

Rochester Public Library News and Events

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Libraries Change Lives - Elissa Elliott, Author, Sharing Happy Memories



Elissa Elliott - *Give me a library, and I'd say you've given me the best gift ever.* Definitely, I would choose it over chocolates (that's saying a lot) or clothes or handy-dandy gadgets. Libraries have always been enchanting places for me, a kind of mind-body travel that doesn't require much budgeting or planning.

My first introduction to a library—in fact, the first I received a library card from—was the North Regional Library in Minneapolis, which we kids visited religiously every Saturday afternoon, once chores were done. We four older kids (there were seven in all) would load up our scuffed-up Radio Flyer wagon with our plastic-covered books and pull them the seven short blocks on 30th Avenue to our mecca.

The building itself was magical, because it was like an Egyptian tomb—a dark hush fallen over undiscovered treasures. As we pushed our way through the black doors, our voices dropped; we knew

it was a sacred place. The children's section was off to the left, surrounded by floor-to-ceiling windows, and had a three or four-tiered, bright orange (if I'm remembering correctly), carpeted amphitheater on which we lounged, perusing the shorter books we didn't want to lug home.

Being the oldest, I would always search for books to take home to the younger ones, knowing I'd have to read to them. I'd sit in the aisle, oblivious to everyone around me, chewing my fingernails down to aching nubs, unconscious of time, warmed by the sun's rays, and haloed by the dancing dust motes around my head. I'd stack books like *Dandelion* and *Frog and Toad Are Friends* and all of Bill Peet's books in an unsteady, tottering pile next to me. They were books that didn't lose their charm after the first read.

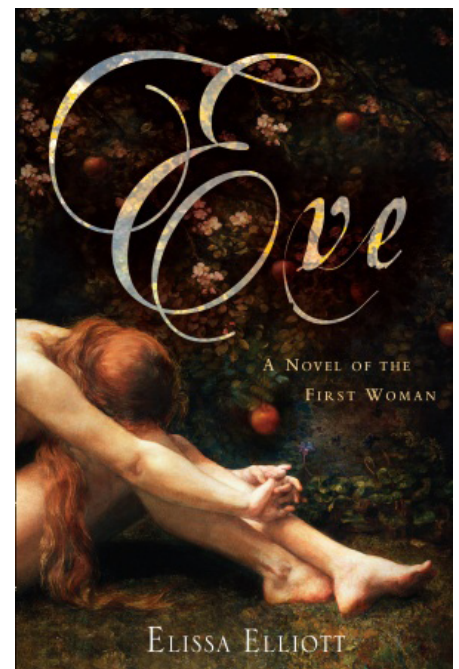
Then, I'd choose one fairy tale anthology, two or three make-money-fast-with-crafts books, and several middle grade novels—*Strawberry Girl* or *By the Shores of Silver Lake*, or *Johnny Tremain*. I was counting on each book carrying me far away from my breath-sucking life, away from the tension at home. It was my drug of choice.

We were always tired and grumpy when we came to the library, but we always left in a semi-sweet, lethargic mood, given that we were carrying new thoughts and ideas and dreams home with us. It was a lottery we could not lose.

Wherever I've lived, I've repeated this pattern. Before finding out where the nearest grocery stores are, or where the most convenient

gas station is, I have to find out where the library is. It's my lifeline.

I suppose it would come as no surprise then that the Rochester Public Library has played the same role for me, except more recently, it's become a necessity while doing research for my novels. When I first began to do research for *Eve*, in the spring of 2006, I spent one whole day up in Minneapolis and St. Paul going from one seminary library to another, one college library to another, thinking this was the only way I was going to acquire all the volumes on Adam and Eve that had ever been written. It was on this trip I learned about the library's interlibrary loan feature, and chagrined, I returned home to request all those books from my home computer. And voilà! Several days later, there they



Library Newsletter	
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March 2009

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

Wednesday, March 4

Senior Techies - Digital Cameras Meeting Room B 10:00 am

Use a digital camera to take photos and view them on a computer. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 328-2309.

Saturday, March 7

Hooray for Saturday! Marionettes and Magic with Jim Jayes

Auditorium 10:30 am

Jim Jayes and his colorful, dancing marionettes present a magical show filled with music, laughter, and fun!

