

LIBRARY Connections



Library Wins National Medal

By Karen Lemke

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has selected Rochester Public Library as one of 10 winners of the 2018 National Medal of Museum and Library Service.

Over the past 24 years, the award has celebrated 182 institutions that are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities. The award will be presented at an event at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., on May 24.

"It is a pleasure to recognize the 10 distinctive recipients of the National Medal of Museum and Library Service," said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. "Through their programs, services, and partnerships, these institutions exemplify the many ways that libraries and museums are positively transforming communities across the nation."

"We're incredibly honored to be recognized for our innovative approaches to removing barriers," said Library Director Audrey Betcher, adding, "The National Medal recognizes RPL's dedication to equity and providing welcoming spaces for all community members. We strive to listen and respond so that every member of our community has the opportunity to succeed."

RPL is only the fourth Minnesota library to win the award in 24 years,

joining the University of Minnesota Libraries (2017), Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (2011), and St. Paul Public Library (2005).

As part of the ceremony and celebration, community member James Arnold will travel to Washington, D.C., with Betcher to accept the National Medal on behalf of the library and provide a personal account of the power the library has had in the community. Since he was a child, 17-year-old Arnold has used the library as a safe space to develop his passion for writing. As an eighth grader, he joined the Teen Library Council and had a hand in planning programs for his peers, as well as for younger children. And when Arnold first identified as transgender, the library provided him a safe space to explore his identity.

"The best thing about the library is its commitment to serving the entire community even if it's part of the community that typically doesn't have a voice. And I think that is a very beautiful thing," said Arnold.

Following the ceremony, StoryCorps—a national nonprofit

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Mover & Shaker Heather Acerro

Rochester Public Library's Heather Acerro is one of 50 individuals from across the U.S. named to the 2018 "Movers and Shakers" list from Library Journal.

Acerro, selected for her work as a change agent for libraries, is joining a select group of other worldwide "movers." Library Journal has been spotlighting changemakers since 2002, focusing on individuals in the library industry who are transforming their communities.

Acerro joined RPL in 2011 and started making an impact early on, according to Library Director Audrey Betcher. "Heather has a deep commitment and passion for reaching underserved and at-risk residents, and this shows through a number of initiatives she's

championed over the years," explains Betcher.

In 2014, Acerro and her team recognized a community need for LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual) safe spaces. RPL now offers a wide array of programming for youth and families including q club, Parents Empower Pride, Pride Prom, and Transforming Families. As a leader of the Neighbors Reads program, Acerro has worked to provide mini libraries in locations throughout Olmsted County. Additionally, she spearheaded the effort to develop the library's BookBike and ArtCart, providing new opportunities for community outreach.



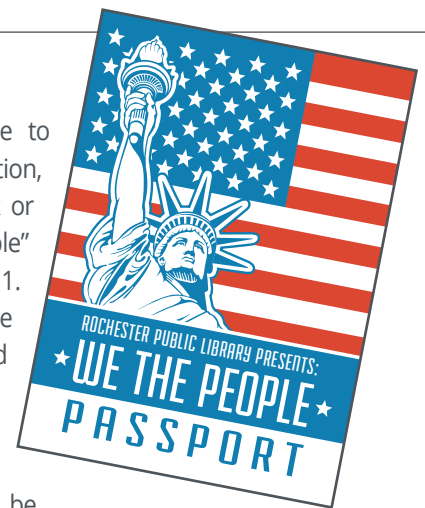
We the People Series

Rochester Public Library is launching a "We the People" library passport program to encourage civil discourse and increase community participation in local civic institutions. The program is a partnership with the League of Women Voters, the Diversity Council and the library. The program will provide education on topics that impact our community so citizens may make informed decisions this election cycle. The series will also provide opportunities for people with different backgrounds and opinions to connect and engage, and will encourage participation in all local, state, and national levels of government.

"This is a non-partisan program designed to help all people feel more informed leading up to the election season," says Head of Reader's Services, Kim Edson.

Participants will be able to get a passport at the Fiction, Movies, and Music Desk or at several "We the People" events starting June 1. Anyone who joins the program will be asked to complete activities to earn stamps in their passports. Those who fill their passport will be eligible for a prize.

For more information about this program visit: <http://bit.ly/RPLPassport>



Summer Playlist Kicks Off with Golden Bookmobile

Kick off your Summer Playlist with two opportunities to win by participating in the Golden Bookmobile Search. First, during the week of June 4th, twenty golden bookmobiles will be hidden in local mini-libraries. Find a golden bookmobile and win a prize package that includes a bookbag, a Summer Playlist t-shirt, and a \$25 Target gift card.

