


Friends'  
Spring Cleaning Sale!  
**USED BOOKS**

12:30 PM - 6:00 PM  
Thursday, April 6  
Rochester Public Library Auditorium

**Used Books for Everyone!**  
Fiction ■ Nonfiction ■ All Ages  
**Sales on a Donation Basis**

Proceeds Benefit Friends of the  
Rochester Public Library



Early Bird admission at noon. Bring your Friends' membership card or this newsletter and browse as you help set-up. 

## Help Wanted

The *Friends of the Library* have a new bulletin board. It is on the hall wall to the right of the drinking fountains on the first floor. We are looking for someone to be in charge of it, to keep it up to date and interesting. Please let Al Dollerschell at 282-5025 or [aldoller@aol.com](mailto:aldoller@aol.com) know if you would like the job.

## ARE YOU THERE?


Yes, the Rochester Public Library is **HERE** with Instant Messaging. During hours the library is open, a reference librarian is available to answer questions with users of AIM, Yahoo or MSN instant messaging services.

The Library screenname is RPLmnInfo for Aim and Yahoo. MSN users can IM us at [reference@rochester.lib.mn.us](mailto:reference@rochester.lib.mn.us).

Some sample questions that might be asked on IM:

- I need articles on Kelly Clarkson
- What's a good website for converting dollars to British pounds?
- Do you have study guides for the SAT test?
- Can I find an online map of Costa Rica?
- Where can I get criticisms of Fitzgerald's works?


IM Reference is part of our regular reference service, which includes in-person and telephone reference services. Sometimes we might be answering all kinds of questions at the same time, so please be patient when asking a question.

You may also contact a reference librarian through email, which does not require an IM account. Email will be answered within 24 hours unless the library is closed. Send email to [reference@rochester.lib.mn.us](mailto:reference@rochester.lib.mn.us) or call 285-8002. 



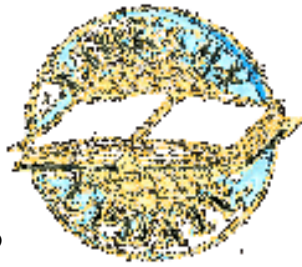
## Library Tours with Audrey

The library is one of the top three reasons why people come to downtown Rochester...find out why! Join Library Director Audrey Betcher for a library tour and discover the many services and resources that are enriching lives and empowering people in the community. Next available times are:

Thursday, April 13 @ 2 pm, Wednesday, April 19 @ 6 pm, Friday, May 5 @ 9:30 am and Thursday, May 25 @ 2 pm. Call Carrie Farrow @ 507-287-2626 to make an appointment. 

## From the Director

The library seeks community input in order to ensure that we are meeting everyone's needs, so we contracted with a marketing research firm to collect community input about library services. In August and September, 2005, SNG Research conducted telephone surveys of Olmsted County residents on our behalf. The survey averaged 15 minutes, so we really appreciate



everyone who took the time to answer it. The survey was partially funded by the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

We learned that the library is very important to



members of our community:

- 8 out of 10 households have a library card
- 93% of the people surveyed value the library for the community.

And we also learned that we need to promote some of our resources and services better:

- Many people were not aware of the magazines, newspapers, and other information available via the Library's website.
- Many people were not aware of homebound services.



We also asked about satisfaction with hours and location. We asked about increased support to maintain existing services, add a branch location, and add hours. We've spent hours looking through the data, discussing the data, and assimilating what it means. The Library Board and staff are adjusting direction and planning for the future based on the findings of the study.

*Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director*

## Friends' Bookstore News



The Bookstore Committee members are committed to our goals for the year, which are expanding our customer base and having the shelves full of interesting books. The committee recently planned the Spring Cleaning Book Sale in the auditorium on April 6th. The purpose of the sale is to earn money towards the purchase of a lighted sign for the bookstore window, which we hope will make people more aware that we do have a used bookstore. The committee members are always interested in your comments and suggestions. Members of the committee are: Thurston Davini, Theresa Friedhoff, Karen Krueger, Yvonne Landgren, Michalene Mangan, Helen McIver, Pat Wade, Paul Walding, Sue McMillan and Bev Reid.



Committee members presently have the store decorated for spring with a good supply of Easter Books for children.

In 1998 the US Senate voted April 6 to be National Tartan Day to recognize the contributions of the Scots to American History.

The bookstore currently has display of books and interesting facts concerning this important part of our history.

April is Poetry month and after Easter we will have poetry books available on our display table.



Mothers Day is in May and the display will be books especially of interest to women.

In mid May we will have Prize winning books from the Pulitzers, the National Book Award, The Trillium Awards, The Saltire Award, The Booker Mann Prize and the Nobel Prize for literature. Also there will be several handout lists, Oprah Books - old but fabulous reads, specific authors and a list of books you might enjoy reading.

Don't miss out on our interesting displays of books. We hope you will visit soon.

