

Libraries Change Lives

Rochester Public Library News and Events

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December 2011

Libraries are Communities

by Mike Kalmbach



Mike Kalmbach

For the record, I love books.

When I was young, my mother did everything she could to instill a love of reading. She would take us once a week to our local library to check out a bounty of books. I couldn't wait to solve mysteries with the Hardy Boys, visit mountains with Bilbo Baggins, or fly through space with Peter and Broxholm.

Libraries still offer these adventures, of course. But today they offer so much more. And I'm not just talking about movies, music, and Internet access.

What amazes me about today's libraries is how they've evolved to become communities. Here in Rochester, volunteers tutor area students through the Homework Assistance program. Authors visit and offer tips for creating new stories. Children have story times several days a month. The library even offers free independent films and family movie nights.

The Rochester Public Library has also supported the Rochester MN Writing Group, which I lead, by offering free space once a month so writers can meet and improve their craft. With the support of the writing group, I recently self-published my debut novel, *The Caldarian Conflict*.

When I received my first batch of physical copies, one of the first things I did was donate three paperbacks and ten digital copies to the library in thanks for their support. Without our library, it would have been much more difficult to finish this book and to work on the others I have in process.

As a child, I never thought I could love libraries more. Libraries exposed me to many great books that I might not have found any other way.

As an adult, I find myself even more dedicated to libraries. More than a place for books, libraries have become a supportive community where people come together to learn and develop.

And I am proud to be part of that community.

P.S. The books I refer to in the first paragraphs are the *Hardy Boys* Mysteries by Franklin W. Dixon, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien, and *My Teacher is an Alien* series by Bruce Coville.

Homeless is my Address, Not my Name

The library is part of an exhibit created by St. Stephen's Human Services in Minneapolis. This project documents homelessness in Minnesota through first-person narratives and portrait photography.

Several portrait photos are displayed throughout the library. If you call the phone number listed on a few of the photos you will access a recording that tells some of that person's story.

The photos will be on display through December 30th. There are also different photos at the Government Center and at RCTC.

For more information, visit: <http://ststephensmpls.org/oralhistory/index.html>



Twenty photos of homeless people on display at the library.

December 2011

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

Saturday, December 3

Family Films

Auditorium 10:30 am

Celebrate the delights of a snowy day and discover the unique patterns formed by icy snowflake crystals in two family films based on Caldecott honor and award-winning picture books: *Snow* and *Snowflake Bentley*.

Friends of the Library Holiday Book and Bake Sale

Auditorium 1:30 – 5:00 pm

'Tis the season for the Friends' Holiday Gift Book and Bake Sale where there will be gift-quality books, baked goods, and free gift wrapping.

Sunday, December 4

Friends of the Library Holiday Book and Bake Sale

Auditorium 1:30 – 4:00 pm

'Tis the season for the Friends' Holiday Gift Book and Bake Sale where there will be gift-quality books, baked goods, and free gift wrapping.

Join us online!

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PRL Teen Space
Friends of the Rochester Public Library

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Blog

Rochpublibrary.wordpress

Flickr

RochPubLibrary

YouTube

RPLMNinfo

RochPubLibrary

Monday, December 5

Senior Techies Email II Meeting Room B

Learn different email features such as: address books, saving emails in folders and sending photos. An existing email account that you can access from the internet is required for this class. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 507-328-2309.

Saturday, December 10

Holiday Music for Families

Auditorium 10:30 am

The Choral Arts Ensemble presents their delightful concert of holiday music for children, families and friends!

Friends' Bookstore Second Saturday Sale

Library Foyer 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

December's Saturday sale will feature any left-over quality books from the Holiday sale on the 5th as well as other holiday books.

Tuesday, December 13

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. Once a month we meet to read and critique members' writing. The goal is to improve our writing in a friendly, supportive environment.