Sunday, March 8

Author Program: Lois Greiman

Auditorium 2:00 pm

Since selling her first book to Avon in 1992, Lois Greiman has sold 22 romance novels, 5 mysteries and the first in her Witches of Mayfair series. Her Highland novels have received *Affaire de Couer's* Critic's Choice Award, Romantic Times K.I.S.S. Award, and have been nominated for Romance Writer's of America's prestigious Rita. Her titles have appeared on Barnes and Nobles Best Selling Romance list and won her the Midwest Fiction Writer's Rising Star Award. *The Coffee House Author Series is sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.*

Tuesday, March 10

Chi-Shu Writing Award Presentation & 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, March 11

Senior Techies - E-mailing Digital Photos

Meeting Room B 10:00 am

These classes are geared to people aged 50 and over. Participants must register for EACH class they wish to attend. The class will cover how to e-mail a photo as an attachment. Must have an e-mail account and know how to access your e-mail 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.

iFilms: International and Independent Films

Auditorium 6:00 pm

In Love We Trust (Drama | China | English Subtitles) A divorced couple learns that the only way to save their little daughter Hehe, who suffers from a blood disease, is to have another child. Now both remarried, Mei Zhu and Xiao Lu are forced to test their love and their commitment to one another by putting their current relationships in danger. A story of parenthood, love, married life, betrayal, trust and giving, which touches upon changes in contemporary society and family life, as well as the moral and ethical dilemmas brought on by modernity. *The iFilm series is intended for mature adults. Please provide guidance to your children.*

Monday, March 16

Internet

Meeting Room B 10:00 am

Geared to the beginner, a reference librarian will teach the basics: Internet addresses, navigation and terminology. Practice time is included. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 328-2309.

Monday, March 16

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, March 21

Hooray for Saturday! Family Film: Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day

Auditorium 10:30 am

A wild wind sweeps through the Hundred Acre Wood, toppling Owl's tree home and making everyone very uneasy.

Sunday, March 22

Yaggy Colby History Lecture

Auditorium 2:30 pm

Presented by Olmsted County Historical Society in cooperation with Rochester Public Library. Costs underwritten by Yaggy Colby Associates.

Tuesday, March 24

Bedtime Stories

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Puppets, stories and films to give you sweet dreams.

Thursday, March 26

Editing Digital Photos

Meeting Room B 1:30 pm

Do you want to touch up and crop your digital photos? How about learning how to convert them into e-mail friendly 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 a flash drive, CD-ROM or other storage device. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 328-2309.

Saturday, March 28

Hooray for Saturday! Family Film Program: Favorite Pets

Auditorium 10:30 am

Our film program features three humorous animal tales based on favorite picture books including: Angus Lost, Let's Give Kitty a Bath, and "Let's Get a Pup" said Kate!

Sunday, March 29

Coffeehouse Author Program:

Elissa Elliott

Auditorium 2:00 pm

Elissa Elliott is a contributing writer to Books & Culture and has optioned her first screenplay. She lives with her husband in Rochester, MN. EVE, the tale of Eve and her three daughters as they recount the fateful summer right before Cain killed Abel, is her first novel. *The Coffee House Author Series* is sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.

Monday, March 30

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.

Tuesday, March 31

Bedtime Stories

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Puppets, stories and films to give you sweet dreams.

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. We meet the last Tuesday of the month in Meeting Room A at 7 P.M.

What's @ the Library? Materials to borrow

With a library card you can borrow library materials. The following is a list of library materials, loan periods and overdue fees

Material	Loan Period	Late Fee
Fiction/NonFiction	28 days/14 days if high demand	25¢ day
Children's Books	28 days	10¢ day
Rental Books	28 days - \$2.00 fee per checkout	25¢ day
Books on CD	28 days/14 days if high demand	25¢ day
Books on Cassette	28 days/14 days if high demand	25¢ day
Children's books on Cassette or CD	28 days	10¢ day
Downloadable Audiobooks	14 days	No Fees
Music CDs	14 days/7 days if high demand	25¢ day
Children's Music Cassettes and CDs	28 days	10¢ day
CD-ROMs	28 days	50¢ day
Children's CD-ROMs	28 days	10¢ day
VHS	28 days/14 days if high demand	25¢ day
Children's VHS	28 days/14 days if high demand	25¢ day
TV/Movie/Secured Nonfiction DVDs	14 days/7 days if high demand	50¢ day
Nonfiction DVDs (non-secured, on shelf)	28 days/14 days if high demand	50¢ day
Children's DVDs	14 days/7 days if high demand	50¢ day
Storytime Kits	Up to 14 days	\$5.00 day
Book Group in a Bag	6 weeks	\$5.00 day
All Circulating Magazines	28 days	No Fees
Pamphlets	14 days	No Fees
Collection Agency Referral Fee	n/a	\$15.00
Netlibrary books (electronic books)	n/a	No Fees
Intralibrary loaned materials	set by loaning library	25¢ day
Online databases	n/a	No Fees

