

LIBRARY Connections



Reading Champions Change Lives

Imagine your daughter or a young neighbor telling you she wasn't doing well in school because she "couldn't understand much" when it came to reading.

This is how 10-year-old Jannelle explains the difficulty she was facing as a student before participating in Rochester Reading Champions (RRC), a tutoring program for struggling readers. After completing the program in 2017, Jannelle says she's able to "get good grades" as a 4th-grade student and she now reads well above her grade level.

"She was a star Reading Champions student," according to her tutor Susan Goettsch. Susan says she and Jannelle have celebrated many victories along the way including seeing Jannelle grow in confidence, increase her ability to read new words, and perform in her class play.

"Jannelle is bright and she always had good comprehension of what she read," explains Susan, but Jannelle still struggled to keep up with her peers. That changed after participating in the RRC program. "By graduation she could easily read material she could not have attempted before," says Susan.

RRC pairs volunteer tutors like Susan with struggling readers like Jannelle. The program started in 2014. Susan was one of our very first volunteer tutors. A former child psychologist, she read about the Reading Champions program in a Post Bulletin article and "knew it was the perfect fit" for her after retiring from Mayo Clinic.

Volunteers like Susan are the heart of the RRC program. Tutors commit to 120 hours of training as they learn the basics of the Orton-Gillingham method, breaking down reading to the fundamental word level.

And while the tutors only spend a few hours with students each week, they also create personalized lesson plans for each student. Even though it can be "quite time consuming," Susan she really enjoys it.

RRC Coordinator, Gail Harris, says that as one of over two dozen tutors who invest their time and talent, Susan makes a huge difference in Rochester.

"Reading Champions" (continued on page 2)



SUPPORT
ROCHESTER
READING
CHAMPIONS

\$10,000

\$8,000

\$6,000

\$4,000

\$2,000



ALL DONATIONS MADE TO ROCHESTER READING CHAMPIONS (UP TO \$10,000) THROUGH FEBRUARY AND MARCH WILL BE MATCHED BY THE VALLEY OF ROCHESTER SCOTTISH RITE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

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“Reading Champions” (continued from page 1)

“Our tutors are a very dedicated, kind group of individuals who are passionate about helping kids and adults to bring learning and absolute joy into reading.”

“All of our students see success,” says Harris, adding “Every student makes some sort of progress and for many of our students, it’s life-changing.”

If you ask Jannelle, RRC changed her life: the once-struggling reader now has a passion for reading, saying, “You can use your imagination while reading.”

The program is often just as life-changing for tutors as it is for the students. “Teaching someone to read is the single best thing you can do for another human being,” says Susan.

The program is led by Rochester Public Library, with additional community support that has helped the program continue to grow. In February, the library will open a dedicated Literacy Hub space for all area tutors and students to use. The space will include tutoring rooms and resource materials, including decodable and high interest/low reading level items.

You can help throughout February and March during a special fundraising campaign with the generous support of the Valley of Rochester Scottish Rite. The organization will match any donations to Rochester Reading Champions, up to \$10,000. Last year the organization agreed to match donations up to \$5,000, and when RRC supporters exceeded that goal by raising \$6,075, the Valley of Rochester Scottish Rite came through with additional money for an equal match. The combined donation is helping to pay for the Literacy Hub.

Looking to support a life-changing program? Learn more about RRC by visiting: <http://bit.ly/RPLdonate>.



Building an Alliance

By Sarah Joynt

Since June, an active chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance (HPA) at Rochester Public Library has been creating positive change in our community!

Wizards and Muggles (non-magical people) of all ages gather on the first and third Mondays of the month from 4-5 PM. Harry Potter-loving members of Teen Library Council brought forward the idea to form a chapter of HPA as they were looking for more opportunities to make our community better. HPA is an international organization, working since 2005 to change the world by making activism accessible through the power of story. Our chapter, Lumos Library, has taken the #NevilleFightsBack campaign as the heart of our chapter. When everything in Harry Potter seemed too big and too hard to make better, Neville didn’t stay quiet and he didn’t give up.

Instead, he looked for small ways that he could stand up and make a difference. With our “Fantastic Bees and How to Help Them” campaign this summer, HPA members learned about the importance of pollinators from our friends at the Bee Shed, and



planted native seeds and shared positive bee information in their neighborhoods. In October and November, members painted a new mini library and installed it in the Peace Plaza to replace an older one that had fallen into disrepair. Lumos Library helped with planning and staffing our November “Wonder” movie release party by designing the Kindness Tree that was in Youth Services.

