

# Rochester Public Library



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## June Newsletter

### Libraries Change Lives

#### Threads of our Community Quilt



The Threads of Our Community quilt is an art project demonstrating that there is a place for all people in the fabric of our society.

### What's @ the Library?

#### Friends of the Library and Social Media



The Friends of the Rochester Public Library took the plunge and immersed themselves in social media. "Blogging" and "status updates" and "facebook" are now in their vocabulary.

### Calling all BlueStockings!

#### Online Contest



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# Libraries Change Lives

## Threads of Our Community Quilt

*“The Rochester Public Library is a gathering place for the entire community. As you spend time in the library, you see people of all walks of life, all ages, various income levels, and many countries of origin. When the Library was approached to partner with the Mayo Clinic and host the exhibit RACE: Are We So Different?, we became enthusiastic partners.*

*The Threads of Our Community quilt was conceived by staff and volunteers as a work of art that complements the exhibit and highlights the diversity in the community making Rochester a fabulous place to live. Like the quilt that is greater as a whole than any one block, our community becomes stronger by adding points of view and coming together to build on our strengths.”*

~ Audrey Betcher, Library Director

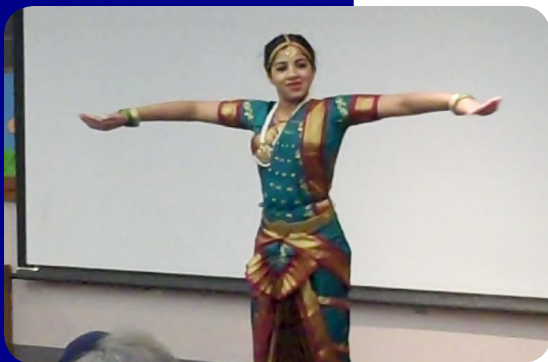


Library volunteer, Annette Sjolund, fondly recalls, *“I was approached by library staff to help with a little quilt project.”* Little did any of us know the project would grow into something much larger. We hoped to create a small piece of collaborative art highlighting our diverse community. Artists were encouraged to submit blocks for a quilt that—while celebrating their needlework and fiber art skills—would also recognize the larger diversity theme by reflecting their cultures and heritages.

The response far exceeded all of our expectations. We received 55 blocks representing 40 different countries/cultures/backgrounds and a variety of needlework skills. Some artists tried to capture their perceptions or images of their home countries. Some represented a social group or organization that had become representative of their cultures. Others showed symbols of what they defined as their culture, such as a home language or a country’s crest.



# Libraries Change Lives - continued



Each block has a story reflecting the artist's background. Some artists learned the craft as a hobby; for some it was a necessity; and for others, it was a family tradition. The quilt provides an opportunity for the artists to "chronicle" their journey, showcases their talent and recognizes that our unique perspectives can enrich everyone's lives.

This endeavor would not have been possible without the dedication of our amazing quilters, Karen Koeller and Annette Sjolund, who spent countless hours bringing this vision to life. Their creativity in weaving 55 distinct blocks into a single piece of art is truly inspiring.

The Threads of Our Community quilt is an art project demonstrating that there is a place for all people in the fabric of our society. The quilt hangs in the main stairwell of our library as a commemoration of the diverse skills, talents and heritages found here in our very own community.

On Sunday, May 16, the Friends of the Library hosted a quilt unveiling ceremony with the artists and their families in attendance.

The ceremony began with a Native American dance in the library lobby. After the dance, the attendees were given the opportunity to walk through the RACE exhibit one day before it was open to the public. The ceremony continued in the library auditorium with refreshments, an Indian classical dance, acknowledgment of the artists who participated in the quilt project and the sponsors who funded it, and closed with a bagpipe performance.

Each artist was given a copy of *Threads of our Community Quilt: the Stories behind the Quilt Blocks* and one copy is available on the new wooden podium (designed and hand-crafted by John Hunziker) which is installed on the second-floor railing directly across from the quilt. Reprints of the book will be available in the Friends Bookstore, soon! The library is also getting two hardbound copies to keep in the collection which will be available for check-out.

Thank you to the sponsors:  
[FedEx Offices Print and Ship](#)  
[Friends of the Library](#)  
Photos by KID  
[Quilters' Sew-ciety](#)  
[Rochester Community Education](#)

## Friends of the Library and Social Media

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library took the plunge and immersed themselves in social media. “Blogging,” “status updates” and “facebook” are now in their vocabulary. Great new look to their Web pages on the Library’s website!

The Friends of the Library facebook page posts photos, library events, book discussions and announces special book sales in the book store.

The Friends and Friends’ Bookstore blog can be found at: <http://friendsbookstorerochmn.blogspot.com/> and will share information about the Friends, book sales, book store and other events. In addition, the Book Whisperer, a Friend of the Library, posts book reviews and other items of interest.

A new series of literary contests will be announced via their facebook and their blog. The first one began May 25th. The deadline to enter is June 9 and features Bluestockings! Find out what Bluestockings are by visiting their blog, of course, or by reading the Friends’ bulletin board on the first floor of the library. Then submit a photo of your favorite Bluestocking(s) with story to their email address: friendsbookstorerochmn@gmail.com.

The best entry will win a book of choice from our new prize bookshelf!



# Calling all Bluestockings!

## Online Contest - Official Rules!



Calling all literary personnel (bookgroups)! We are looking for Bluestockings. Hint: Check out the Friends Bulletin Board in the library or the Friends and Friends' Bookstore blog. Submit a photo of your favorite Bluestocking(s) with details of what you're reading. The best entry will win a book of your choice from our prize bookshelf. Entries must be submitted by June 9, 2010.

All entries must be electronic and emailed to: [friends-bookstorerochmn@gmail.com](mailto:friends-bookstorerochmn@gmail.com)

All entries will be posted on the Friends and Friends' Bookstore Blog where positive comments will help determine the winning entry.

Photographs must be original and all winning individuals must agree to sign a release form for publication within our newsletters and social media sites.

Winning entries may be published in newsletters and posted on our social media sites and displayed in the Library/Friends' Bookstore. Winner(s) may remain anonymous if they so choose.

The content of the entry must be suitable for viewing by an audience of all ages.

No more than one entry per person per contest.

Only one prize per entry.

The prizes consist of donated books; a variety of children's, young adult, fiction, non-fiction, etc. will be available to choose from. Every effort will be made to find a book of the winner's choice.

If your entry contains any copyrighted material the entrant will be responsible for securing the licensing rights and giving appropriate credits.

A qualified panel will review all entries and decide the contest winners.

Each entry will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Quality of entry – style, content, and enthusiasm
2. Does the entry relate to the topic?
3. Creativity of entry
4. Blog Comments
5. Overall impression