Second, following the discovery of each golden bookmobile, one word will be revealed in a twenty word riddle. Solve the riddle correctly to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Target gift card! Watch the riddle unfold here starting June 4th. #rplgoldenbookmobile



Ashley Himmer and her family were winners of our drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card. Ashley was one of 1,500+ community members who filled out our annual Customer Survey. Congratulations, Ashley!

Coming Soon: Digitizing Your Audio, Video and Images

The results of our digital conversion survey are in! When will be open up our self-serve digital conversion area later this year, these are the formats you'll be able to digitize at the library: Audio - Reel-to-reel tape, vinyl records, audio cassette tapes, microcassette tapes, and DAT (Digital Audio Tapes). Video Tape - VHS, Super VHS, VHS-C, Betamax, MiniDV and Hi 8 / Digital 8 / Video 8. Film - Super 8 / Standard 8mm and 16mm. We also have improved our capability to scan printed (paper) photographs and photo slides.

How much will it cost you to use this space? We won't be charging anything, but it will be a do-it-yourself service. Once you have made an appointment with a librarian to go over the piece(s) of equipment you'll be using, you can book time in the



lab to do the work. You will need to bring something to store your digitized files on such as a USB flash drive or an external hard drive. If you want to create a DVD or CD with the files, you'll need to bring your own blank discs. Look for more information later in the month of May.

For more information, visit: bitlywithdigitizationlabpage

RPL on the Go: Child Care Visits

Hoping to connect local child care centers with Storytime activities and early literacy information, the library tried a new service this past year: Child Care Storytimes.

Head of Youth Services, Heather Acerro, says the pilot project was highly successful. Participants in the program were incredibly grateful to have a library-led storytime in their own child care setting. And library staff enjoyed the opportunity to share early literacy practices with new audiences.

In all, 63 child care and preschool centers participated in the project.

Natalie DeGrand says having someone new to read stories at her program



for multiple reasons. The children had the opportunity to hear stories they've never heard before and learn some fun new rhymes, she says, adding, "Having a different person read to them is also helpful to the development and learning, as we all have our own read-aloud styles and engage the children in different ways."

Acerro says the program is scheduled to return in the fall, but other opportunities



are opening up for the summer months. "Our BookBike and ArtCart will again make scheduled stops at local parks, which is another great option for local preschools and child care centers."

For a complete list of BookBike stops, visit: <http://bit.ly/RPLbookbike>.

Resuscitating the 'Morgue'

Library staff and volunteers are teaming up with the Post-Bulletin to revive news clippings from the "morgue," the place where clippings and negatives from old articles reside. Currently, it can be rather difficult to sift through the "morgue," as these items are not indexed.

Librarian Susan Hansen says the indexing could mean a lot for those researching family histories. "For example, someone may know Uncle Joe Smith won a prize for his horse in 1972 and there

was a photo in the paper," she explains. "No one knows what date... and that is a lot of newspaper pages to peruse."

The library is utilizing several volunteers that will scan the articles and create an index to those articles. These will be added to the newspaper indexes already available at the History Center site for older articles. <https://www.olmstedhistory.com/resources/resources.html>

Interested in bringing the morgue files to life? Become a library volunteer! <http://bit.ly/RPLvolunteer>

Rochester Public Library Foundation 2017 Annual Report

Rochester Public Library Foundation Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	2017	2016
Bank Accounts		
US Bank Checking	77,875	48,185

Fixed Assets

Furniture & Equipment	1,898	1,898
Leasehold Improvements	11,275	11,275
Total Fixed Assets	13,173	13,173
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	3,590	3,026
Total Fixed Assets	9,583	10,147

Other Assets

Investment Portfolio	2,622,014	2,377,331
Accrued Interest	7,153	9,434
Total Other Assets	2,629,167	2,386,765

Total Assets	2,716,625	2,445,097
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Equity	2017	2016
Beginning of year net assets	2,445,097	2,327,918
Change in net assets	271,528	117,179

Total Equity	\$2,716,625	2,445,097
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The above balances are unaudited and presented for informational purposes only.
The 12/31/16 balances are restated to agree with the completed IRS Form 990

Letter from the Library Foundation Board President & Executive Director

The Library Foundation is thrilled to support our Rochester Public Library as one of five libraries chosen as a winner for this year's National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Our library is rated in the top 10, out of thousands of institutions nationwide. This is national recognition for the outstanding staff and programs here at the library.

