



Seed Library Coordinator Keri Ostby (pictured, left) reviews the planned collection for the new Seed Library.



## SEED LIBRARY TAKES ROOT IN ROCHESTER

In an effort to “grow” gardening knowledge and foster more sustainability, the Seed Library is launching this spring.

Starting March 2nd, library cardholders will be able to check out up to 10 packets of seeds each year to plant, grow, harvest, and hopefully retrieve new seeds. The library will also offer free resources and classes to share gardening knowledge with area growers.

Keri Ostby is the coordinator of the new Seed Library at RPL. She says there are 44 different types of fruits and vegetables to choose from.

“We hope that by having a wide variety of seed choices, we are giving people a

chance to try something they haven’t tried before,” says Ostby.

The Seed Library is made possible with funding from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the people of Minnesota for Library Legacy activities. The project is also supported by the the weGive365 membership, Rochester Area Foundation, University of Minnesota Extension, History Center of Olmsted County, Plant a Seed, and the Backyard Bounty Urban Homesteading Meetup.

For more information about the Seed Library, visit [www.rplmn.org/seed](http://www.rplmn.org/seed).

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## RACE EXHIBIT RETURNS TO LIBRARY

The "RACE: Are We So Different" exhibit has returned to Rochester Public Library, more than eight years after first appearing at the library.

The Science Museum of Minnesota selected three locations in Minnesota to host the smaller traveling exhibit, based on the original display: Worthington, Moorhead, and Rochester. From December through February, the exhibit was housed at the Apache Mall before being moved to the library, where it will stay through April.

Kim Edson, Head of Readers' Services, says it's exciting to host the exhibit once again. "The last time the RACE exhibit was here we observed great conversations among community members," she explains.

According to Dee Sabol, Executive Director of the Diversity Council, the exhibit encourages both contemplation and discussion. "By talking about our differences and recognizing our commonalities, we are able to celebrate our uniqueness and also better understand our shared human identity."

The exhibit is open during regular library hours through the end of April, 2019.



## VALLEY OF ROCHESTER SCOTTISH RITE ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN GIFT MATCH

For the third year in a row, the Valley of Rochester Scottish Rite Children's Foundation is matching all donations to Rochester Reading Champions (RRC) this spring, up to \$22,500.

According to Gail Harris, RRC Coordinator, the program pairs highly-trained volunteers with underserved, struggling readers in our community. On average, students see an increase of almost 2 ½ grade levels in reading, and 2 grade levels in spelling.

In 2017 the Scottish Rite matched \$6,075 in donations and in 2018 they matched \$16,746.

To make a donation to this year's fundraising campaign, visit: <http://bit.ly/RPLmatch>

## REPRESENTING RPL ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

Two RPL teammates are representing the library on a national level.

Library Director **Audrey Betcher** is participating in the *Measures that Matter* group. The project is a joint effort to examine, evaluate, and map the landscape of public library data collection.

Betcher, along with 14 others representing libraries and library associations from across the United States, are working with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). The group is developing and prioritizing action steps, establishing timelines, identifying owners, and determining pilot projects

Head of Youth Services, **Heather Acerro**, recently served as a member of the 2019 Randolph Caldecott Award Selection Committee. Since 1938, the Caldecott has been awarded annually to the artist of the most

distinguished American picture book for children.

The committee selected one medal winner and four honor books for 2019:

Medal Winner: *Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall

- Honor Book: *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal
- Honor Book: *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin
- Honor Book: *The Rough Patch* by Brian Lies
- Honor Book: *Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora

## NOW AVAILABLE: STORYCORPS STORIES

Months after receiving a visit from the nationally-known non-profit, StoryCorps, 15 stories of area community members are now available through the library's website.

The stories were collected as part of a prize for the library's 2018 National Medal win.

Have your own story to share? The library has resources and a soundbooth to record oral histories, as well as a new Convert-O-Lab to preserve photos, videos, and sound recordings. Visit our website for more information about these valuable resources: [www.rplmn.org](http://www.rplmn.org) (click on the "Services" tab).



## LIBRARY TAKES NATIONAL MEDAL "ON THE ROAD"

Library team members are ready to share their story of how community partnerships, measuring outcome data, and community-centered strategic planning led to the library's 2018 National Medal win.

As one of only four Minnesota libraries to ever win the award, Library Director Audrey Betcher says RPL's journey is unique and

inspiring, but also applicable to other organizations and businesses.

"The National Medal is the highest honor given to libraries," explains Betcher. "Having a strong strategic plan and a method for measuring its impact has given us insight into innovative programs that make a difference in our community."



Groups interested in learning more about the library's journey to the National Medal can contact Karen Lemke at [klemke@rplmn.org](mailto:klemke@rplmn.org).

## FRESH THYME MAKES ITS MARK ON THE LIBRARY

Fresh Thyme Farmers Market - a local natural grocer - made a grand entrance into Rochester on January 8th. Foundation staff and board members were on hand to receive a \$2,500 check to benefit the Summer Playlist to support education and learning opportunities for the Rochester area. Giving back is important to Fresh Thyme - in particular supporting health/wellness and education through local foundations and organizations.





ROCHESTER  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION

## WIT, WISDOM & WINE 2019

Wisdom was shared among many at another successful Wit, Wisdom & Wine on January 26! The weather roared in with frigid temperatures, but attendees were warm as they toasted a great event with wonderful friends, food and fun. From fly fishing to tango, this year's eight speakers shared energizing and informative stories from their lives as well as their passions. If you weren't able to make it this year, mark your calendars to join the fun on January 25, 2020.