Our members have lots of ideas to take HPA into its second year and we are always recruiting new members with new ideas to join us. It’s easy to join. Just show up for our next scheduled meeting.

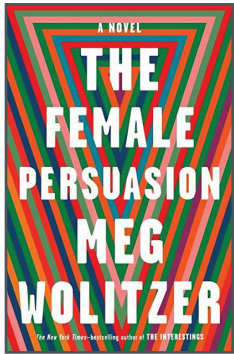
For more information, contact Sarah, Teen Librarian at sjoynt@rochester.lib.mn.us or check out the national HPA website: www.thehpalliance.org



Books We're Excited For in 2018

By Allison Girres

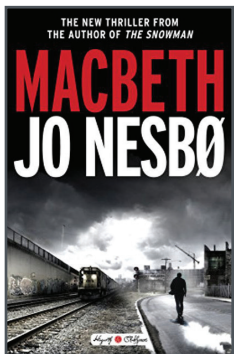
With a new year, comes a new list of must-read titles. Here are a few we're excited for in 2018.



***The Female Persuasion* by Meg Wolitzer**

From the author of *The Interestings* comes another multilayered novel about ambition, friendship, and the romantic ideals we all cling to from childhood. Greer Kadetsky is a shy college freshman when she meets Faith Frank, a dazzling and elegant pillar of the women's movement. When the

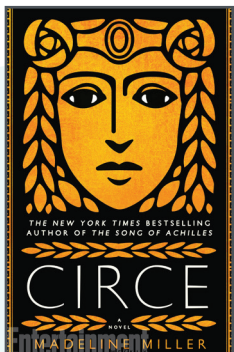
sixty-three year old Faith offers Greer a chance to join her in her work, Greer finds herself on an exciting path, but one that is winding her away from her meant-to-be love story with her boyfriend and the future she'd always imagined.



***Macbeth* by Jo Nesbø**

The eighth edition in Hogarth Shakespeare series (Anne Tyler's *Vinegar Girl* and Margaret Atwood's *Hag-Seed* being other notable entries) finds the bard's classic tale of ambition and murder in the hands of the king of Scandinavian noir. Set in a dark and rainy northern town, Nesbø's *Macbeth* pits a corrupt policeman against loyal

colleagues, a drug-fueled criminal underworld, and the pull of childhood friendships.



***Circe* by Madeline Miller**

In *The Odyssey*, Circe lures Odysseus's to her island and turns his crewmates into pigs - but this isn't Odysseus's story. Threatened by her powers, Zeus banishes young Circe to a deserted island where she hones her witchcraft, tames wild beasts, and crosses paths with some of the most famous figures in mythology. When she unwittingly

draws the wrath of both men and gods Circe must chose, once and for all, whether she belongs with the gods she was born to or the mortals she has come to love. If you can't wait, Miller's retelling of *The Iliad*, *The Song of Achilles*, is well worth the read.

Speed-Friending

By Karen Lemke

"It's like speed-dating, but platonic."

The library's first speed-friending event in January turned out to be a popular one, as a few interested people had to be turned away. Event organizer, Librarian Allison Girres, says the February edition also proved to be popular, with spaces filling up quickly.

Girres, who is a new Rochester resident herself, says it can often be difficult for adults to make friends. "It can be hard for people to make friends, especially when you lose the natural social groups of school and college." Girres goes on to explain that, just like in dating, rejection can be a fear for people seeking new friends as well.

Girres says the event will be repeated throughout the year, as more people search for new friendships. For details about future Speed-Friending events, visit the library's online calendar at: <http://bit.ly/RochEvents>



Let's Get Digital!

Wondering what to do with those Super-8 home movies? VHS wedding tapes? Audio cassettes?

Rochester Public Library wants to help! The library will be purchasing equipment for local residents to use to take older-format video and audio recordings and transform them into more-accessible digital formats.

"We need to know which formats patrons have materials in so we can get the right equipment," says Librarian Brian Lind, "If no one has Super VHS, we don't want to invest in a Super VHS player."

To tell us which formats you would like to digitize, take the short survey at: <http://bit.ly/RPLdigitizesurvey>





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Wit, Wisdom & Wine 2018

After 17 years, Wit, Wisdom and Wine saw a few great changes to this long standing event that raises thousands of dollars annually to support the mission of the Rochester Public Library & Foundation.