The Foundation, from your generous donations, is proud to support several outstanding initiatives at the Library: Rochester Reading Champions, Wi-Fi Hotspot Program and Summer Playlist. These programs ensure year round engagement and connectivity to help community youth and adults reach learning goals, gain new skills, engage with others and secure employment. The Summer Playlist alone saw a 52% increase in participation, with people spending 123,568 hours reading or engaging in activities last summer. The Foundation is proud to be part of the funding streams to support these programs and many others during 2017 and 2018. With your help, the Foundation will continue to raise funds for educational and informational resources and projects in a manner that does not diminish the need for strong public funding.

We pledge to work alongside you, our supporters, to educate the community and policy makers about the Library's role in meeting community needs, as the Library strengthens their vision to be a place where aspirations, ideas and knowledge converge.

Martha McClees

Foundation Board, President
Corporate Relations Director
Department of Development
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Vicki Allen

Executive Director,
Rochester Public
Library Foundation
vallen@rochester.lib.mn.us

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- In honor of Giovanna Holmes

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- In honor of Jannelle, Andrea & Draven



**YOUR DONATIONS
MAKE A WORLD
OF DIFFERENCE**

Book Drive "Banks" 3K+ Books

Sterling State Bank teamed up with the Library, Foundation, and Friends to collect books in April, all to benefit local mini-libraries. Throughout the month, Sterling collected books at their four Rochester locations. In all, over 3,000 books were donated.



Read All About It: Donation Makes the News

By Pat Stephenson

The Post-Bulletin newspaper recently gave the Friends of the Rochester Public Library front page coverage of a very generous donation of 140 boxes of books. There is a wide variety of genres. As the boxes are opened, the books are sorted into fiction and non-fiction for possible addition to the library collection. Others are put on library carts and brought upstairs to be processed. Each book is examined for wear and to check the copyright date. Some books may be sold immediately to one of the 15 vendors we use. Other books, of higher value, are given to one of our 4 volunteers who operate stores on Amazon. Some books will be priced for the Friends' Bookstore while others will be sorted for our next auditorium sale.

We have several hundred books that were published before 1970 and



have no ISBN (international standard book number). These books need to be checked for correct title, author, copyright date and publisher to establish their estimated value. We plan on having a "vintage" book sale to raise funds for the Rochester Public Library.

We are grateful for the massive donation and the press coverage by the Rochester Post-Bulletin and KIMT-TV.

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dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of Americans—will visit Rochester Public Library and provide an opportunity for Rochester community members to share stories of how the library has affected their lives. These stories are preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

"It's exciting to know that the stories of our community members are being preserved as part of this award," said Betcher.

For a complete list of 2018 recipients and to learn more about the National Medal winners, visit <https://www.imls.gov/issues/national-initiatives/national-medal-museum-and-library-service>.

Rochesterfest Booksale

Monday, June 18 | 5-7PM (Friends-only Preview Sale)

Tuesday, June 19 | 9:30AM-7PM

Wednesday, June 20 | 9:30AM-7PM

Thursday, June 21 | 9:30AM-6PM

Hardcovers: \$2⁺tax

Trade size paperback: \$1.50⁺tax

Mass paperbacks: \$1⁺tax

Childrens & non-print: 50¢⁺tax

Last Day: Fill up a grocery bag provided by Friends for \$8^(includes tax)



Friends Bookstore Co-Manager, Bessie Copple presents a check for \$70,000 to Library Board President Bekah DeYoung. The money was raised through 2017 sales, which increased 15% over 2016.

New "Dream Team" Works Behind-The-Scenes

By Pat Stephenson

We have a new team of people—Stephen Harner, Teri Joyce, Val Kaliszewski, and Linda and Louis Wagner—who box books for the auditorium sales. This group took over from volunteer extraordinaire, Bruce Witts, who boxed books and oversaw the entire auditorium sale operation.

Continuing in their long-term roles are Meridith Dunn, who works with non-print, and Marlene Hopkins, who does children's books.

Our dream team refines the sorting for auditorium sales. Several times a week, they put up a few tables in the auditorium and group books by category: active life, biography, fiction, history, nature, reference, self-help, travel, etc. Some categories are further separated; e.g., active life and family life are broken down into crafts, gardening, humor, medicine, parenting, quilting, sports, etc.

