

Libraries Change Lives

Rochester Public Library News and Events

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March 2012

Libraries Change Lives - World Wide

by John Hunziker



The Learning Room in Arad Gai, Romania.

A thank you letter was read and discussed at a recent Friends of the Library Board meeting referencing 214 children's books that were donated by the Friends to a Learning Room in Arad Gai, Romania. The mystery lover in me had to learn more.

Our Rochester community seems to do a lot through networking; here is the story:

A young woman, Melissa, works at the Rochester Downtown Alliance and has been part of an international studies program through St. Mary's University. While there, she and another student, Alin C. Arsenov from Romania, got to talking and they decided to find a way to provide books and educational materials to those students who most need them. Alin was familiar with what had happened

in his home town of Arad Gai where two kindergartens and one school had closed and the remaining school was tragically overcrowded.

"My Learning Room" is a space that is provided by a home in the Arad Gai neighborhood where children can gather and check out educational materials, similar to a library, and mentors are available to work with children a few times a week to develop their educational interests.

The networking happened through a connection at Melissa's church where a member of the Friends of the Library and Melissa began talking and Melissa was put in touch with Pat Stephenson, a former para at the library at Bamber School and big time volunteer at the Rochester Library. If there is one thing that

Learning Room continued on page 2

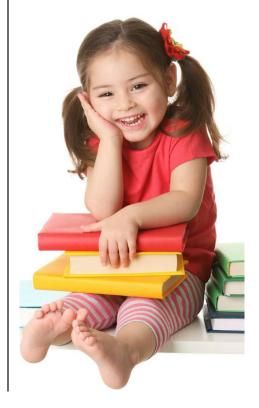
It's time to register for 3 to 5 year old story time

This six-week story time session takes place on Wednesdays, March 21 – April 25 at 10:30 am.

This fun and active program is designed for the child who is ready for a story time experience independent of his/her parent or care provider. We request that adults wait in our Parent's Room or the Children's Services area while Story Time is in session.

*Note: A special Family Story Time will be presented on April 4th at 10:00 am during Spring Break week.

Registration begins March 1, 2012, and you may register online (www. rochesterpubliclibrary.org/events), at the Children's Desk, or by calling 507-328-2303.



Volunteers make things happen @ the library!

Last year, in 2011, the library had a total of 378 dedicated volunteers who gave us an astounding 18,166 hours of help. Volunteers helped out in every part of the library from tutoring students in our homework help program to assisting patrons with our internet services. Our canine volunteers, along with their owners, were once again children's favorites at our Sit-Stay-Read programs, and volunteers selected and delivered more books than ever to our homebound patrons.

In the Friends' Book Store, volunteers raised \$57, 000 for the Library gift fund, Friends book sales online netted \$26,481 and in our auditorium raised a further \$12,100. Our intrepid book sorters waded through many donated books and audio-visual items so staff could add \$201,369 worth of donations to the library collection.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for your time, efforts and support; you are making things happen!

Join us online!

Google+

Facebook

Rochester Public Library PRL Teen Space Friends of the Rochester Public Library

Twitter

RochPubLibrary

Blog

Rochpublibrary.wordpress

Flickr

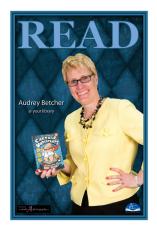
RochPubLibrary

YouTube

RPLMNinfo

RochPubLibrary

From the Director's Desk



In 2011 the library experienced a time of unprecedented change. We had three members of the management team retire and several other long-time staff members leave as well. As we were scrambling to get work done, we also took the opportunity to re-evaluate open positions against the Library's strategic plan.

We continue to meet the needs of the entire community: create lifelong learners, stimulate imagination, connect people to the online world, encourage young readers, and so much more, We see areas of opportunity, but we live in a time of tight budgets.

We know we can't just add more staff to solve problems and do more; we need to deploy existing staff differently.

So what are we doing differently? We are in the process of consolidating the Circulation Division. Right now a person can register for a library card, check out materials, and pay fines in either the Children's Division or in the Circulation Division. After the transition is complete, all transactions with check outs, fines, holds, registrations, etc. will take place in the Circulation Division.

