask questions and see what's in the cupboards. I've taken many ride-alongs

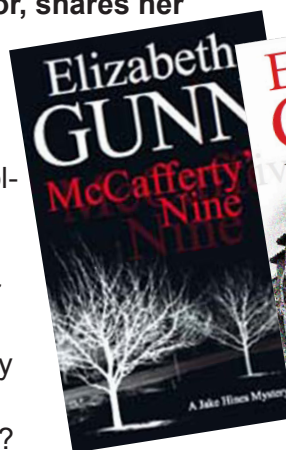
over the years. I'm sure you all know that Rochester police are kind and helpful, but do you realize they're also smart and hard-working and funny and brave? I try to show all that in my Jake Hines series. *McCafferty's Nine* is number seven, and I'm working on number eight. I call the town Rutherford in the books and skew the directions, because I have so many relatives here, and I thought they might get annoyed if I inadvertently put a crime scene in one of their yards.

A few years ago we bought a house in Tucson, Arizona, where there's year-round birding and good trails to hike. Last year *Cool In Tucson* inaugurated a new series, and the

second Tucson novel, *New River Blues*, has just been published. It features a female police detective named Sarah Burke. 📖



Elizabeth Gunn, author, shares her library memories.



Library Newsletter	
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# June 2009

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

## Thursday, June 4

**Senior Techies - Digital Cameras**  
**Meeting Room B 1:00 pm**  
Participants will be able to use a digital camera to shoot photos and view them on a computer. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 328-2309.

## Tuesday, June 9

**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, June 10

**Special Program: Baseball Fun!**  
**Auditorium 10:00 am & 1:00 pm**  
Start the summer with some baseball fun! Meet members of the Rochester Honkers baseball team, collect their autographs, and see a baseball film.

**iFilms: International and Independent Films**  
**Auditorium 6:00 pm**  
*The Country Teacher* - A gifted and well-qualified young teacher takes a job teaching natural sciences at a grammar school in the country. Here he makes the acquaintance of a woman and her troubled 17-year old son. The teacher has no romantic interest in the woman but they quickly form a strong friendship, each recognizing the other's uncertainties, hopes and longing for love. *The iFilm series is intended for mature adults. Please provide guidance to your children.*

## Thursday, June 11

**Senior Techies - Emailing Digital Photos**  
**Meeting Room B 1:00 pm**  
This class will cover how to email a photo (or other file) as an attachment. Ideally, you should have an existing email account and know how to access your email on an Internet computer other than your own (know your user name and password). Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.

## Wednesday, June 17

**Storyteller and Juggler Bob Kann**  
**Auditorium 10:00 am & 1:00 pm**  
Children's entertainer and storyteller Bob Kann uses humor, silly stories, and juggling to encourage kids to explore the magic of reading. *Sponsored by Friends of the Library*

**Film: Ten More Good Years**  
**Auditorium 7:00 pm**  
*Ten More Good Years* introduces remarkable LGBT elders who share inspiring stories of their lives and queer history. It is through these stories that the governmental and social injustices quietly reveal themselves, shedding light on how it is now, and how it will be to grow old and gay in America. Outdated tax laws, Medicaid and Medicare regulations, Social Security and inheritance laws, a lack of cultural competency within social services, and the need for non-discriminatory housing are all issues currently facing the elder LGBT population. *Co-Sponsored by EAGLE at IBM.*

## Thursday, June 18

**Journal Book Making**  
**Auditorium 1:00 pm**  
During this interactive class, young adults age 12-18 will be making two paper journal book projects. A great chance to create something unique for you or someone else. Register online, at the Fiction, Movies and Music desk or by calling 328-2305.

**Coffeehouse Author Program:**  
**John Graber**  
**Auditorium 7:00 pm**  
John Graber will discuss his recent book of poetry titled, *Thanksgiving Dawn: Poems 1970-2008*. *The Coffee House Author Series is sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.*

## Monday, June 29

## Tuesday, June 30

**Wood Carving Class**  
**Auditorium 1:00 pm**  
This is a two day class, for youth ages 12-18 with little or no carving experience, led by local woodcarver/artist Everett Ellenwood. The class's objective is to give you the basic skills that will allow you to enjoy the art of woodcarving. Register online, at the Fiction, Movies and Music desk, or by calling 328-2305.

## Monday, June 29

**YA Game Night**  
**Auditorium 7:00 pm**  
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.

**"Get Smart Mindset" Training For Parents - Part I**  
**Meeting Room B 7:00 pm**  
Come to Efficacy Institute parent training and join other parents to:  
- Explore what leads to development and the obstacles to learning  
- Explore ways to help your child work not just hard but "work smart"  
- Learn how to motivate your child to get better, strong, and smarter.  
This training is coordinated by the Diversity Council ([www.diversitycouncil.org](http://www.diversitycouncil.org)). Register online, at the Fiction, Movies and Music desk or by calling 328-2305.

## Tuesday, June 30

**Bedtime Stories**  
**Auditorium 6:30 pm**  
Puppets, stories and films to give you sweet dreams.

**"Get Smart Mindset" Training For Parents - Part II**  
**Meeting Room B 7:00 pm**  
See description above.

Tuesday, June 30

**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 to our meetings.



In observance of Independence Day,  
the library will be closed on  
Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4  
*Have a fun and safe holiday!*

# YOUTH SHORT FILM CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED



**L to R: Mike Wang, Jennifer Zemke, Sam Weigel and Michael Nowakowski.**

You voted for your favorite Young Adult short film and the winners were announced on Sunday, May 17, 2009. And the winners are:

- 1st Place: *Whoa Whoa* by Michael Nowakowski & Sam Weigel.
- 2nd Place: *Day at the Library* by Michael Nowakowski & Sam Weigel
- 3rd Place: *Dangerous Games* by Jennifer Zemke
- 4th Place: *Rubinescence* by Mike Wang

If you missed seeing the films when they were on our teen web pages, you can still see them on our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/rplmninfo](http://www.youtube.com/user/rplmninfo).