Wednesday, December 14

iFilms: International and Independent Films

Auditorium 6:00 pm

Karen Cries on the Bus - Colombia | 2011 | Drama | Spanish w/ English subtitles

Karen has left her slimy, but successful, husband Mario after ten years of marriage. She needs a fresh start to find out who she is and who

she could be, despite her husband's proclamation that she can do absolutely nothing. She walks out into Bogotá with no job, no friends, and hardly any money, but catches a break when she meets a hairdresser at a cheap flophouse. With her younger and seemingly stronger friend by her side, Karen takes her first steps towards independence.

Short Film: *Lessons from the Night*

This innovative documentary follows Maia, who reflects on life, work and toilet bowls on her nightly cleaning rounds through silent, empty spaces. As she works, she reveals some of the secrets of the city - the traces of human presence that we leave behind each day - and of her former life in Bulgaria.

The iFilm series is intended for mature adults. Please provide guidance to your children.

Saturday, December 17

Family Film: *The Snowman*

Auditorium 10:30 am

A young boy dreams that his snowman has come to life. Together they travel on a magical journey which celebrates the joys of winter.

Monday, December 19

Computer Basics Workshop

Meeting Room B 1:00 pm

Do you have general questions about computers, using email, using the library website or the Internet? Come to the library on the 3rd Monday of every month to practice on our computers and ask a librarian your questions.

GOAT Meeting - Group Of Advising Teens

Meeting Room A 4:00 pm

Come let your voice be heard! Assist in providing insight into tween/teen reading interests, programming needs and activities.

Tuesday, December 27

Family Film Program

Auditorium 10:30 am

This humorous film program features three favorite fairy tales based on picture books by children's author James Marshall: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Red Riding Hood*, and *The Three Little Pigs*.

Wednesday, December 28

Family Film Program: Wild and Wintry Weather!

Auditorium 10:30 am

It's cold outside! Join us for three tales based on popular winter picture books: *Brave Irene*, *The Snowy Day*, and *Owl Moon*.

Movie @ Your Library

Auditorium 2:30 pm

Join us for a *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows* double feature. Part 1 will be shown from 2:30-5 pm. Part 2 will be shown from 6:00-8:15 pm. There will be a one-hour intermission between films.

Thursday, December 29

Family Film: *Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too*

Auditorium 10:30 am

When Rabbit plots a "calming sort of lesson" for bouncy Tigger, he discovers that the Earthbound tiger is not the friend he knows and loves.

Friday, December 30

Family Film: *Peter and the Wolf*

Auditorium 10:30 am

Peter ignores his grandfather's warning and sets out to capture a wolf. This film is an animated Disney interpretation of the beloved classical music of Prokofiev.

Saturday, December 31

Family Film: *The Cricket in Times Square*

Auditorium 10:30 am

Chester Cricket and his friends try to drum up business for the kind owners of a New York City newsstand in this animated film based on the novel by George Selden.

Did you know that you can support the library by shopping online this holiday season?

As you're doing your holiday shopping this year, keep in mind that you can also help the library by using the Friends' Amazon Portal and shopping online. The Friends receive about 5% of all sales that originate from that portal. If you've ever shopped from Amazon, you know that, just like a library, they offer much more than just books. They have everything from diapers, to electric snow shovels, music, movies, toys, games, electronics, tools, clothes, snacks, etc. There is something for everyone on your list.

www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/friends

Bring Your eReader to the Library Days

For one-on-one help setting up your eReader to check out Library eBooks, drop by the Library with your device (Nook, Kindle, iPad, Sony Reader, etc.), the cord that came with it, your library card, and (if you have one) your laptop computer. We will sit down with you and walk you through the whole process. Even if you don't have your device with you (or don't own one yet), feel free to drop in with any questions you may have. Please call 507-328-2305 if you have any questions about these sessions.

eBook drop in help:

Tue. Dec. 27 from 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Thur. Dec. 29 from 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Tues. Jan. 3 from 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Wed. Jan 4 from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Fri. Jan. 6 from 9:30 am - 5:30 pm



Knit Wits in the Library

On a Tuesday lunchtime in the staff breakroom you can often find a group of "knitwits," library staff who enjoying crafting, sharing lunch and their latest crafting project. This fall, members of our group made items to donate to the City's Crisis Nursery. An array of 22 hats, 3 sets of mittens, 3 scarves and 7 blankets all hand-made by library staff were taken over in November. Gail Harris states, "We hope some young children will be kept a little warmer this winter."