The Children's Division staff will have more time to focus on reference, reader's advisory, and programming for the children in our community. That is not to say that we don't value the highly important transactions that happen in the Circulation Division. It all has to work together to create a great customer experience.

A team of staff members is working on the implementation plan, and we expect the change to happen before June of this year. We sincerely appreciate the support of the Friends on this project. Some funds from the Friends will be used to change the desk in the Children's area. We no longer need such a large desk, and we want to create an approachable environment.

What you do makes a difference for our entire community.

Thank You!

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Learning Room continued from page 1

the Friends do well, it's books. Our community is incredibly generous with its book donations to the library and Pat had no trouble in coming up with 214 books and had them shipped to Romania.

Following are a few excerpts from the thank you letters that were sent back to the Friends: "When Alin and I decided to start My Learning Room to provide educational materials to those students who most need them, we knew that it would be the generosity of others that would change the lives of the children we touch.....I am a firm believer that together, we can move mountains! Your help is making it possible for the first My Learning Room library to move mountains in the lives of the children living in Arad Gai."

"My Learning Room was born to voice out a basic, yet so meaningful belief that making a difference in one individual's life can mean changing the world to a better place! Children here (in Arad Gai) are in the process of learning English, and books are a great benefit for their learning process. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your donation."

Rochester Reads Events at a Glance



The months of March and April are full of Rochester Reads events.

Rochester Reads seeks to encourage community discussion, family reading, literacy, understanding, and cross-community interaction by promoting the reading of one book—or in case of this year, two books—and hosting discussions and events about them.

Sunday, March 4 • 3pm

Weapons of the Civil War History Center of Olmsted County

Monday, March 5 • 7pm

Women of the Civil War Library Auditorium

Wednesday, March 28 • 7pm

Rochester and the Civil War Auditorium

Monday, April 2 • 6pm

Movie @ your Library: *The Conspirator* Library Auditorium

Tuesday, April 3 • 11am

Armchair Travelers Book Group Library Meeting Room A

Wednesday, April 4 • 7pm

Movie @ your Library: *Gettysburg: a Documentary* Library Auditorium

Friday, April 6 • 10am - 12pm

Civil War Open House Library Auditorium

Monday, April 9 • 7pm

Rochester Reads Author Visit: Tony Horwitz Willow Creek Middle School

Tuesday, April 10 • 6:30pm

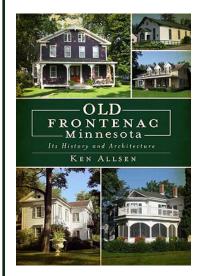
Bedtime Stories with Patricia Bauer and David Geister Library Auditorium

For detailed information on these events and the Rochester Reads titles, visit: www.rochesterreads.org.

Book Talk with Friends

a fund-raiser for the Friends of the Rochester Public Library

Old Frontenac Minnesota: Its History and Architecture by Ken Allsen



Thursday, March 8 • 1:00 pm Plummer House

1091 Plummer Lane SW Rochester, MN 55902

Please join the Friends of Rochester Public Library for conversation, coffee and cake at the Plummer House. Popular local author and historian Ken Allsen will talk about his books and will feature his most recent work *Old Frontenac Minnesota*.

Cost: \$10.00

For reservations and payment please call 507-328-2341 or visit the Friends website: www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/friends

Plummer House sponsored by Andy's Liquor

A special tasting of Laphroaig single malt whisky (the King of peat!)

another special fund-raiser for the Friends of the Library hosted by The Laird and Lady of Lochaber

Thursday March 8 • 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Plummer House

1091 Plummer Lane SW Rochester, MN 55902

Tickets will be \$30.00. Registration information can be found online: www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/friends

Prizes and raffles, and a few silent auction items. Please consider a designated driver as well. (one person free with 3 additional tickets)

This event is sponsored by Laphroaig Distillery ~ Crafting the spirits that stir the

world





March 2012

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

Thursday, March 1

Stories for Toddlers and Twos Auditorium 10:00 am

Stories, puppets, and films for children 18-36 months of age and their parents or care providers.