## Hooray for Summer @ the Library!

Summertime is here! The children's and teens' reading programs are in full swing. There are lots of fun programs scheduled this summer ranging from woodcarving and journal making to acting classes. The children's programs are scheduled on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. There will be music, films, juggling, and lots of fun. Watch our events calendar for event dates and details. Remember that we will be on our summer hours from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend.

**Library Hours:**

Monday-Thursday  
9:30 am-9:00 pm

Friday  
9:30 am-5:30pm

Saturday  
9:30 am-1:30pm

Sunday  
Closed

**Friends' Bookstore Hours:**

Monday  
10:00 am-8:30 pm

Tuesday & Wednesday  
10:00 am-4:00 pm

Thursday  
10:00 am-7:00 pm

Friday  
10:00 am-4:00 pm

Saturday  
10:00 am-1:00 pm

Sunday  
Closed

## **Rochester Public Library Foundation now accepting online donations.**

The Rochester Public Library (RPL) is dedicated to providing the community with access to information, literature and ideas. The RPL Foundation supports these efforts by securing key funds to advance the library's mission. These funds represent the "margin of excellence" that allows the library to go the extra mile in providing advanced and innovative services which support the many needs of our community.

Please join us in supporting these efforts by making a tax-deductible gift to the RPL Foundation. Every gift, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated. Online donations are now being accepted by clicking on "Electronic Donation Form" on the Foundation web page: [www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org).

## What's @ the Library? Interlibrary Loans

We strive to have everything people could ever need or want but let's face it, it's just not possible physically to stuff every book ever written, every movie ever made, every CD ever recorded onto our already crowded shelves. That's where interlibrary loans come in. If we don't have it, chances are pretty good that some other library in the state of Minnesota does. And, if no other library in Minnesota has it, there are 49 other states in the US as well as six other continents in the world to check. That means there are billions of library materials available to you from thousands of libraries!

How awesome is that?

In order to take advantage of this service, all you need is a resident Rochester Public Library (RPL) card that isn't blocked due to lost or too many overdue materials. If you don't know the status of your card, just ask any of the nice people behind the Public Service desk and they will look it up for you.

Library users who have South-Eastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO) cards can also use this service as long as the card is registered at both their home library and RPL.

Have your library card?

Good. Let's begin.

If you're looking for something that is not in our catalog, the next step is to search MNLink. This is a powerful tool that searches in all of the Minnesota library catalogs for the item you're looking for. If it's not found in MNLink, the next step is something called an "Interlibrary Loan form" that you can fill out. Once this form is filled out and submitted, it goes to our interlibrary loan librarians who will do their best to find the item for you.

Normally there isn't a charge for interlibrary loans but sometimes, if the loan comes from a library that does charge to send out items, the charge will be forwarded to you. Of course we will let you know if this is going to happen. We won't just spring it on you. That way you can decide whether or not you still want the item.

If you have trouble with any of these steps, just ask our librarians; they will be happy to help you. You can contact a librarian by using our new instant messaging widget as soon as your initial catalog search comes up with no results. A screen will pop up. You can type in your question and get an answer in a short period of time. This is available only during library hours. During peak busy times it may take a few moments for a librarian to answer. They do try to respond as quickly as they can. This widget is also available on other pages of our website under the Reference & Magazines, Fiction Movies & Music, and the Kids tabs.

A personal testimony: I recently was looking for a particular DVD that we didn't have. After searching MNLink, I found that there are only two copies of the DVD in the entire state of Minnesota. I requested the interlibrary loan. About five days later, I had the DVD in hand! Let's hear it for interlibrary loans and our friendly librarians here and in other libraries who make the process work! 📖

## Rochesterfest Booksale coming soon...

-Gail Harris, Volunteer Coordinator

Yes, it's that time of year again, cheese curds, country music night and the best event of the week (in my opinion) the Rochesterfest Friends of the Library booksale.

This year the sale will be on Wednesday, June 24th from 9:30am-9:00pm and Thursday, June 25th from 9:30am-7:00pm, in the library auditorium.

The Unusual and Special Booksale will be on Wednesday, June 24th from 9:30am-1:30pm and will be found in the lobby next to the Foundation Donor Wall. There will be many spectacular items available.

We are often asked what happens to donated items. Briefly, the following are some of the highlights. Every year we add to or replace materials in our collection directly from your donations. Since 2003, we have added 36,000 items valued at \$850,000 to our collection from your donated materials. Our Friends group also sells items that are special or unusual online or at specific sales, and the group has a text book and condensed book fund-raising recycling program. Of course our Friends' bookstore does a roaring trade selling your donations and library discards. Last year it raised \$45,000 for the library's gift fund, which we use to purchase new materials for the collection. Books are also shared within our community; for example, we give books to Channel One and the Federal Medical Center. On a wider basis, we send books to the troops overseas and to other libraries facing difficulties. Then of course there are the book-sales, thousands of books to browse through and a bargain every time, and proceeds raised go to support library programs and events, a win-win situation for all of us—which brings us back to Rochesterfest. We hope you will join us!



Photo from last year's Rochesterfest booksale.