Because of this preparation, set-up for the auditorium sales is smooth. Each box is delivered to the appropriate area in the auditorium, where many volunteers put all of the books on tables for purchase.



Playing for a Good Cause

A local nonprofit is using a love of gaming to support other local organizations.

Weirdcards (weirdcards.org) holds monthly gaming events to raise money for other local

charities. The 501(c)(7) social club partnered with the Friends of the Rochester Public Library in March to support Rochester Reading Champions (RRC).

Gail Harris, RRC Coordinator, says the March event brought in \$700 for the program, which will be matched as part of a special grant with the Valley of Rochester Scottish Rite.

On March 17, dozens of gaming enthusiasts played Magic: The Gathering at Hilton Garden Inn in Rochester. According to Weirdcards organizer Jason Egginton, M.P.H., most of the Weirdcards participants are Mayo Clinic employees

who use their love of games “as a painless way to give back to the community.”

The group has helped other organizations including Habitat For Humanity, the Ronald McDonald House, and Hormel Homes Autism Camps.

For more information about upcoming events, visit their Facebook page (@blacrowe2).



Square Foot Gallery

RPL is giving local artists a chance to share their work with a new Square-Foot Gallery in the Youth Services area. Submissions are being accepted for the next display, which focuses on the theme of “Self Portrait.”

“A self-portrait is an artistic representation of you, created by YOU,” explains Library Assistant Eric Tarr. “Maybe it’s a photo, or a drawing, or a collage. Maybe it looks just like you. Maybe not. Maybe it isn’t even YOU at all, but something that REPRESENTS you.”

The call is open to artists in three age categories, 5-12, 13-17, and 18+, to produce work that will fit into a single-square-foot space. The deadline for entry is July 5th and more information can be found at: <http://bit.ly/RPLsquare>.

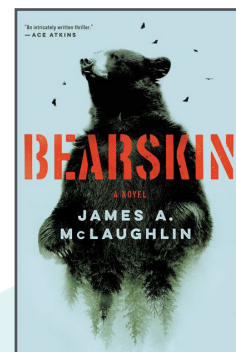
Great Summer Reads

By Allison Girres

Bearskin by James A. McLaughlin

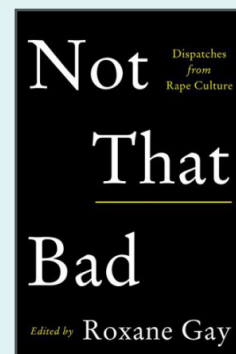
Scientist Rice Moore attempts to escape his troubled past with a new job as a caretaker for a remote forest preserve in the Appalachian Mountains.

In the course of his work he discovers the carcasses of several slaughtered bears and becomes obsessed with uncovering a poaching ring he believes is selling bear parts on the black market. As his efforts to expose the poachers continues, his homemade witness protection program becomes endangered.



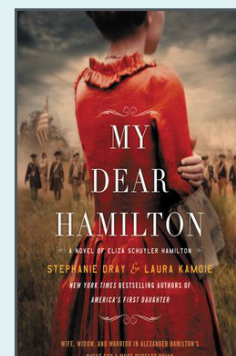
Not that Bad: Dispatches from Rape Culture edited by Roxane Gay

In this valuable and revealing anthology, cultural critic and bestselling author Roxane Gay collects original and previously published pieces that address what it means to live in a world where women have to measure the harassment, violence, and aggression they face, and where they are “routinely second-guessed, blown off, discredited, denigrated, besmirched, belittled, patronized, mocked, shamed, gaslit, insulted, and bullied” for speaking out.



My Dear Hamilton by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie

From the New York Times bestselling authors of America’s First Daughter comes the epic story of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton—a revolutionary woman who, like her new nation, struggled to define herself in the wake of war, betrayal, and tragedy. Dray and Kamoie used thousands of letters and original sources to tell Eliza’s story as it’s never been told before—not just as the wronged wife at the center of a political sex scandal—but also as a founding mother who shaped an American legacy in her own right.



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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



The Frankenstein Project: Novella Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our Frankenstein Project Novella Contest!

1st Place: Amy H. Anderson

Runners up: Kit Rohrbach and Jennie Brass

Special thanks to Friends of the Rochester Public Library and the Rochester, MN Writers Group for supporting this project.

Copies of the book can be reserved here:
<http://bit.ly/FrankensteinProjectBook>

