



Reference Librarian Brian Lind directs staff and volunteers in the second floor magazine room. The entire magazine collection had to be removed.

RECOVERY CONTINUES AFTER WATER LEAK, SECOND FLOOR HIT HARDEST

When a water softener failed in the middle of the night on September 22, staff arrived to find pools of standing water throughout the central core of the library. Weeks later, the recovery still continues.

The initial response included help from City of Rochester departments, including Fire, Police, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation, as well as a crew from Service Master.

For three days, the library remained closed to the public as staff worked to assess damage and begin the cleanup process. Staff work spaces, storage, and the library's public meeting rooms were the most affected by the water leak. Crews spent hundreds of hours on clean-up, which involved removing drywall,

insulation, and ceiling tiles soaked with water. Library staff also took on the task of removing thousands of back issues of magazines, as the second floor Magazine Room was one of the hardest hit areas.

Other parts of the library's second floor were also damaged, including much of the carpet around the Reference Desk. With safety a priority, and damaged carpet causing several tripping hazards, the second floor stayed closed for a full month, sending Reference services to the library's main floor.

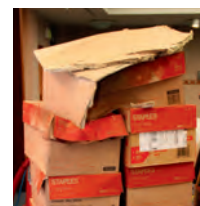
Sara Patalita, Head of Reference Services, says the month-long experience provided a unique look at how the second floor

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"Recovery Continues after Water Leak..." (continued from cover)

of the library is used. "Our customers love the variety of spaces and really missed having places to relax, study, and meet with other people." While many of the Reference services were replicated during the temporary second floor closure, Patalita says having everything on one floor was challenging.

"Our library sees a lot of visitors, and when we forced everyone into just one floor of the building, it was crowded," explains Patalita.

Moving forward, Patalita says the experience is giving Reference staff the opportunity to look at ways to improve the second floor. "Moving into a new space gave us fresh eyes to look at how the second floor is used. We already have some ideas about things we may change in the future to provide even better service."

During the reconstruction, staff worked on an expansion of the Convert-O-Lab (COL), the library's self-serve digital conversion area.

"Even before the water leak, we had steadily increasing requests to use the Convert-O-Lab," says Reference Librarian Brian Lind. "We wanted to take advantage during our down time to add multiple stations to the existing COL area to hit the ground running once we re-open the space."



LIBRARY, CITY WELCOME 55 NEW AMERICANS

For the second time in two years, Rochester Public Library hosted a Naturalization Ceremony in Rochester.

The event, originally planned for the library's auditorium, was moved to the Mayo Civic Center after the library's September water leak.

Library Director Audrey Betcher provided opening remarks at the event, saying Rochester's library has a long history of welcoming people from all walks of life. Betcher also encouraged

all new Americans to use their backgrounds and experiences to "be an active part of your community and your library."

A naturalization ceremony is the final step for immigrants to become U.S. citizens and often follows a lengthy process, taking approximately five years.

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office, in 2018 the United States naturalized over 756,000 people in ceremonies throughout the country and the world.



STORYTIME: FOR GROWNUPS, TOO!

Listening to others read isn't just for children.

A new event is bringing together adults who also enjoy hearing others read to them: Storytime for Grownups.

At the October event, a few dozen over-eighteen-year-olds gathered at the People's Food Coop in Rochester. Attendees were treated to readings from Minnesota authors that all mentioned food: carrot cake, cocktails, and lutefisk were included

in the three separate readings, conducted by guest readers.

Kim Edson, Head of Readers Services at RPL, was one of the three readers. Her selection, from Elizabeth Berg's "The Day I Ate Whatever I Wanted," talked about a woman and her passion for Old Fashioned cocktails.

Edson says the event was well-received, and another storytime is already in the works. "We never lose that love of having someone read to us," she explains.



2020 CENSUS

Five months from now Census forms will be in mailboxes across our communities. Will people know what the Census is or why it is important? Will our communities know that it is safe to respond? Not all do; that is why we need your help sharing this message. The Census impacts OUR lives and OUR communities.

What is the Census?

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task: counting all of the people living in the United States and recording basic information. It is required to do this because it was written in the United States Constitution.

It is vital that we make sure everyone is counted in Minnesota because results of the 2020 census will determine the distribution of federal and state funding for public services such as schools, roads, and health care as well as the distribution of congressional seats in Washington D.C.



STAR WARS PARTY

Excited for The Rise of Skywalker? Join us to celebrate all things Star Wars with activities, games, and our first ever Star Wars storytime. Costumes encouraged.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30-7:30PM | Youth Services Area

ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS! ABSENTEE VOTING

In January 2020, go online to mnvotes.org to request an absentee ballot for the March presidential primary election. Be sure to request



the ballot be mailed to your wintering address. Ballots must be returned by the election date, March 3, 2020, or they are not counted.