For the first time, Wit, Wisdom and Wine joined in as a Winterfest event, added a Wine Wall, and highlighted a two part high-end Wine Tasting Class led by Tessa Leung of Grand Rounds Brewing Company & Tessa's Office. All these great new additions plus the eight "wisdom filled" speakers made for a memorable night that raised over \$40,000.

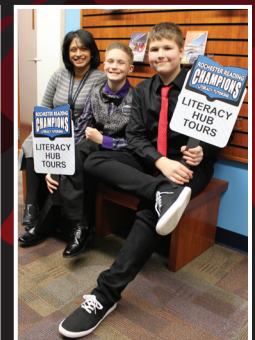
Foundation Board President, Martha McClees, says the event always demonstrates how valuable the library is to Rochester. "Wit, Wisdom & Wine is such a great event highlighting Rochester's most welcoming resource: the Public Library. The Library belongs to everyone, it's a safe place to learn, share & grow. We thank our supporters for their time, talent and treasure."

Wit, Wisdom & Wine served as the kick-off event for a \$10,000 Match opportunity to provide additional support for the library's innovative tutoring program, Rochester Reading Champions. To donate, visit <http://bit.ly/RPLdonate>



"Thank you to all who support this Foundation fundraiser year after year. Your dollars and donations equal more programs, materials and innovations that we can financially support in 2018."

***- Vicki Allen,
Foundation Executive Director***





Donors from September 21, 2017 - December 31, 2017

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"Donors" (continued on page 6)



ROCHESTER
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**YOUR DONATIONS
MAKE A WORLD
OF DIFFERENCE**

"Donors" (continued from page 5)

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- *In honor of Audrey Betcher*

Vicki Allen & Terry Sorenson
- *In celebration of our birthdays*

Richard & Betty Buri
- *In honor of grandchildren*

Jane & Mary Champion
- *In honor of Library Staff*

Laura Cook
- *In appreciation of Bill Wiktor*

Maurice & Kaylene Geiger
- *In honor of Quillan Zeitler*

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Susan McHugh
- *In appreciation of Bill Wiktor*

Mr. & Mrs. Terry M. Painter
- *In honor of the Bookmobile Staff*

Brian Pickering & Amelia Barwise
- *In honor of Mr. Swegarden*

Mrs. JoAnn M. Sheldon
- *In honor of the Library Staff*

Ms. Jane Smith
- *In honor of Janice Ulrich*

Judith Wasser
- *In honor of Janice Ulrich*

Meredith Wiktor
- *In appreciation of Bill Wiktor*

Paulette & Mike Zenner
- *In honor of Chloe & Crosby Carlson*

IN MEMORY

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|--|--|---|---|
| Paulette & Mike Zenner - <i>In memory of Amanda S. Carlson</i> | Dr. Arnold & Sandra Weissler - <i>In memory of Edward J O'Connell</i> | Ms. Anne E. Dery - <i>In memory of Josephine Virciglio</i> | Ms. Jean McDowall - <i>In memory of Marjorie Ginn</i> |
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| Harold B. Stewart - <i>In memory of Bix Stewart</i> | Brett & Kim Adams - <i>In memory of Gail Adams</i> | The Study Club - <i>In memory of June Flathers</i> | Harold Dison - <i>In memory of Norma Dison</i> |
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| Rosemary Bradshaw - <i>In memory of Dallas Bradshaw & Anne Schoonorer</i> | Susan Benjamin - <i>In memory of Joan Benjamin</i> | Jim M. Dervin - <i>In memory of Lori Dervin</i> | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rosener - <i>In memory of Sue Borger</i> |
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| Mrs. Wanda M. Hagquist - <i>In memory of Don Hagquist</i> | Ms. Angela A. Allers - <i>In memory of Jon Fryer</i> | Ms. Anne E. Dery - <i>In memory of Josephine Virciglio</i> | |
| | Louise Moe - <i>In memory of Josephine Moe</i> | | |

IN MEMORY OF FRANCENIA WILSON

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| Keith & Sandra Gernentz | Ms. Patricia Paulson | Kerwin & Doris Englehart | |
| | Mary Peters | Judith Martin | |

Miss Minnesota

By Karen Lemke

After a year of serving as Miss Minnesota US International, Zoey Janstan is hanging up her crown. As part of her royal duties, Janstan made a number of special visits to Rochester Public Library storytimes.

"My mom has always been an advocate for reading, whether it's a funny story with lots of pictures or a thick book with many plot twists," explains Janstan.

Janstan says that her passion for literacy continues, as reading always leads her on "the next adventure."



Friends' Online Sales on the Rise

Behind the scenes of the Friends is a small group of people who sell books online.

