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Libraries Change Lives



Using the library to find new interests and talents

by Jennifer Zemke

If it weren't for the library, Jennifer may never have realized her interest or talent in the art of film making. [more](#)



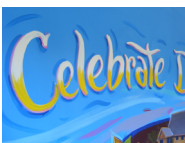
Fund-raiser update

The Foundation and Friends of the Rochester Public Library held two fund-raisers in the Plummer House on August 9th. [more](#)

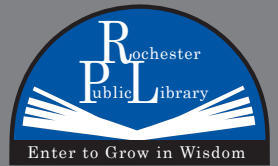


RPL recognized for exemplary workplace practices

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Library Blog



Homework assistance is available at the library every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at the library 6:00 - 8:45 pm.

Online tutors!

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Using the library to find new interests and talents

by Jennifer Zemke

In elementary school, I went through a short, in-school writing program in which we, the selected students, planned and wrote our very own short stories, which were to be compiled into an anthology. At our final meeting, our teacher called us up one by one, alphabetically, gave us each a copy of the anthology and sent us on our way back to class. I was the last one to go, and I was quite concerned when the teacher held my copy of the anthology hostage in order to talk to me, because I had handed in my story disgracefully long past the deadline

and I was still embarrassed about it. Already nervous, I entered a state of extreme panic when the teacher admitted that he'd thought I'd copied the story from somewhere else.

However, he assured me that he no longer thought I was a plagiarist, and had some wonderful things to say about my writing. I was ecstatic. I'd already been convinced that I wanted to be a writer when I grew up, and here was an official grown-up telling me that my writing was amazing. My destiny had practically been fulfilled.

I have always loved reading and writing, and because my parents encouraged these activities over wasting away in front of the TV, I had little interest in, or respect for, movies and television. So, when I discovered that the library was having a short film contest, I thought "Pfft, I could win that." They were even offering money as a prize. It felt like someone was offering me cash on a golden platter. I enlisted the help of my friends and a still camera, and, without nearly enough planning, set out to create a 10-minute movie over the course of one Spring Break.

It wasn't the end of the world. It was worse. It was up until that point the hardest I'd ever worked in my entire life. Undoubtedly a little more planning would have saved me some grief and a lot of time, but I learned that far too late. During the course of shooting and editing, anything that could go wrong, did go wrong. Several times the camera refused to cooperate, people showed up late, it was too cold and too windy, for some reason we were hungry all the time, and the number of bloopers was inevitably a dozen times greater than that of usable footage.

Despite the process's having its fair share of exhausting, grueling, and emotionally draining experiences, I realized that, given the choice, I would pick the movie-making over a relaxing Spring Break any day. I had initially entered the contest for the prospect of money, but I came out realizing that this was something else that captured my interest

just as intensely as writing did. It didn't matter that I didn't win first place, or that the movie's sound quality was akin to radio static. It was just fun, and the fact that we had even finished making it was worth the package of frustrating things that came with it. Had the opportunity not presented itself, I doubt I would have considered making movies except for school projects. It wouldn't even have occurred to me that I might enjoy it just as much as writing. As it is, I plan to studying writing and film when I go to college and hopefully will be able to have a career in both.

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If it weren't for the library, Jennifer may never have realized her interest or talent in the art of film making. How has the library inspired you?

Jennifer's video can be found on YouTube by following this link: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_wpc9wnGGMM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wpc9wnGGMM)

Good luck with your writing and film-making career, Jennifer!

# Libraries Change Lives

## Ice Cream Social and Brews and Clues fund-raisers update



The Foundation and Friends of the Rochester Public Library held two fundraisers in the Plummer House on August 9th. This was a perfect venue: wonderful gardens and even the weather cooperated with sunshine and cool breezes! We had specific goals in mind, as the library needed to replace a children's computer station and CD/DVD cleaning equipment needed updating. We were able to raise funds towards both projects thanks to our loyal supporters and patrons. Plus, we all had a great time!

The first event was **Cool Reads for Hot Days**, an ice cream social with a local author Elissa Elliott who provided great discussion points with her recent book, *Eve*, and her new writings. We appreciated that she donated books for door prizes. There were wonderful silent auction items and bucket raffles of books as well. We also showcased some new items

of library and literary stationery, notecards, notepads, notebooks and matchbook pocketbook notepads, many handcrafted from repurposed books. A lovely Friend decorated both events with flowers from her garden! These were later taken to the library.

The second event, **Brews and Clues**, was held in the evening with local author Paul Koeller talking about his family experiences in the brewing industry in Wisconsin. It was a fascinating, informative talk, and there was beer to sample! Over 40 different types, with some lovely casual foods (huge thank yous to Andy's for the rootbeer and welcoming beer, Coldstone Creamery for the icecream, Just Rite Foods for the cheeses, Trader Joe's for the pizza) and the Friends who both provided nibbles and smoothly ran the event! Paul also donated a book for a grand prize, as well as part of the proceeds from his book sales that evening. Please note that he also supports a college scholarship with the rest of his proceeds. Several other local businesses supported this event through the silent auction (see our album descriptions). We hope to make this an ANNUAL event, and that we will see you all, next summer.

~ The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

## Rochester Public Library recognized for exemplary workplace practices



Rochester Public Library has been honored with the 2011 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility for its use of flexibility as an effective workplace strategy to increase business and employee success.

This prestigious award, part of the national When Work Works project, recognizes employers of all sizes and types in the greater Rochester area and across the country.

Workplace flexibility—such as flextime, part-time work and compressed workweeks—has been demonstrated to help businesses remain competitive while also benefiting employees, as well.

“Our research consistently finds that employees in effective and flexible workplaces have greater engagement on the job and greater desire to stay with their organization. In addition, they report lower stress levels and better overall health,” states Ellen Galinsky, president of Families and Work Institute (FWI), a research think tank on workforce and workplace trends that administers the awards.

The Sloan Awards are unique for their rigorous, two-step selection process, which involves an evaluation of employers’ flexibility programs and practices, and a confidential employee survey. All applicants are measured against national norms from FWI’s National Study of Employers.

“As a recipient of the 2011 Sloan Award, Rochester Public Library ranks in the top 20% of employers, nationally, in terms of its programs, policies and culture for creating an effective and flexible workplace,” states Galinsky. “In addition, what makes this honor so special is that their employees have corroborated this, affirming that it is indeed an effective and flexible workplace.”

Rochester Public Library will be recognized as a 2011 Sloan Award recipient at the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Member Celebration on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Rochester International Event Center. For details, please contact John Hunziker, 507-328-2343.

When Work Works is a national project to educate the business community on the value of workplace flexibility by sharing research and promising practices, and conducting the annual Sloan Awards. It is an ongoing initiative of Families and Work Institute first funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. In 2011, the Society for Human Resource Management and FWI formed a ground-breaking, multi-year partnership to expand When Work Works and help businesses become more successful by transforming the way they view and adopt effective and flexible workplaces.

For more information about the When Work Works project and the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, visit [www.whenworkworks.org](http://www.whenworkworks.org).

# Libraries Change Lives

## **Celebrate Diversity!** A new mural in the library's skyway



If you haven't seen the mural in the library skyway, take some time and look at it. It's well worth your time; it's so colorful and vibrant!

This mural represents the flowing and intermingling of our community's diversity through celebrations. Celebrations create an open invitation to share life experience. In celebrations we are reminded that

our lives and cultures flow together and create the richness of our community.

The mural was painted by Greg Preslicka who also painted the mural in our children's area. He has worked with other libraries, as well.

