

Rochester Public Library



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Library

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November Newsletter

Libraries Change Lives



Ya gotta build a bigger library!

That is why the building was designed so that two additional floors could be added some day. And, that “some day” has arrived!

Self-Checks and Express Reserves trial



We are running a trial starting November 1, 2010 in which we will move our self-check machines to a different area of the library.

Visiting Author Series

Before enjoying our **Celtic Evening** fundraiser on Tuesday, November 30, get into the Scottish mood with Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale’s Scottish concert. Saturday, November 6 at 7:30 pm in Mayo Civic Center Presentation Hall.

Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd ST SE, Rochester, MN 55904

Phone: 507-328-2300 • Fax: 507-328-2384 • www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

Libraries Change Lives

One of my early memories is walking hand in hand with my grandmother across Minnesota Highway 28 to the Carnegie library in a small town on the South Dakota border.

As I recall, it was a very, very large red stone building. We entered through heavy glass doors and mounted a long series of wide, creaky steps, at the top of which was a massive counter presided over by Lucy Van Tassel. It was obvious that she was there just for me! She knew what would be the perfect stories for me.

In my recollections well over half a century later, Lucy Van Tassel's library was the most important public place in that community. Today the Rochester Public Library is the most important public place for me in this community. Just like Lucy Van Tassel's library, RPL is two important things – an inviting place and, far more significantly, it is a positive, knowledgeable, thoughtful staff.

My interests tend to be traditional – BOOKS. However, the reference staff has guided me in the use of a number of useful online services and information sources. They are patient – listening carefully even when my questions are not always clear, even to me! Somehow, I am never made to feel embarrassed when they tell me something that should have been obvious. (Yes, a couple of times a staff member has said, “Well, you might try Googling.”)

Every month, I skim through a wide range of RPL magazines, looking for the occasional article I want to read.

Throughout the year, I enjoy a number of author talks, historical lectures, public forums, and films at RPL.

Working in the Friends' Bookstore is a special volunteer activity. Here again, it is people. Those who give freely of their time to support RPL are interesting and lively folks. And individuals who stop in to browse and end up buying an irresistible book or two are my kind of people!

Beyond these personal connections with RPL, I am



Libraries Change Lives... continued

impressed by the rich array of activities and services provided. Very special are the story times for toddlers, Saturday family programs, and unique weekly summer programs. Just like Lucy Van Tassel's library, RPL is a very special place for all of the community's children.

Special access to the world of information and entertainment technology is there for all. There are special work stations for people with visual disabilities, word processing computers and scanners, free computer access to the Internet, homebound services, foreign language collections, audio-books, CDs, VHS, DVDs, and more, so much more.

At a time of widespread economic distress, the services provided by RPL become even more important. RPL usage continues to increase at unanticipated rates. Staff somehow manages to serve ever-increasing numbers even as funding has become tight.

I emphasize library services. Ever increasing demands for information services are facilitated by carefully planned adaptations of the physical plant. Available capital improvement funds and generous donor gifts have been used to provide special shelving for CDs, computer tables, and furniture in the children's area. These and other expenditures are based on carefully planned and prioritized responses to service needs.

Few public buildings experience the day-in day-out year-round of heavy use as public libraries.

Maintenance of a busy library is a major challenge at any time, let alone in a time of tight budgets and rising expenses. Nevertheless, attention to the physical RPL is exemplary. The maintenance staff demonstrates the same work ethic and attention to detail that dominates all departments at RPL.

It was a special pleasure for me to be a member of the RPL Board of Trustees when the current library building was planned and constructed. It opened fifteen years ago. When I stop to think of all of the new and expanded activities added since then, I am not surprised to hear that there is an urgent need to expand the physical library to accommodate growing services and collections. That is why the building was designed so that two additional floors could be added some day. And, that "some day" has arrived!

The Rochester Public Library serves the traditional role of libraries going back at least to the time of Benjamin Franklin. At the same time, it is "cutting edge," making 21st century information technology freely available to all.