Saturday, March 3

Ballet Preview! Auditorium

10:30 am

The Children's Dance Theatre presents an introduction to ballet and tells the enchanting tale of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Costumed dancers perform an excerpt from this imaginative story filled with fairies and humorous characters.

Bows, Bowlers, and Bassoons: SEMYO's Silent Movie Event

Auditorium 1:30 pm

The Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras (SEMYO) will feature two orchestras, with 80 young musicians, performing an original music score written by composer Ben Model, to accompany two classic silent films. Featured films include The Immigrant, written, directed and starring Charlie Chaplin and Cops starring Buster Keaton. The SEMYO Orchestras are led by Conductor James Buchan. The films were selected in cooperation with the Rochester International Film Group, who will also provide a brief introduction to the films and the era of silent movies. These films have been chosen by the Library of Congress for inclusion in the National Film Registry. The Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras (SEMYO) is a non-profit organization located in Rochester, consisting of four orchestras and ensembles for youth in grades three through twelve. This project was funded in part or in whole with funds from Minnesota's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

Sunday, March 4

Rochester Reads Lecture: Weapons of the Civil War History Center of Olmsted County (1195 West Circle Drive SW) 3:00 pm

Join local historian Tom Hosier for an exploration of weapons used by infantries and cavalries during the Civil War. Participants will have the opportunity to view artifacts and weaponry from the era. Sponsored by the History Center of Olmsted County.

Monday, March 5

Sit-Stay-Read with Hershey and Timber

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Kids in grades K to 4 are invited to practice their reading skills with a certified therapy dog. Register for a 15-minute session online, at the Children's desk or by calling 507-328-2303.

Rochester Reads Lecture: Women of the Civil War

Auditorium 7:00 pm

The War Between the States may have been fought by great armies of men, but women filled many vital roles in society and even in the military. Women such as Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix immediately come to mind, but what about Minnesota's women? This program highlights the incredible stories of Minnesota women who protected their homes, supported their soldiers, served the army in many different ways, and kept the home fires burning throughout the four years of the Civil War. Some were dedicated enough to continue working for veterans after the war. Their stories, long overlooked and forgotten, bring a new perspective to the history of America's most bloody war.

Presented by Vickie Wendel, Pro-

gram Manager of the Anoka County Historical Society.

This program was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. Sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, SELCO, and the Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators.

Tuesday, March 6

LEGO® Fun for Homeschoolers! Auditorium 1:00 pm

Do you like to build with LEGOs®? Build your own LEGO® creations using our challenge idea or your imagination. Share your great ideas! LEGOs® are provided by the library. This program is best suited for children in Grades 2 to 6. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

LEGO® Fun!

Auditorium 3:30 pm

Do you like to build with LEGOs®? Build your own LEGO® creations using our challenge idea or your imagination. Share your great ideas! LEGOs® are provided by the library. This program is best suited for children in Grades 2 to 6. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Wednesday, March 7

Photo Editing Basics Meeting Room B

6:00 pm

Learn how to touch up and crop your digital photos and how to convert them into e-mail friendly sizes. This class will demonstrate free online tools for basic editing of your digital photographs. Please bring a digital photo to work with on either a flash drive, CD-ROM or other storage device. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 507-328-2309.

Thursday, March 8

Book Talk With Friends Plummer House (1091 Plummer Lane SW) 1:00 pm

Please join the Friends of Rochester Public Library for conversation, coffee and cake at the Plummer House. Popular local author and historian Ken Allsen will talk about his books and will feature his most recent work *Old Frontenac Minnesota: Its History and Architecture.*

In addition, the Friends' Bookstore will have a selection of Mystery books that are written by Minnesota Authors for sale.

Cost: \$10.00/person

Register online (www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/friends) or by calling 507-328-2341.

The proceeds of this event will benefit the Rochester Public Library.