Is it safe?

Census data now is the most secure that any data can be. You can't find any information that would identify you as an individual, including your individual home address or citizenship status. Private information is never published. Census workers are not allowed to share your information under the penalty of a \$250,000 fine and up to five years in prison.

Encourage your community to apply for Census jobs.

How great would it be if our communities had trusted census workers? The Census Bureau is hiring hundreds of people across the state for a variety of census-related positions, including recruiting assistants, office clerks, and census takers. These temporary, part-time positions are available in every county and pay between \$14 per hour and

\$20 per hour. This is one way to get involved and get paid to do it! Apply now with the Census Bureau online or call 1-855-562-2020, option 3, to find out about jobs in our area.

What can you do?

Fill out your form and encourage others to fill it out so WE ALL COUNT. Don't be invisible in the data and help ensure that our communities have the resources for better schools, job assistance, and improved public services.

Learn more about the upcoming Census, the local Complete Count Committee, and how you can help by emailing Brittney Marschall at marschall.brittney@co.olmsted.mn.us. You are experts in how to communicate and reach our communities on this very important topic and we need your help!

HELPING KEEP ROCHESTER WARM

Donations of new or slightly-used hats, mittens, and scarves are being accepted at the library for the Warm Up, Rochester program.

Last winter over 700 items were distributed at the library to those in need.

Items can be dropped off at the library or Bookmobile.





RPL FOUNDATION HAS AN ACTIVE FACEBOOK PAGE

If you enjoy Facebook, please like our page and select “see first” under the Follow tab, so you don’t miss our posts. Promise: We won’t post too often! You will see updates on our events and library information. Drop us a line to let us know what you would like to see!



The Foundation has gone a little Hollywood! If you watch FOX 47, you may have noticed a one-minute Partners in Positivity Public Service Announcement that runs when they have space on the channel. It features representatives from the wonderful Rochester Public Library staff and your Executive Director. You can find the video

online, in the left column of our Foundation home page, on our Facebook page (left column, click Videos), and on the FOX 47 page. It’s a wonderful overview of why we love our library!

Wit, Wisdom & Wine will be held Saturday, February 1, 2020 at the Rochester Public Library from 6:30-10PM. You’ll have the opportunity to learn from entertaining speakers (like Tim Penny), and hear wonderful music (The Rochester Symphony will send a small group) while you sample delicious foods and wines. We will host wine and whiskey appreciation classes. Plus, you’ll have the opportunity to bid on some amazing silent auction items, or donate for a chance to win one of three beautiful jewelry selections from Hight & Randall, Personal Jewelers. Invitations will be in the

mail shortly. Please “like” our Facebook page and click on events, then mark the drop down as “interested” to keep up to date the speakers, auction items, and fun surprises we are planning to reveal... call or email to learn more: 507.328.2387 | bkardock@rplmn.org

We are so grateful to all of you who have reached out to express good wishes and/or offer a gift after the September 22 water leak at the library. Thank you for helping us while we still work on recovery. If you have not yet had the opportunity to pitch in what you are able, please go to PayPal and click “More” in the lower left corner, then “support a charity”, and type in Rochester Public Library Foundation, or go to our Foundation page at www.rplmn.org/donate to make a donation.

Wishing you, your friends and families health, happiness, comfort and peace as we head into the holidays. It is a wonderful time of the year to give thanks and reflect on the gifts we’ve been given. Thank you for partnering with us to help serve our community. Please reach out if you are near the Foundation office in the Library so that we can exchange greetings!



Brenda Kardock
Rochester Public Library
Foundation, Executive Director

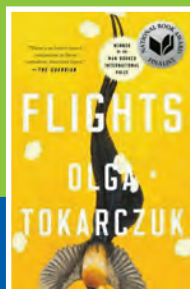
WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS READING



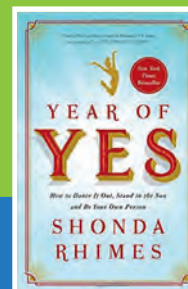
VICTOR M. MONTORI, MD
Mayo Clinic
"Grief is the Thing With Feathers" by Max Porter



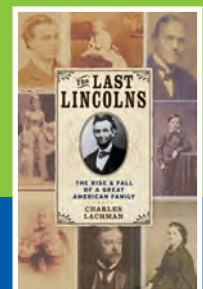
JEANINE GANGENESS
Winona State University
"The Water Dancer" by Ta-Nehisi Coates



SYLWIA BUJAK
125 Live
"Flights" by Olga Tokarczuk



JULIE BROCK
Cradle 2 Career
"Year of Yes" by Shonda Rhimes



CHRIS NELSON
KIMT-TV
"The Last Lincolns" by Charles Lachman



GIVE TO THE MAX DAY 2019

Thank you for your support on Give to the Max Day!
Didn't get a chance to donate?
Visit rplmn.org/donate to contribute.