*Bev Reid, Bookstore Co-Manager*

## News from the Friends' Board



At its March meeting, the board of the *Friends of RPL* voted to purchase software to update the library's adaptive workstation to support the access of library materials and Internet content to those who are blind or visually handicapped and to those with reading impairments. The adaptive workstation scans material and translates the print into voice. It enlarges text on the computer screen and translates it to voice. A printer is attached which translates text into braille. This is one of several costly special projects that the *Friends* support to help make material and services available to all patrons of the library. Your membership in the *Friends* helps to make these gifts possible. Thank you for being a member and encourage your friends to become *Friends*.

Begin to save your used computer ink cartridges.



By summer we hope to have a collection box available at the library for the public to deposit used cartridges which can be turned into cash to support the *Friends* work.

Thanks to Gil Brown for his two years of service on the board of the *Friends*. Gil's letter of resignation, with regret, was accepted at the March meeting. We welcome Frank Braithwaite and Helen McIver who were elected new board members at the annual meeting in January. Elaine Schmidt and Joyce Wenz were re-elected to the board.

*Al Dollerschell, President Friends' Board*

## Winterfest

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, was a great day for the *Friends* and the Rochester reading community. 40+ people awaited the opening of the auditorium book sale at 11 am. Books were chosen with love and care to be taken home in boxes, bags and even a rolling suitcase. Many LP albums were selected and went to the homes of music lovers, most over the 40. At day's end the volunteers were tired and the weather nasty, but the store room was more ready to accept new donations and the *Friends'* coffers heavier by \$700!



*Michaelene Mangan*

## Classes at the Library

To register call 285-8002 or stop at the Reference Services Desk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library or register online at the library's website under events-events calendar. Classes are held in Meeting Room B.

**Thu Apr 13** Online Catalog Class for beginners.  
Learn how to use the library's Online Catalog to find items, reserve them, renew them or find out their due date. 9:30 am

**Tue Apr 18** Beginning Internet Class.  
Demonstration of internet addresses, navigation and terminology. Practice time is provided. 3:30 - 5 pm

**Thu May 18** Beginning Internet Class  
9:30 am-11 am



## News from Friends

*Friends of The Rochester Public Library*

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This newsletter is published for members of the *Friends of the Rochester Public Library*. Your comments are appreciated.

## Spring Calendar – 2006

(all events will take place in the **Library Auditorium** unless otherwise noted)

(Call 285-8006 for more information unless otherwise noted)



**Thu Apr 6** Spring Cleaning Sale - Used Books for All -  
Fill up a bag - make a donation 12:30-6 pm

**Thu Apr 6** Mother-Daughter Book Group (for mothers  
and daughters age 11-14) to discuss The Golden  
Goblet by Eloise McGraw. 7 pm in Mtg Room A

**Sat Apr 8** Family Funfest Special Program The Zoo  
Man will visit with animals. 10:30 am

**Sun Apr 9** Art Contest Awards Program 2 pm

**Mon Apr 10 Sit-Stay-Read** Register on-line or at the  
Children's Desk **You must cancel if you can not  
attend.** 6:30 pm in the auditorium

**Tue Apr 11** Bedtime Stories 6:30 pm

**Tue Apr 11** RPL Writing Group Mtg Rm A

**Wed Apr 12** iFilms Forest For The Trees (German w/  
English subtitles) 6 pm

**Thu Apr 13** Library Tours w/ Audrey (see page 1)  
2 pm meeting room A

**Sat Apr 15** Family FunFest Spanglish Storytime!  
Frogs/Ranas: 10:30 am

**Mon Apr 17** GOAT Meeting (Group Of Advising  
Teens) Call Lynette at 285-8008 with questions.  
4 pm in Meeting Room A

**Mon Apr 17 Sit-Stay-Read** Register on-line or at the  
Children's Desk. **You must cancel if you can not  
attend.** 6:30 pm

**Tue Apr 18** Plain Reader Bookgroup The Devil  
in the  
White City by Erik Larson 12 noon Meeting  
Room  
A

**Tue Apr 18** Bedtime Stories 6:30 pm

**Wed Apr 19** Library Tours w/ Audrey (see page 1) 6  
pm meeting room A

**Thu Apr 20** Classic Novel Bookgroup My Antonia by  
Willa Cather 7 pm meeting room A

**Sat Apr 22** Family FunFest Film - The Velveteen  
Rabbit 10:30 am

**Sun Apr 23** Yaggy Colby History Lecture: Chad Lewis  
on "Minnesota's Most Haunted Places". 2:30 pm

**Mon Apr 24** P-B Dialogues Keith Stangler & Jerry  
Reising w/ gardening & fix-it advice 6:30 pm

**Tue Apr 25** Literature Into Film Bookgroup Pygmalion  
by jBernard Shaw 1:30 pm in Meeting Room B

**Tue Apr 25** Library Tours With Audrey (see page 1) 6  
pm in Meeting Room A

**Tue Apr 25** Bedtime Stories 6:30 pm

**Sat Apr 29** Family FunFest Film: The Lorax 10:30 am

**Mon May 22** Articles due for Summer Newsletter

**Tue May 30** Summer Newsletter in the mail.

**Friends  
of the  
Rochester Public  
Library**

101 Second Street Southeast  
Rochester, Minnesota 55904-3776

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