Along with many staff and volunteers, the Foundation Board Members celebrated all that the Library offers and helped educate the community on current needs for Rochester Reading Champions and the Summer Playlist. These programs, along with long term funding, are key focus points for the Rochester Public Library Foundation in



2019. Wit, Wisdom & Wine continues to be a large funding source, raising \$31,775 this year as the signature event for the Foundation. We extend a sincere THANK YOU to the sponsors, attendees and volunteers who make the event so successful and enjoyable year after year!



"Thank you to all who support this Foundation fundraiser year after year. Your donations equal more programs, materials and innovations that we can financially support in 2019."

*Vicki Allen*

Executive Director,  
Rochester Public Library Foundation



## HATS OFF TO IBM VOLUNTEERS

We are blessed to have many dedicated IBM staff and retirees that volunteer to help support programs and needs at the Library. This year Adam Dickinson, Kathy Maegerlein and Bill Wiktor all contributed hours that resulted in a \$2000 grant from IBM to help support the 2019 Summer Playlist in 2019. This program is projected to reach over 4,000 people this summer.



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|  | Jim M. Dervin<br><i>in memory of Lori Dervin</i>                   | Sandy Tschida<br><i>in memory of Tony Tschida, Sr.</i>                     |
|  | Ms. Joyce M. Wenz<br><i>in memory of Lucille Wehrs</i>             |  |

## IN HONOR

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Carolyn McDonald<br><i>in honor of Alvina Schmeling</i>                    | Judith Wasser<br><i>in honor of Janice Ulrich</i>                    | Jane & Mary Campion<br><i>in honor of the library staff</i>                  |
| Sara Miller<br><i>in honor of In honor of Anna, Grace &amp; Ali Miller</i> | Gladys Binette<br><i>in honor of Louise Moe</i>                      | Maurice & Kaylene Geiger<br><i>in honor of Zeitler Children</i>              |
| David & Susan Ahlquist<br><i>in honor of Audrey Betcher</i>                | Melanie Murray<br><i>in honor of Mike Murray</i>                     | Barbara Flasch<br><i>In occasion of the marriage of Angie &amp; Joe Oeth</i> |
| Jane Smith<br><i>in honor of Jan Ulrich</i>                                | Tina Liebling & Mark Liebrow<br><i>in honor of our grandchildren</i> |  |



**FRIENDS** OF THE  
**Rochester**  
**Public Library**



## FRIENDS RECAP 2018, LOOK AHEAD TO 2019

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library held their annual meeting in January, despite the cold temperatures and heavy snow.

In a recap to Friends members, Pat Stephenson shared some highlights from 2018:

Over 9,000 donated items were added to the collection or used to support the Neighbors Read program, with a value totaling \$183,346.

Volunteers donated over 21,000 hours in 2018.

The Friends Bookstore raised \$73,000 during the year.

Looking forward to 2019, the Friends have added some fundraising events to their schedule. In April, the Friends will help with “Books and Brews” at two Rochester restaurants: Dunn Brothers and Whistle Binkies South. Stay tuned for further details.



## FRIENDS ANNOUNCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Friends of the Library have announced a new scholarship program for part-time library employees who understand the value of library services.

The Friends Scholarship will be awarded to library shelvers or other part-time employees who are not eligible for City of Rochester tuition benefits.

Long-time Friend, Pat Stephenson, says the scholarship will give students the chance to share how Rochester Public Library has impacted their lives, through a written essay.

“We know the library makes a difference in the lives of young people,” says Stephenson. “The scholarship program will allow us to capture some of that impact and help further the education of a community member.”

## FRIENDS’ BOOK STORE HOURS

**MONDAY** 10AM-7PM

**TUESDAY** 10AM-4PM

**WEDNESDAY** 10AM-7PM

**THURSDAY** 10AM-7PM

**FRIDAY** 10AM-4PM

**SATURDAY** (school year) 10AM-4PM

**SUNDAY** (school year) 1:30-4:30PM

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



## 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

507.328.2300 | www.rplmn.org

Audrey Betcher, Library Director

Karen Lemke, Editor  
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Nicole Henry, Layout/Design

## BOOKS WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT

### *Shell Game* by Sara Paretsky

Paretsky's acclaimed detective V.I. Warshawski returns to Chicago to save an old friend's nephew from a murder rap. The case involves a stolen artifact and Warshawski soon finds herself tangling with a shadowy network of international criminals with ties to the Russian Mob and ISIS.

Kim in Readers' Services says she enjoyed the mix of politics and action in this timely thriller.



### *The Life-Changing Manga of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo

Chiaki is a young woman living in Tokyo with a cluttered apartment, messy love life, and lack of direction. Through a series of thoughtful lessons tidying-guru Marie Kondo helps her get her home, and life, in order. This graphic-novel version of the best-selling book is a great introduction to the KonMari method of cleaning out your stuff and is sure to 'spark joy' in your life.

Heather in Youth Services says that it inspired her whole family to clean out their house!



### *Cat Pictures Please* by Naomi Kritzer

Minnesota author Naomi Kritzer's acclaimed short stories are collected together for the first time as well as two previously unpublished stories. The title story, Cat Pictures Please, won a Hugo Award and explores what would happen if artificial intelligence was born out of our search engine history.

Emily in Technical Services says she was enchanted by this thought-provoking collection of stories.



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