Rochester Public Library FOUNDATION

DONORS AUGUST 15 - OCTOBER 15, 2019

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IN MEMORY

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Patricia J. Calvert
<i>In memory of
Donald M. Carroll</i> | Ms. Margaret Dalen
<i>In memory of
Merle Dalen</i> | Larry Laber
<i>In memory of
Carla Laber</i> |
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IN APPRECIATION

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Brenda Kardock
<i>In appreciation of
the library staff</i> | Malea & Chad Schroeder
<i>In appreciation of
friend Sam Edge</i> | Cindy Sheppard
<i>In appreciation of
Brenda Kardock</i> |
|---|---|--|

IN HONOR

- | | |
|---|---|
| Heidi Huser
<i>In honor of Alex
& Shyla Puggle</i> | Autry & Elizabeth Williams
<i>In honor of
Brenda Kardock</i> |
| Nancy J. Larson
<i>In honor of
Mason Kennedy</i> | Sandy Tschida
<i>In honor of Grandchildren
Cassidy & Aiden</i> |

WIT, WISDOM & WINE VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

Would you like to volunteer or put together a silent auction item for Wit, Wisdom & Wine 2020?
Contact Brenda at 507.328.2387 or bkardock@rplmn.org.



**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

Rochester Public Library
6:30-10PM

LAUGH, LEARN & SIP

WHILE SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Entertaining speakers, music,
silent auction, jewelry raffle,
wine, and hors d'oeuvres!

For more information
and registration,
contact the Foundation office at
507.328.2387 or visit
rplmn.org/wit

Early Bird
Registration: \$85
\$95 after January 15



JEWELRY RAFFLE



Black Tahitian
Pearl Pendant



Tanzanite
Heart
Necklace



Tanzanite
Stud Earrings

\$10⁰⁰
per ticket

Drawing to be held at Wit, Wisdom & Wine on
Saturday, February 1, 2020. Need not be present to win.

Must be 18 years or older to purchase ticket or win prize.
Winner responsible for any applicable fees or taxes.
Cash, check, or debit only.





DESPITE LOSS, BOOK SALE GAINS STRONG PROFITS

The annual Autumn Book Sale almost didn't happen this past October, following the library's September water leak. The Friends of the Library's back stock of donated books was located in the heavily-damaged library auditorium.

It didn't take long for Friends members to rally together to develop a plan to not only clean up the mess, but also to create a couple of contingency plans to make the Autumn Book Sale a reality. At one point, Friends were prepared to host the sale in the library's garage, but a last-minute approval from

the city building inspector provided us with the green light to use the damaged auditorium.

Thousands of books were damaged in the water leak, which meant there were 25-30% fewer items in the inventory for the sale. However, community members still showed up, shopped, and contributed to the overall sales total of \$6,061.

Didn't get to make it to the sale, but still want to contribute? Donations are still being accepted at rplmn.org/HelpFriends.

ALREADY PLANNING FOR THE NEXT SALE

Every December, our Gift Quality Book & Bake Sale gives us a chance to bring out the best of our donated collection. This year is no different when it comes to the exceptional quality of items, but the sale might be held in a new

and exciting location in the library (depending on repair work in the library's auditorium). For the latest details about the Gift Quality Book & Bake sale (and all other quarterly sales), visit: rplmn.org/booksales.

ANNUAL MEETING SLATED FOR JANUARY

Save the date for the Friends Annual Meeting, scheduled for Monday, January 27 at 11:30AM.

All Friends members are invited to attend and hear a comprehensive report about everything accomplished in 2019 as well as plans for 2020.

Not a member? Make sure to renew by early January to receive your invite to the Annual Meeting. Renew online at rplmn.org/friends



FRIENDS OF THE
Rochester
Public Library

GIFT QUALITY BOOK & BAKE SALE

Do some holiday shopping. Quality used books and baked goodies for sale!

**Friday,
December 6**
9:30AM-5PM

**Saturday,
December 7**
9:30AM-4PM



FRIENDS' BOOK STORE HOURS

MONDAY 10AM-7PM
TUESDAY 10AM-4PM
WEDNESDAY 10AM-7PM
THURSDAY 10AM-7PM
FRIDAY 10AM-4PM
SATURDAY 10AM-1PM
SUNDAY 1:30-4:30PM



Rochester Public Library

101 Second Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
www.rplmn.org

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THANK YOU!

City teammates chipped in to help after the September water leak, providing much-needed support in the first initial hours.



LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:30AM - 9:00PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
9:30AM - 5:30PM

SUNDAY
1:30 - 5:30PM

507.328.2300 | www.rplmn.org

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Karen Lemke, Editor
klemke@rplmn.org

Nicole Henry, Layout/Design



creativebug

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