

Resounding Success

We had a great response for our April "Spring Cleaning" sale. We answered your requests for an early admission for Friends members and had a healthy number of patrons waiting to get in. There were stockpiles of books stashed under tables while the shopping continued. Some people "shopped until they dropped" as evidenced by the picture.



What a good time we had! The Sale had a great outcome, too. We made \$650, with an investment of only 55 volunteer hours. We made new Friends, bought "new" books and helped the Garage Sale by sorting out an overflow of books.

The Bookstore also saw an increase in its daily sales average. The increased customer traffic really helped. The money raised is tentatively earmarked to purchase an illuminated sign for the Store window, indicating used book sales and raising the public's awareness of our location.

So, this would be a good time to thank all of you who involve yourselves, in one way or another, in our fundraisers. That includes everyone - the people who donate the books, the sorters, the volunteers who set up the auditorium, garage or auction area, the patient & helpful cashiers, the clean-up crew and most of all - The Customers. The rest of us would be wasting our time if you didn't show up to support us with your purchases and generous donations.

There are a lot of ways you can support the Rochester Public Library and the *Friends of the Library*. I think a lot of people have shown us this, event after event. Please don't stop. Thank you!

Theresa Friedhoff

Community Partners Announce Rochester Reads 2007 Vote

Help choose one book for the community to read and discuss in February, 2007

Rochester Reads 2007 Vote begins June 1st and runs through June 30th. Rochester Reads partners include: Rochester Public Library, Post-Bulletin Company, Adult and Family Literacy Program, Olmsted County History Center, Rochester Public Schools, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Rochester Community and Technical College, and the Diversity Council.

There will be several ways that people may vote:

- ✓ online vote at www.RochesterReads.org
- ✓ ballot box displays located at the

Rochester Public Library, Barnes and Noble Apache, Chateau Theatres, Post Bulletin and various Rochesterfest locations: Friends of the Library Garage Sale and Silent Auction, Post Bulletin Booth and Rochesterfest Information Booth.

Below are the five books. We urge the community to cast their vote for the one that they will enjoy reading, and that they think will generate the most discussion and interest for our community.


Funny in Farsi: a Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America by Firoozeh Dumas

Hot Lights Cold Steel: Life, Death and Sleepless Nights in a Surgeon's First Years by Michael J. Collins M.D., former Mayo Clinic Resident

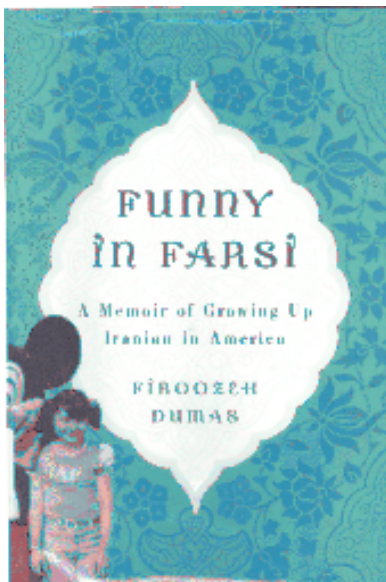
Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James Loewen

Plainsong by Kent Haruf

The Buffalo Soldier by Chris Bohjalian

You will find a review of each book on pages 3 & 4 of this issue. A synopsis of each of these books will be provided on the ballots and web site to help people make their choice. The winning title will be announced in November, 2006. 

Vote for "Rochester Reads 2007" Book – One of These Five



Funny in Farsi

by Firoozeh Dumas

The author came to the United States from Iran in 1972 at the age of seven along with her father, mother and brother. She recounts many humorous episodes that occur as the family learns about and adjusts to American culture and customs. In a

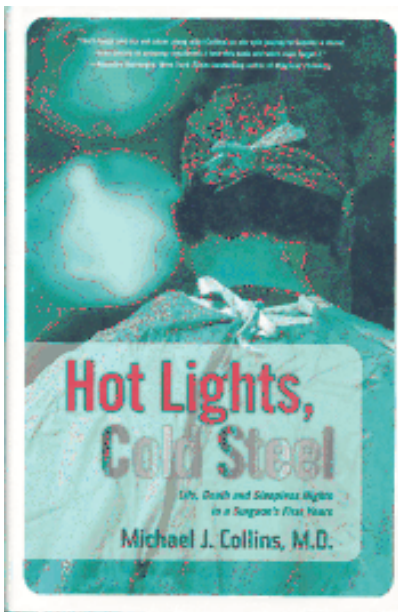
more serious vein she includes how the family fared being in the US during the Iran hostage crisis.