Pat Stephenson, Phyllis Hambright, and Nan Frie check on-line vendors to determine the value of donated and library-discarded books. Based on this search, books may be packaged and sent to a vendor, sold in the Friends' Bookstore, or boxed for auditorium sales.

High-value books (over \$10; some as much as \$200) are set aside for Audrey Betcher, Kathy Cook, and Al Dollerschell, who sell on Amazon and eBay. Money raised from the online sales benefit the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.

Aside from donating books, the Friends are always looking for donations of packing materials and boxes to ship books when they are purchased online.



Phyllis Hambright is one of several volunteers who sort through books to determine the best place for them, including books for online sales. In 2017, over \$32,000 was raised through online sales alone.

Friends' Bookstore Hours:

Monday 10AM-7PM

Tuesday 10AM-4PM

Wednesday 10AM-7PM

Thursday 10AM-7PM

Friday 10AM-4PM

Saturday (school year) 10AM-4PM

Saturday (summer*) 10AM-1PM

Sunday (school year) 1:30-4:30PM

Sunday (summer*) closed

**Summer hours are from Memorial Day to Labor Day.*

Friends' Annual Meeting



Library Director Audrey Betcher and United Way Executive Director Jerome Ferson discussed the local "Cradle to Career" initiative at this year's Annual Friends Meeting.



Dozens of Friends attended the Annual Meeting, held every January at the library.

Donations Top \$215,000

11,199 items with a value of \$215,332 from the Friends of the Rochester Public Library for the library's collection and mini-library project for 2017.



FRIENDS OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY



2018 ROCHESTERFEST BOOK SALE

Monday, Jun. 18, 5-7PM (Preview Sale)
Tuesday, Jun. 19, 9:30AM-7PM
Wednesday, Jun. 20, 9:30AM-7PM
Thursday, Jun. 21, 9:30AM-6PM

2018 AUTUMN BOOK SALE

Thursday, Oct. 11, 5-7PM (Preview Sale)
Friday, Oct. 12, 9:30AM-5PM
Saturday, Oct. 13, 9:30AM-5PM
Sunday, Oct. 14, 1:30-4PM

2018 GIFT QUALITY BOOK & BAKE SALE

Friday, Dec. 7, 11AM-5PM
Saturday, Dec 8, 9:30AM-4PM

2ND SATURDAY SALES

2nd Saturdays of the month
10AM-1PM, Library Foyer

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101 2nd Street SE
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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:30AM - 9:00PM

Friday
9:30AM - 5:30PM

Saturday (school year)
9:30AM - 5:30PM

Sunday (school year)
1:30PM - 5:30PM

Saturday (summer)
9:30AM - 1:30PM

Sunday (summer)
CLOSED

507.328.2300
www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

Audrey Betcher
Library Director

Karen Lemke
Editor
klemke@rochester.lib.mn.us

Nicole Henry
Layout/Design

Help Solve a Mini-Library Mystery

By Karen Lemke

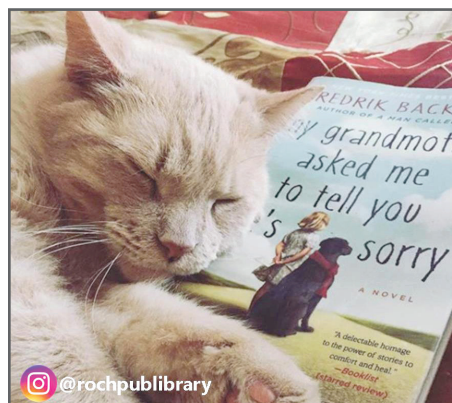
Mini-libraries are meant to allow for an exchange of books, but when Susan Waughtal checked on her own library, she was surprised to find something else.

One day I went out to stock new books in our mini-library (I make sure there are always books about farm animals, the natural environment and gardening - my favorite themes) and when I opened the door I was stunned to discover tucked inside an amazing, hand-made art-doll of my beloved milk cow LaFonda (she had passed away a couple months earlier.) The cow doll has jointed legs, carved wood hooves, horns made from deer antler tips, is felted to have the same distinctive pattern of spots as my cow, and even has a garland of flowers



around her head as LaFonda wore for our annual cow puja celebration. I cannot describe how touched I was to discover this surprise in the mini-library. Although I have inquired and searched like crazy, the creator is still a baffling mystery to me. - Susan Waughtal

Have any clues to solve this mystery?
Email us your story at
klemke@rochester.lib.mn.us.



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