Whisky Tasting with Friends Plummer House (1091 Plummer Land SW) 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Another special fund-raiser for the Friends of the Library hosted by the Laird and Lady of Lochaber.

There will be light refreshments (bread, cheeses, smoked salmon, shortbreads) as well as a fine pairing between exceptional whisky (the 18 yr old) and gourmet dark chocolate. The final taste (25 year) will receive a reverential billing.

There will also be prizes and raffles, and a few silent auction items for a fun-filled evening.

Cost is \$30.00/person.

Please consider a designated driver. One person free with the purchase of three tickets.

Register online (www.rochester-publiclibrary.org/friends) or by calling 507-328-2341.

This event is sponsored by Laphroaig Distillery ~ Crafting the spirits that stir the world

Friday, March 9

Letterboxing for Homeschoolers Auditorium 10:00 – 11:30 am

Homeschoolers - Test your treasure hunting and artistic abilities! Discover the art of letterboxing, create a personal stamp, make a journal and find your first letterbox. Letterboxes are hidden all over the world: start finding them now! This exciting activity can be enjoyed by the entire family.

Saturday, March 10

Discover the Art of Letterboxing! Auditorium 10:30 – 11:30 am

Discover your treasure hunting and artistic abilities! Learn about the art of letterboxing, create a personal stamp, make a journal and find your first letterbox. Letterboxes are hidden all over the world: start finding them now! This exciting activity can be enjoyed by the entire family.

Friends' Bookstore 2nd Saturday Sale

Library Foyer 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Find the luck of the Irish one week early at the "Lucky Finds" Friends of the Library book sale on Saturday, March 10th from 10 am - 1pm. Head to the end of the rainbow (at the library entryway) to find Classics, Collectibles, Coffee Table Books, Art and Music (including sheet music). Blarney stones not included, but the Friends will be dressed in green and supporting the library is con-

Monday, March 12

sidered very good luck!

World Music Series: Anoushka Shankar

Auditorium 12:00 pm

Steven Schmidt, General Manager of the City of Rochester Music Department, will conduct a concert preview of the Riverside Concertsfeaturing Anoushka Shankar which is scheduled for March 26th at the Civic Center, on March 12th at the RPL. Steve will discuss the artist's new "Traveler" project highlighting her biography, her familial relation-

ship with Ravi Shankar who taught the Beatles' George Harrison how to play the sitar, and how she is infusing traditional Indian music with Spanish forms to create an entirely new World Music sound. We will also listen to selected tracks from her "Traveller" CD. The program will be 45-minutes long and you are invited to bring your lunch while you enjoy the concert preview. This project was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund.

Sit-Stay-Read with Ellie, Bonnie and Timber

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Kids in grades K to 4 are invited to practice their reading skills with a certified therapy dog. Register for a 15-minute session online, at the Children's desk or by calling 507-328-2303.

Tuesday, March 13

Library Time Auditorium

10:00 am

This program for disabled adults is an opportunity for participants to enjoy reading books, watching films, making crafts and other fun learning activities.

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.

Wednesday, March 14

iFilms: International and Independent Films

Auditorium 6:00 pm

The Piano in a Factory - When Chen's estranged wife reappears asking for a divorce and custody of their daughter, the musician girl decides she will live with whoever can provide her with a piano. Chen's struggle thus begins. When efforts to borrow money and even steal a piano fail, Chen concocts a preposterous plan - he'll make a piano from scratch! He persuades a bunch of reluctant, but loyal, misfit friends

Page 6

to help him forge the instrument in a derelict factory from a heap of scrap steel. Though crude in design and tune, the factory piano awaits its first and final performance from his little girl.

Short Film: *The Necktie* -A man leads a drab existence in a dead-end job, until one day he discovers a forgotten birthday gift that magically reignites his long lost joy of life.

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

Saturday March 17

Family Film: *The Cat in the Hat*Auditorium 10:30 pm

The impulsive Cat in the Hat romps through the house one rainy day while mother is away. This animated film is based on the famous book by Dr. Seuss!

Monday, March 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.

