



Rochester Public Library News and Events

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Libraries Change Lives - Read Local/Share Global

by Helen McIver



The children of Mt Alava Elementary School in American Samoa along with the family who brought them books.

Our family has many Christmas traditions, but a favorite is adopting, anonymously, a family in need. For several months we would plan what would make wonderful personalized gifts, what could be made, what could be reused, what we could include for the holiday feast and especially what books would be selected to share. I think from the age of five I have had the desire to share good books: You must read this!

For several decades I continued this tradition, with local families in Scotland and Minnesota from Oxfam, Goodwill, the Salvation Army, the Women's shelter or church organizations. Some years the need is immediate, for example Katrina, Haiti, Sarajevo and now New Zealand and

Japan. The heartfelt note from the Katrina family thanking me for the cookbooks, the children's books, the fix-it-up, do-it-yourself manuals, the romance, the travel guides, etc., found me filling another box to help replace and restore their love of books, their pleasure in reading. Nearly all of the books have been purchased from the Friends of the Library Bookstore. This is truly a treasure trove of quality reading material at incredible prices. Quite a few books have been purchased in the Friends Book Sales or Rochester-fest Booksale where the selection is eclectic and extremely affordable.

Last year, knowing how involved I have become with the Library and the Friends' Bookstore, a friend asked

me if I could help her send children's books to American Samoa, where her son has been stationed as part of the Americorp program. The school children of Vatia at Mt Alava Elementary had so few books that nearly anything would be welcome. It is astonishing how many books you can pack into a flat rate U.S. Postal mailing box! Two boxes went winging across the Pacific, and a third was transported by the visiting parents. Subject matter ranged from primers and picture dictionaries to chapter books, history books and children's classics. I really had no idea what they would need or want so sent a wide selection requesting additional information on what they most needed.

The response has been overwhelming. A Christmas card from their teacher Leslie Blaich arrived thanking us for the donation: "Talofa! Wow. Fa afetai tele" These books now form the school's library. The children are absolutely delighted with each and every book. Each of the six children in this classroom have personally written a wonderful thank you note that is a pleasure to share with the Rochester community. These books were donated to the Library, as duplicates they became available for sale in our Bookstore in mint condition (where the proceeds would directly return to the Library) for a family or an organization to benefit from them. That this should be half way around the globe is one of the miracles of our modern day world.

I remain an avid user of our Rochester Public Library and the Friends Bookstore. 📖

May 2011

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

Wednesday, May 4

Visiting Author Series:

Catherine Friend

Auditorium

7:00 pm

Join Catherine Friend and the Zumbro River Arts Guild to celebrate the publication of Friend's new nonfiction book, *Sheepish: Two Women, Fifty Sheep, and Enough Wool to Save the Planet*. In addition to a brief presentation by the author, members of the Zumbro River Arts Guild will demonstrate spinning, weaving, and other fiber arts.

It's been fifteen years since Catherine Friend left her quiet, urban existence and became the proud owner of two ducks, four goats, fifty sheep, and several acres of Minnesota farmland. Now, caught in a chronic love/hate relationship with her flock, Friend reevaluates life on the farm and discovers that her sheep—and sheep around the world—may be much more important than anyone gives them credit for.

Discover the advantages of having sheep as the planet's "self-propelled lawn mowers" and the scary truth behind "wrinkle free" clothing as Friend reveals what it really means to be "sheepish"—and how it might not be such a bad thing after all. Catherine Friend is the author of *Hit by a Farm* and *The Compassionate Carnivore*, as well as seven children's books and three novels. She farms in Minnesota with her partner of twenty-seven years.

The Visiting Author Series is sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.

Thursday, May 5

Spanglish Storytime

Auditorium

6:30 pm

Enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and fingerplays in Spanish and English! ¡Disfruten cuentos, rimas, canciones, y juegos de dedos en español e ingles!

Saturday, May 7

Special Program: Bamber Valley World Drummers

Auditorium

10:30 am

Fourth grade music students from Bamber Valley Elementary School will introduce and present rhythmic drumming sounds from across the world! This entertaining presentation will highlight selections from Latin America, Caribbean, and African nations. The drumming group is directed by Susan Martino.

Tuesday, May 10

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 will meet to read and critique member's writing. The goal is to improve our writing in a friendly, supportive environment.

MIKE KALMBACH will help to facilitate the meetings. Mike is a freelance writer and editor, and manages the online writing community <http://writ-anon.com/>.

Wednesday, May 11

Choral Arts Ensemble: Choral Landscapes

Auditorium

12:00 pm

Take a trip with Choral Arts Ensemble through the winding rivers of Granada and the streets of Seville in Tedesco's masterpiece *Romancero Gitano* (Gypsy Ballad Book). Also on the itinerary is South Africa with Peter Louis van Dijk's *Horizons*. Back home on American soil, revel and reflect in the Civil War poetry of Walt Whitman in Jeffrey Van's work *A Procession Winding Around Me*, which features several of Whitman's most beloved poems. The ensemble will also sing some favorite folk songs and spirituals, such as Moses Hogan's *Battle of Jericho*.

Now in its 26th season, the seventh under Artistic Director Michael Cullo-

ton, Choral Arts Ensemble celebrates music's power to delight and inspire with performances throughout south-east Minnesota. The singers of CAE are active community members from a wide variety of professions, all drawn together to create excellent music and to contribute to the artistically thriving life in and around Rochester. Choral Arts Ensemble is committed to music of all genres and historical eras and supports the creation of new music through its active commissioning program.