Every patron is limited to a total of 10 Movie/TV/Secured Nonfiction DVDs, and 10 children's DVDs checked out to them at a time. Each patron is also limited to a maximum of 30 outstanding reserves.

Fees begin accruing the day after an item is due. You will receive an automated telephone call, e-mail, or letter when an item is approximately 5 days overdue. When an item becomes 28 days overdue, you will be mailed a bill for the replacement cost of the item.

Overdue fees may be paid at both the Public Service Desk and Children's Desk or online with VISA, MasterCard, or Discover by logging into My Account.

If you prefer to be contacted about your overdue items by e-mail, contact the Overdue Section at 507-328-2314.

Rochester Reads 2009 - a Sweet Treat

Steve Almond, author of the Rochester Reads title *Candy Freak*, visited Rochester and gave two presentations about his book. It's really astounding how much candy Steve eats in a single day! Steve had his audience in stitches as he talked about his favorite candies and broke a few hearts when he slammed some of his least favorites (but everyone has the right to his or her own opinions, right?).

The author visit was just one of the many programs that the Rochester Reads committee planned that focused on a candy theme. In January there was a *Candy Freak* book discussion group that met at the library. There was also showing of the film *Chocolat*, and a cookie decorating with candy class.



Steve Almond with the first and second place winners of the photo contest: Josie Stoeckel (2nd place) and Michelle Schick (1st place).

February was a month chock full of sweetness starting with Steve Almond's visit. The winners of the photography contest were announced at the library after Steve Almond's first appearance in the library auditorium. The winners were: 1st place, Michell Schick; 2nd place Josie Stoeckel; 3rd place Kimberly Halverson. The winning photos can be seen by visiting www.rochesterreads.org and clicking on 'Contest.'

Other February events included special Bedtime Stories for children, a Willy Wonka double feature, and *Candy Freak* a dramatic adaptation that was shown both at RCTC and Rochester Civic Theatre. To cover the health issues that can arise when candy is consumed, there was a yoga program, a program that focused on where candy fits in our diets, and a program that discussed sizism and inclusiveness.

The Rochester Reads committee is now preparing to start the next round of book title nominations and getting the ballots ready for the community to vote on next year's Rochester Reads book title. If you would like to nominate a book title for consideration, you can do that by visiting www.rochesterreads.org and clicking on 'Contact Us.'



The Rochester Reads Photo Contest winning photo taken by Michell Schick

Libraries Change Lives continued from front page...

were, waiting for me at the library. Now I had all the libraries at my fingertips. I was in heaven. Only, to be truthful, I felt a little guilty at having all those kind and generous library employees shelving and re-shelving all those books, just for me (because, let me tell you, I needed a whole lot of books!).

More recently, since we've adopted a 2 ½-year-old girl, the library has become a resource for simple board books that can entertain and teach her English. She's enamored with more than the books, of course—the fish tank, the ceiling hangings, the Christmas tree, the trails of wet slush going

through the door—but in time, I think the library will become her special place, too. She'll be able to curl up in a chair and lose an afternoon, transported to some other place, some other time. It's the best way to learn about different cultures, various time periods, short of hands-on travel. To give my daughter a love of books is the best gift I could ever give her—even though she does know the word 'chocolate' now.

Elissa Elliott will be talking about her book *Eve* at the Library on Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 p.m.

Printing from the Hotspot!

Laptop users, if you are connected to the Rochester Public Library Hotspot (wireless) on your laptop, you can print documents using the color printer on the second floor of the library. In order to do so, you must first install a printer driver on your laptop. Instructions to do this will show up when you log on to the hotspot.

The default setting for this printer is to print in color. However, that can be changed. The cost to print in color is 25¢/page and grayscale is 10¢/page. This printer has been tested with both Windows XP and the newer Vista operating systems. Unfortunately, Mac users will not be able to use this printing service.