TLC Meeting - Teen Library Council 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. Help make the library a youth friendly space where you and your peers want to be! Any questions, contact Lynette @ 328-2305.

Sit-Stay-Read with Cricket and Dakota

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Kids in grades K to 4 are invited to practice their reading skills with a certified therapy dog. Register for a 15-minute session online, at the Children's desk or by calling 507-328-2303.

Tuesday, March 20

LEGO® Fun for Homeschoolers! Auditorium 1:00 pm

Do you like to build with LEGOs®? Build your own LEGO® creations using our challenge idea or your imagination. Share your great ideas! LEGOs® are provided by the library. This program is best suited for children in Grades 2 to 6. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

LEGO® Fun!

Auditorium 3:30 pm

Do you like to build with LEGOs®? Build your own LEGO® creations using our challenge idea or your imagination. Share your great ideas! LEGOs® are provided by the library. This program is best suited for children in Grades 2 to 6. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Bedtime Stories

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Stories and puppets to bring you sweet dreams.

Wednesday, March 21

Preschool Parent-Child Story Time

Auditorium 11:00 am

Stories, rhymes and puppets for children 3-5 years of age and their parents or care providers.

Thursday, March 22

Stories for Toddlers and Twos Auditorium 10:00 am

Stories, songs and fingerplays for children 18-36 months of age and their parents or care providers.

Mail Art for Homeschoolers Auditorium 2:00 – 3:30 pm

The Children's Division is partnering with friends at the Allen County Public Library in Indiana for this engaging and far reaching project! Mail Art is a fun and exciting way to get, give and dive into art. Homeschoolers, let's see what you can create! Designed for homeschoolers in grades 2 to 6, but the whole homeschooling family is welcome.

Friday, March 23

Light

Auditorium 12:00 pm

Light: a play commissioned by the Rochester Public Library, written and directed by Rochester Civic Theatre Executive Director, Gregory Stavrou, and featuring local actors. Light explores the resonant injustice of racism through the eyes of a witty and spirited young "local" girl as she reaches toward understanding of her experiences, the actions of her peers, community and her parents. Light incorporates familiar references to help illuminate the personal and community impact of racism and is intended to foster constructive dialogue in communities throughout SE MN.

Saturday, March 24

Family Film: Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day

Auditorium 10:30 am

A wild wind sweeps through the Hundred Acre Wood, toppling Owl's tree home and making everyone very uneasy.

Sunday, March 25

Olmsted County's First Residents: Archaeology Overview & Recent Survey

Auditorium 2:00 pm

Join us for the first Wasi Oju lecture of 2012, featuring Dr. Constance Arzigian who will offer an overview of past cultures in our area, from biggame hunters at the end of the Ice Age to the first farmers at 1000 A.D.

Wasi Oju lectures are intended to educate the Rochester community on the history and culture of the Native American tribes of Minnesota. Free and open to the general public, the series is presented in partnership with the History Center of Olmsted County, the Rochester Heritage Preservation Committee, the Friends of Indian Heights, the Rochester Public Library and Celebrate Dakota!, a Mayo Clinic diversity networking group.

Monday, March 26

Light

Auditorium 3:00 pm

Light: a play commissioned by the Rochester Public Library, written and directed by Rochester Civic Theatre Executive Director, Gregory Stavrou, and featuring local actors. Light explores the resonant injustice of racism through the eyes of a witty and spirited young "local" girl as she reaches toward understanding of her experiences, the actions of her peers, community and her parents. *Light* incorporates familiar references to help illuminate the personal and community impact of racism and is intended to foster constructive dialogue in communities throughout SE MN.

Sit-Stay-Read with Dakota and Ellie

Auditorium 6:30 pm

Kids in grades K to 4 are invited to practice their reading skills with a certified therapy dog. Register for a 15-minute session online, at the Children's desk or by calling 507-328-2303.

Tuesday, March 27

Bedtime Stories Auditorium

6:30 pm

Stories and puppets to bring you sweet dreams.

Wednesday, March 28

Preschool Parent-Child Story Time Auditorium 11:00 am

Stories, rhymes and puppets for children 3-5 years of age and their parents or care providers.