Ms. Dumas also gives the reader a glimpse of Iranian customs and middle class family life in pre-revolutionary Iran.

I enjoyed this book. It was interesting to read of one immigrant family's experiences portrayed in a very personal and often very funny manner. *Funny in Farsi* would be an excellent choice for Rochester Reads. Immigration is a timely topic today and this book would make a great starting point for valuable discussion about immigrant experiences, challenges, and US immigration issues in general.

Britta Youmans,

Adult and Family Literacy Program



Hot Lights, Cold Steel:

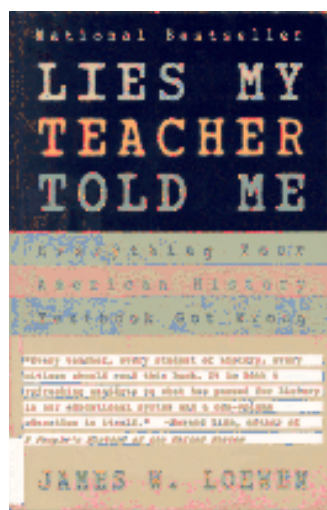
Life, Death and Sleepless Nights in a Surgeon's First Years By Michael J. Collins

Hot Lights, Cold Steel tells a story of what it was like doing 4-year surgical residency

at the famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Dr. Michael Collins finds himself among other residents feeling inadequate and unprepared and as he says, "the dullest scalpel in the drawer". As he starts out his residency Dr. Collins is faced every day with difficult decisions that will ultimately change his patients' lives.

While reading this book I laughed out loud, I cried, but I always cheered Dr. Collins on for being determined, gracious and caring for every patient he saw. After I finished reading this book I gained a new found respect for what residents go through during residency... They do a lot of work with very little pay and lots of hours. This is a must read for anyone who wants to become a doctor or for the person that is already a doctor.

Staci MacGillivray, Community Relations Manager, Barnes & Noble Apache Mall



Lies My Teacher Told Me

Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James W. Loewen

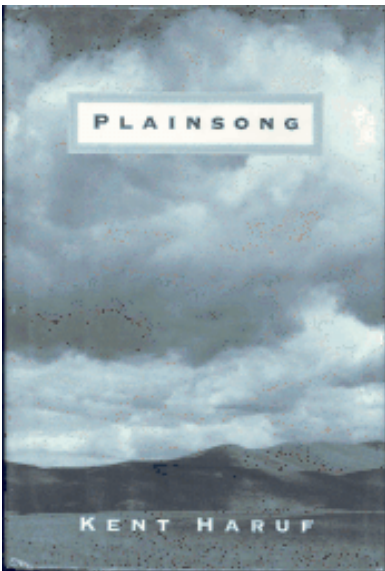
The author examines twelve American History textbooks in depth. He takes several topics such as Columbus' arrival in America and the Civil

Rights Movement and gives them broader context. Loewen argues that the fact-based method of teaching history is boring for students and inadequate for teaching the drama and complexity of history.

I really enjoyed this book. I found it thought-provoking and disturbing. Loewen challenged my long ago learned facts of American history and made me examine how my children are now being taught. I believe the book will generate great discussion on such topics as understanding our history and improving public education.

Audrey Betcher, Director Rochester Public Library

Please turn to page 4 for fourth & fifth books→



Plainsong

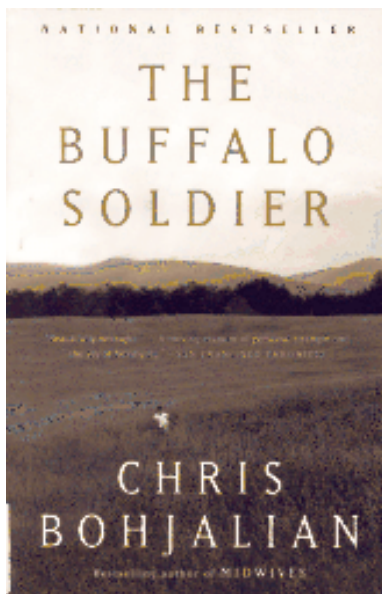
by Kent Haruf

Small town Holt, Colorado will become your home as you read Kent Haruf's Plainsong. This realistic novel has been described as a triumph of the human family. You can't help but care about the characters: teachers Tom Guthrie and Maggie

Jones, Tom's sons Ike and Bobby, teen Victoria Robideaux and the McPherson brothers. These unique individualists form a family in the best sense of the word. A sense of great love and caring shines through, even while dealing with serious life issues such as depression, single parenthood, and spousal abuse.