This project was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

Wednesday, May 11

iFilms: International and Independent Films

Auditorium

6:00 pm

If I Want To Whistle, I Whistle (Romania | Thriller; Drama) Silviu has two weeks left before his release from a hostile juvenile detention center. Those two weeks become an eternity as his outcries for help fall on deaf ears. He finds himself mercilessly taunted and harassed by the other inmates. Just as Silviu's frustration evolves into full-throttled aggression, he is introduced to a beautiful social worker that he can only dream of being close to. Faced with a slew of conflicting emotions and wild with desperation, Silviu is driven to a surprising act of defiance as he makes a last grasp for freedom.

Short Film: *Kiss* - Eight-year-old Bruno finds it very interesting that his father, Daan, routinely wants to shave his beard and head before leaving on dangerous military missions in a desert country far away. e see what happens to Daan on his mission through Bruno playing with his toy soldiers.

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

Thursday, May 12

Spanglish Storytime

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and fingerplays in Spanish and English! ¡Disfruten cuentos, rimas, canciones, y juegos de dedos en español e ingles!

Saturday, May 14

Friends' Bookstore Second Saturday Sale

Library Foyer 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Get 20% off all "Crafts and Hobbies" books.

Quarry Hill Naturalists Present: Nature in my own backyard

Auditorium 10:30 am

What surprises from nature will you discover when you explore outdoors in your own backyard? Join Quarry Hill Naturalists and meet several small backyard critters from the pond, forest, and field.

This program was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Sponsorship provided by SELCO.

Sunday, May 15

Biking to Work Program

Auditorium 2:00 pm

Charlie Quigg from the Olmsted County Department of Public Health and the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota will be sharing a program called "Biking to Work Basics." This program in conjunction with National Bike to Work Week will include the benefits of biking to work, setting goals, safety, route planning and other biking related topics.

Monday, May 16

Senior Techies - Computer Practice

Meeting Room B 1:00 pm

Come to the library on the 3rd Monday of every month to practice on our computers and ask questions about computers, using email, using the library website or the internet?

Monday, May 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.

Thursday, May 19

Spanglish Storytime

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and fingerplays in Spanish and English! ¡Disfruten cuentos, rimas, canciones, y juegos de dedos en español e ingles!

Saturday, May 21

Family Film Program: Look at me! I'm growing up!

Auditorium 10:30 am

Three warm and humorous stories from favorite picture books: *Leo the Late Bloomer*, *A Weekend with Wendell*, and *Joey Runs Away*.

Thursday, May 26

Spanglish Storytime

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and fingerplays in Spanish and English! ¡Disfruten cuentos, rimas, canciones, y juegos de dedos en español e ingles!

Saturday, May 28

Family Film Program: Mouse Tales

Auditorium 10:30 am

Owen: Owen the mouse cannot bring his blanket to school! Can Owen's parents find a happy solution to the problem? This film is based on the favorite picture book by Kevin Henkes.

Mouse Around: A small mouse has a wonderful journey all around town when he falls from his nest into a plumber's back pocket.

The library will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.

Library Lobby - Under Construction

We apologize for any inconvenience for the first few weeks of May as there will be a bit of construction going on in the lobby. Five new self-check machines have arrived and will be installed on a new counter top that will be replacing the temporary set-up that they were on since November of last year. New shelving units for the reserve books will also be installed at this time. The Fiction, Movies and Music desk will be getting a face lift during this whole process as well.



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Library Newsletter

Director Audrey Betcher
Editor John Hunziker
Layout/Design Ginny Erbe

A sample of the cards that the children made for Helen are shown here.



Check out our blog to see the rest of the cards.

<http://rochpublibrary.wordpress.com/>



Keeping Track of What You Read

Do you remember what you read last month? How about last year? A few years ago?

I remember when I thought I would be able to remember every book I ever read. Ok, I was probably only about 12 when I felt that way. Now, (not too many years later) I realize how foolish that idea was. I've read so many books since then only a few stand out in my memory. If only I had kept track of what I read then.

A few years ago I started a web 2.0 journey which taught me so many things about the online world. That was when I was introduced to a thing called LibraryThing. An online database that will keep track of books - what you've read, what you want to read and much more. Being a book lover this really excited me so I dug right in. Since then I have learned other online sites to help keep track of what you're reading. To name a few:

- **LibraryThing** - LibraryThing is an online service to help people catalog their books easily. A free account allows you to catalog up to 200 books. A paid account allows you to catalog any number of books.
- **Good Reads** - See what your friends are reading. Join a book club. Keep track of what you've read and organize your books into virtual bookshelves.
- **Listology** - a user-contributed, searchable collection of book lists.
- **Shelfari** - Shelfari is a community-powered encyclopedia for book lovers. Create a virtual bookshelf, discover new books, connect with friends and learn more about your favorite books - all for free.

Many people keep track of what they read by blogging. Here are a few blogs that feature book reviews:

- **Minnesota Reads** - a blog written by Minnesota writers about the books they read and local book event
- **Friday Reads** - a global community of thousands of people who come together each week to share whatever they're reading.
- **Friends and Friends' Bookstore** - This site will share information about the Friends of the Rochester Public Library, Book sales and events, and the Bookstore. In addition, the Book Whisperer, a Friend of the Library, will make book recommendations.
- **President Ramaley's bookshelf** - Judith Ramaley, President of Winona State University, shares her current reading selections and recommendations.
- **100 Best blogs for Book Reviews** - It seems that a large number of book fanatics love to write about what they've read almost as much as doing the actual reading.

To find the above sites, just google them, they'll come right up. What method do you use to keep track of what you read? Where do you find good book reviews?