Sharing Photos Online Meeting Room B 6:00 pm

Learn how to share your digital photos with your family and friends on the Internet. In this class, we will look at some web sites that allow you to share your photos and set up a free photo sharing account. Please bring some digital photos you want to use (on a flash drive, CD-ROM, memory card or camera) during the class. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 507-328-2309.

Rochester Reads Lecture: Rochester and the Civil War Auditorium 7:00 pm

Using information from Olmsted County history books, the two Rochester newspapers of the 1860's, and research from the Historical Society of Olmsted County library, this presentation describes what was happening in Rochester and the surrounding area during this period in history. Presented by former History Center of Olmsted County director David Dunn.

Thursday, March 29

Stories for Toddlers and Twos Auditorium 10:00 am

tories, songs and fingerplays for children 18-36 months of age and their parents or care providers.

Film and Discussion: *Brother*Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin Auditorium 6:00 pm

A documentary examining the life of Bayard Rustin who, although one of the first "freedom riders," an adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and A. Philip Randolph, and an organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, was forced to play a background role in landmark civil rights events because he was homosexual. Co Sponsored by The Mayo Clinic GLBTI Diversity Networking Group AND The Mayo Clinic African Descendents Network (ADSN)

Saturday, March 31

Family Films: Favorite Dog and Cat Tales

Auditorium 10:30 am

Please join us for three humorous animal tales based on favorite picture books including: Angus Lost, Let's Give Kitty a Bath, and "Let's Get a Pup" said Kate!

New Web Site Coming Soon!

We are almost finished polishing up our new look and plan on launching a whole new website in April. You can take a sneak peak at what we're working on right now by following this link: http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/2010site/index.html.

This is still a work in progress so bear with us as we continue our fine tuning. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know. You can click on the big yellow "Give us Feedback" button on any page of the new web site.



All Hail the Queen!

Rochester Public Library Foundation Hosts an English Evening

What do you get when you mix Shakespeare, English Ales and a traditional English meal?

A bloody good way to support the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

This is the second event in the Rochester Public Library's Cultural Event Series. On Thursday, April 26, at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Rochester, the Rochester Public Library's English Evening will celebrate all things English—from its ales to its entertainment. Highlights of the evening include:

 The Compleat Works of Shakespeare's "Greatest Hits." Local thespians Greg Miller, Nick Mezacapa, and Jerry Casper will perform thirty minutes of highlights from their acclaimed and laugh-out-loud funny stage show

- centered around Shakespeare's plays (even the bad ones).
- A five-course traditional English meal. The menu will include pot roast, roasted potatoes, and a few surprises.
- An English ale tasting. What's an English event without a few ales? Taste a variety of ales courtesy of Andy's Liquor.
- English toasts between each course, led by emcee—and local Brit—John Steer.
- Silent auction and bucket raffle. Items range from wine to themed book collections.

"Just as last year's Celtic evening celebrated Celtic culture, our English Evening brings you everything English: food, ale, music, art, history, Shakespearean entertainment and a true Englishman emcee," says Lois Marris, co-chair of the event. "The Highland Kilts worn last year were such a huge hit that we are encouraging everyone to wear their favorite Renaissance Era piece—from full costume to a simple mask."

Cost is \$50.00 per person; registration is available online at: www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org. For more information contact Jennifer Koski at 507.251.3887 or via email: jenniferkoski@gmail.com.

Proceeds go to the Rochester Public Library Foundation to support programming and equipment at the Rochester Public Library.



SAVETHE DATE: APRIL 26, 2012

An English Evening

Master of Ceremonies: Pastor C. John Steer

Entertainment: Compleat Works of Shakespeare

Experience a traditional English meal Sample popular English Ales Learn the native language: The Queen's English

Enjoy English music, culture and history

Renaissance Period Costume Encouraged

A Rochester Public Library Foundation Fundraiser

A Cultural Series Event

Library Newsletter

Director Audrey Betcher
Editor John Hunziker
Layout/Design Ginny Erbe



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