Rochester Public Library will be closed on Saturday, December 24, Sunday, December 25 and Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas.

Rochester Public Library will be closing at 1:30 pm on Saturday, December 31 in observance of New Year's Eve and will be closed on Sunday, January 1 and Monday, January 2 in observance of New Year's Day.



Visit the library blog for more stories about library news, services, and events.
<http://rochpublibrary.wordpress.com>



American Civil War 1861 - 1865

Rochester Reads

This year Rochester Reads 2012 focuses on books related to the American Civil War.

The Rochester Reads committee decided to highlight the 150th anniversary of the Civil War by selecting two books by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist/author Tony Horwitz, as well as a junior title for middle-school students, and a picture book for the pre-school-kindergarten crowd.

Confederates in the Attic: dispatches from America's unfinished Civil War (1998), and *Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War* (2011) are the two adult titles.

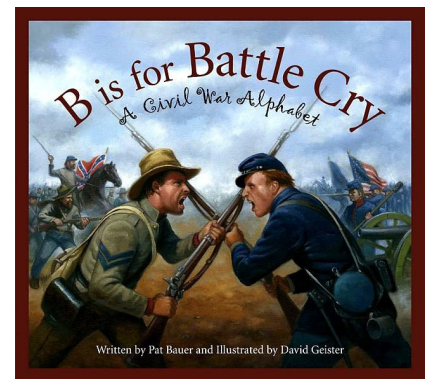
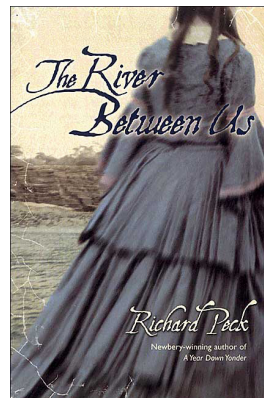
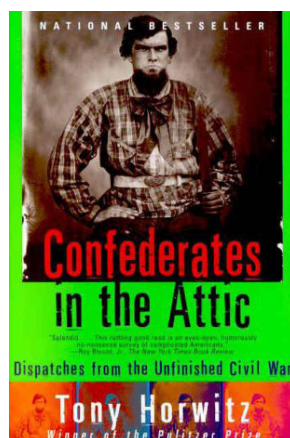
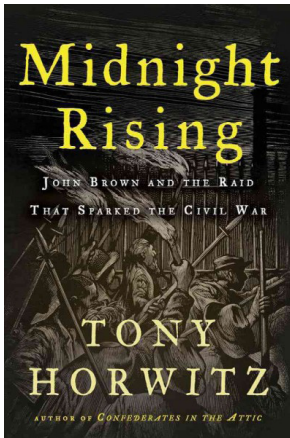
Tony Horwitz will be speaking on the topic of the Civil War and the origins of the conflict on Monday, April 9 at Willow Creek Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

The junior title is *The River Between Us* by Richard Peck, and the picture book is *B is for Battle Cry* by Minnesota author Patricia Bauer, who will be visiting several Rochester classrooms on April 10 as part of Rochester Reads.

In addition to the author visits, we will be hosting a kick-off event with Mayor Brede and the musical group

The New Pearl Buttons (<http://www.sherryladig.com/bands/new-pearl-button-players/>) on February 13 at the library. There will also be a number of Rochester Reads events - lectures on the Civil War, children's & YA events, book discussion groups taking place in March and April.

All information will be available on the www.RochesterReads.org as programs are finalized.



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