The key to RPL's outstanding community services is the positive "can do" attitude and actions of staff. When I observe library staff members attentively and cheerfully interacting with people of all ages, I know that the spirit of Lucy Van Tassel is alive and well.

Self-Check and Express Reserves Trial



This is a self-check machine, or an express check-out. Whatever you want to call it, it is great for those who are in a hurry and don't want to stand in line to check out books. It's also great for those who aren't in a hurry and just want to check out their own books.

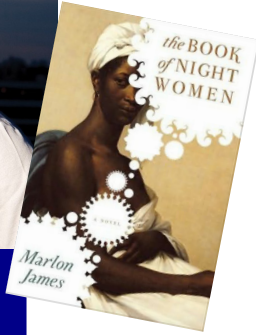
It's very user-friendly and the screen on top will show you what to do every step of the way. All you need to do is place your library card – barcode up – on top of the picture of a barcode on the left side of the machine's shelf. You should see a red light shining across the barcode of your card. This means you have it in the right spot. Your card needs to stay there until you have scanned your items. Give the machine a few seconds to read your card and then it will tell you that it's ready to begin scanning the bar codes of your books. Scan the books one at a time and the machine will tell you when it's ready for the next one. After all

your items are scanned, just remove your library card and the machine will print a receipt for the items you just checked out.

We are running a trial starting November 1, 2010 in which we will move our self-check machines to a different area of the library. It is hoped this new location will eliminate congestion in the front lobby, keep children from running out the front doors while their parents are checking out material, and provide more room for the reserves. The area where the self-checks are now will include more book displays.

This trial is a result from a survey we had earlier this spring. You asked for it...

This is a trial that will last approximately 60-90 days, and we would appreciate any feedback from you, our patrons, on how well it's working ... or not.



Marlon James

October 10 • 2:00 pm

The Book of Night Women

Marlon James was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1970. He graduated from The University of the West Indies in 1991 with a B.A. in Literature, and Wilkes University in 2006 with an M.A. in Creative Writing.

Find Marlon James online:

<http://marlon-james.blogspot.com/>

<http://marlonjames.com/>



Eric Dregni

November 14

In Cod We Trust

Eric Dregni teaches creative writing at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Italian at Hamline University and at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of several books, including *Minnesota Marvels*, and *Midwest Marvels*, and *In Cod We Trust*.

Find Eric Dregni online:

<http://www.avclub.com/artists/eric-dregni,59579/>



Gayla Marty

March 6

Memory of Trees

Gayla Marty grew up on a farm in east central Minnesota and studied journalism at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, including a year at the Université de Tunis in Tunisia, North Africa. Her first book, *Memory of Trees: A Daughter's Story of a Family Farm*, was published by University of Minnesota Press in April 2010.

Find Gayla Marty online:

<http://www.gaylamarty.com/>



Cary Griffith

April 10

Opening Goliath

Cary J. Griffith, a freelance writer who specializes in writing about the outdoors, is the author of *Lost in the Wild: Danger and Survival in the North Woods* and the Minnesota Book Award-winning nonfiction adventure *Opening Goliath: Danger and Discover in Caving*.

Find Cary Griffith online:

<http://caryjgriffith.com/>

A Celtic Evening

at the Doubletree Hotel

**Tuesday
30th November**

Welcome 6:00 pm

Small plates served 7:00 pm

Whisky tasting

Pipes

Limericks

Men in Kilts contest 8:00 pm

Raffle/silent auction



Hosted by: Laird and Lady of Lochaber
(Drs. Bryan and Helen McIver)

Sponsored by:
Wirtz Beverages
Doubletree

Earlybird registration \$50 per person.

After 15th October \$60 per person.

Please consider making a donation if you cannot attend.

Help promote your business while supporting the library by donating items or services of value for the silent auction.

Register online www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org/celtic.html or by calling: 507-328-2343.



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