The title Plainsong evokes the concept of a simple melody. The novel presents a simple theme of "love thy neighbor" for its complex and compassionate characters. You will feel the warmth of unconditional love which is the human harmony of this resilient family that never gives up on each other.

Colleen Arnold, Retired Rochester Public School Library Media Specialist



Soldiers

by Chris Bohjalian

Family tragedy starts this poignant story with a couple's devastation at losing their twin daughters. Unable to conceive more children of their own, Laura and Terry Sheldon later attempt to rebuild their family by becoming foster parents to a withdrawn African-


American ten year old. This story shares the continuing struggle for each complex character. Laura desperately tries to recapture the happy family life she once had. Terry, still grieving for his loss, feels ambivalent about the new edition to the family. Alfred is insecure and lonely in his solitary status as the only black child in an all white small town. Neighbors, Paul and Emily Herbert, take an interest in the Alfred and share with him a book about Buffalo Soldiers, an African American regiment from the late nineteenth century. Alfred's interest in the book, horses, and history provides a missing connection and gives hope to this struggling family.

The story's message of "it takes a village" makes this book an excellent choice for Rochester Reads. This heartwarming tale demonstrates the transformative power of books, the importance of knowing one's history, and has layers of depth that would lend itself to interesting community discussions.

*Kimberly Edson, Readers' Services Division,
Rochester Public Library*

Silent Auction 2006

Unusual and Special Books — also "Buy it Now" books. We have been setting them aside all year and now is your opportunity to make those great buys.

12 noon to 6 pm in the Children's Department on Wednesday, June 21st. See you there! 





News from the *Friends' Board*



One of the big disappointments in my life as a lad was learning that magic was not magic – it was fraud! I was being duped. I was being tricked and I was too dumb to figure out how. Since then I have come to appreciate the skill a good magician displays as he /she continues to outsmart me. Still, I had some some skepticism when the RPL staff and board honored us volunteers on May 17 as magicians who made the impossible possible at RPL. Several staff members worked their magic in explaining how our work behind the scenes make many services available to the unsuspecting public. And they made me a believer.



Director Audrey Betcher told us RPL has a volunteer crew that other librarians only dream of. She cited 360 volunteers contributing 13,202 hours in 2005. Volunteer hours are the equivalent of 7 full-time employees. Keep up the good work.

By the way, if you like magic in your reading you might try Jeffery Deaver's 2003 novel *The Vanished Man*. Forensic expert Lincoln Rhyme hunts for a homicidal illusionist with the assistance of a young illusionist-to-be who explains all about how magic and illusion really work. It's not a read for the faint-hearted.

Al Dollerschell, President Friends' Board

Garage Sale



Good for one
8:30 am admission
 to the Garage Sale
 to be held in the
 Bookmobile Garage
 at the
 Rochester Public Library
 on Wednesday
 June 21st

✂ Please clip the coupon at the left. Use it for "early bird" admission to the garage sale on Wednesday, June 21st. ✂

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.

Summer Calendar – 2006

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

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



- Thu Jun 1** Mother-Daughter Book Group- Mothers & Daughters (11-14) will read award winning fiction and non-fiction juvenile titles. 7 pm Mtg Rm A
- Mon Jun 5** Library Tours with Audrey (Please register first) 1 pm Mtg Rm A
- Mon Jun 5** Nishantha Gunawardena, author of *Traces of Eden*, a photography book. 7 pm
- Tue Jun 6** Armchair Traveler Book Group 11 am Mtg Rm A
- Wed Jun 7** Musical Fun with Hans Mayer 10 am and 1 pm (Auditorium seating is limited to 240 people)
- Fri Jun 9** Library Tours with Audrey (Please register first) 9:30 am Mtg Rm A
- Tue Jun 13** RPL Writing Group 6:30 pm Mtg Rm A
- Tue Jun 13** Bedtime Stories 6:30 pm
- Wed Jun 14** Special Guests McGruff & Scruff + children's film 10 am and 1 pm
- Wed Jun 14** Ifilms: *Day Break* (Iran/Farsi Drama) 6 pm
- Mon Jun 19** Goat (Group of Advising Teens) 4 pm mtg rm A
- Mon Jun 19 — Sat Jun 24** Free Button Books in the bookstore during regular Bookstore hours
- Tue Jun 20** Bedtime Stories 6:30 pm
- Wed Jun 21** Garage Sale 9 am to 5 pm in the Bookmobile garage
- Wed Jun 21** Kids Concert with Justin Roberts 10 am & 1 pm
- Wed Jun 21** Silent Auction—Unusual and Special books - also “buy it now” books 12 noon to 6 pm in the Children's Department
- Wed Jun 21** Library Tours with Audrey (Please register first) 6 pm Mtg Rm A
- Thu Jun 22** Garage Sale 9 am to 3 pm in the Bookmobile garage.
- Thu Jun 22** Classic Novel Bookgroup 7 pm Mtg Rm A
- Mon Jun 26** P-B Dialogues w/ Jay Furst, Jennifer Koski, Jeff Reinartz & Greg Sellnow 6:30 pm
- Tue Jun 27** Library Tours with Audrey (Please register first) 3:30 pm Mtg Rm A
- Tue Jun 27** Bedtime Stories 6:30 pm
- Wed Jun 28** Children's film: *Winnie the Pooh & the Honey Tree* 10 am & 1 pm
- Wed Jun 28** Movie @ your Library 6 pm
- Wed Jul 5** Norm Barnhart the Reading Magician with extraordinary tricks & illusions 10 am & 1 pm
- Thu Jul 6** Library Tours with Audrey (Please register first) 2 pm Mtg Rm A
- Mon Aug 21** Articles due for Fall Newsletter
- Tue Aug 29** Fall Newsletter in the mail
see <http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org> for more information

**Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library**

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Rochester, Minnesota 55904-3776

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Thank you for your support

**From the
Director
Library to Join
MnLINK – Interlibrary
loan will get easier!**



MnLINK is a state-funded organization that brings together library resources to make it easier for patrons to find materials for interlibrary loan. MnLINK runs software on the “MnLINK Gateway” that allows someone to search across many library catalogs in Minnesota. You can try it out at www.mnlink.org. Once we have been installed, the Rochester Public Library and the Rochester Public Library Bookmobile will be available pickup locations.



When you call up a title after searching the MnLINK Gateway, you can click on the “Get it” button which will request the item from the owning library to the pickup location of your choice.

The Rochester Public Library has been using a similar process since 2003, but this move will put us on the same system as the rest of the state.

We have been on the waiting list to be on MnLINK since 2002, so we are very excited about the official request to be part of the MnLINK Gateway.

We expect to be up on MnLINK this summer.

*Audrey Betcher,
Rochester Public Library Director*

Rochesterfest Garage Sale

June 21- 9 am to 5 pm & June 22-9 am to 3 pm

We have a huge selection of children's books, fiction, romance, science fiction, mysteries, how-to, and general reference.

Set-Up begins on Tuesday, June 20 from 10 am to 1 pm and with your help, once again this project will be a success.

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the *Friends' Bookstore*. Thank you for all your time and support.

Pat Stephenson

Friends' Bookstore News



I am a recent volunteer (in the sorting section) and a new board member, although I have been an avid fan of the bookstore for years. I have 24 bookcases in my personal library groaning under the weight of fiction, non-fiction, science fiction, mysteries and yet more irresistible and amazing finds from the bookstore. I am now assisting Sue with the management of the bookstore while Bev is recuperating – we all wish her a speedy recovery.

We have another new volunteer, Cara McGrane who will be a sophomore at Lourdes High School. She will be helping with the *Friends'* bulletin board display- welcome aboard! We hope to make it more colorful, organized and informational. Any suggestions or ideas are welcome as we evolve to make it a useful and interactive exchange for the *Friends*.

We also have many exciting displays planned (and corresponding books to sell) in the bookstore in the coming months. The current display of Bluestockings celebrates women who love to read (check out the display or the World Wide Words for the history and current definitions). You will notice we started early with the blue baby booties. Initially we selected prize books from the Pulitzer, National Book Award, Newberry and Oprah (which have been selling fast!). Additional displays will be added over the next few weeks with the Mann Booker Prize (UK), Saltire Award (Scottish) Trillium Award (Canada), NYTimes awards, and others. Be sure to pick up the handouts, which list some of these prizewinning books.

We plan to continue the prize winning book theme over the summer with best selling beach reads, award winning mysteries (Edgar, etc) as well as prize winning non fiction selections for Father's Day. We hope these will add to your reading pleasure. Remember, the Bookstore has these at great prices! Buy another copy and share with a friend!

Rochesterfest is just around the corner. We will be selling Rochesterfest Buttons in the store soon. And during Rochesterfest, you will be able to pick up a free “button book” each day if you are wearing your button. The garage sale will be on Wednesday (June 21st) from 9 to 5 and Thursday (June 22nd) from 9 to 3.

Helen W. McIver, Bookstore Assistant Manager

