

Rochester Reads 2007 Title is Announced

Lies My Teacher Told Me by James Loewen received the greatest number of almost 900 votes cast. 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.



Audrey Betcher, the Director of the Rochester Public Library, endorsed the book; "I found this book to be 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".


The author, James Loewen will visit Rochester on Monday, February 12th. He will speak to school students during the day and to a general audience at 7 pm at the John Marshall High School Auditorium. All are welcome and admission will be free thanks to the generous co-sponsorship of Yaggy Colby Associates and McGough Construction.

The selected junior title is Frindle by Andrew Clements, a children's book that also focuses on learning in school. It is about a boy whose persistence results in a new word added to the dictionary. It is a fun book to read as a family, and it will make kids feel empowered!



Jerry Casper, the director of the RCTC theater department, is writing and presenting an original play based on the book. Performances will be at the RCTC Hill Theater Friday and Saturday, February 8th and 9th at 7 pm and Sunday, February 11th at 2 pm.

The *Friends* donated extra copies of the titles to check out from the Rochester Public Library, and copies are available for purchase in the *Friends' Bookstore* and from Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

Rochester Reads seeks to encourage community discussion, family reading, literacy, understanding, and cross-community interaction by promoting the reading of one book. Everyone is invited to read the books, and then discuss them and attend events in February 2007. 

Annual Meeting 2007



Al
Dollerschell

As the *Friends* settled down with their tasty refreshments, Al Dollerschell (Our retiring president) opened the meeting, introduced the members of the board and conducted the legal business in a timely manner. Theresa Friedhoff was elected our new President and Shirley Edmonson our new Vice-President. Sue

McMillan reported on the *Friends' Bookstore*, Al reported on other Friends Activities, Gail Harris reported on volunteer activities and hours. Chris Colby thanked us on behalf of the Rochester Public Library Board.

John Hunziker the director of the History Center of Olmsted County, presented a photographic review of downtown Rochester churches that have given way to Mayo Clinic expansion, From Pews to Patients. John has a talent for making history relevant and involving the audience!



Theresa Friedhoff



Winter Calendar – 2007

(all events will take place in the **Judith Taylor Auditorium** unless otherwise noted) (All Bookgroups meet in Meeting Room A unless otherwise noted) (® indicates **advance registration needed**)



(Call 285-8006 for more information unless otherwise noted) (☐ indicates a **Rochester Reads event**)

Thu Feb 8 Stories for Toddlers and Twos 8-10 am

☐ **Thu Feb 8** Book Discussion Group: Lies My Teacher Told Me. Mtg Rm A at noon

Thu Feb 8 Winterfest Used Book sale. Noon to 7 pm

☐ **Fri Feb 9, Sat Feb 10, Sun Feb 11** Frindle: An Original Play written & directed by Jerry Casper at the Hill Theater, University Center, 851 30th Ave SE at 7 pm on Fri & Sat, 2 pm on Sun.

☐ **Sat Feb 10** Costumed actors will portray Lesser Known Heroes at the History Center, 1195 West Circle Drive SW at 10 am

Sat Feb 10 Children's author Selby Beeler 10:30 am

☐ **Sun Feb 11** Players from Minnesota History Center will use costumes & props to teach about Harriet Bishop, St. Paul's first public school teacher. 2 pm

® **Mon Feb 12** Sit, Stay, Read 6:30-7:30 pm

☐ **Mon Feb 12** Author James Loewen will visit John Marshall Auditorium, 1510 14th St NW at 7 pm

Tue Feb 13 Bedtime Stories 6:30 pm

Tue Feb 13 Writing Group: Mtg Rm A 6:30 pm

Wed Feb 14 iFilms: A Simple Curve - Drama-Comedy/Canadian 6 pm

Thu Feb 15 Stories for Toddlers and Twos 10 am

☐ **Thu Feb 15** Film & Discussion: Living Together: A History of Prejudice in Olmsted County. 7 pm

Tue Feb 20 Bedtime Stories 6:30 pm

Thu Feb 22 Stories for Toddlers and Twos 10 am

Sun Feb 25 Yaggy Colby History Lecture Series 2:30 pm

® **Mon Feb 26** Sit, Stay, Read 6:30-7:30 pm

Tue Feb 27 Seussical Story Time Celebration: Puppets, stories & films keep Dr. Seuss alive. 6:30 pm

Wed Feb 28 Writing Group Mtg Rm A 6:30 pm

Sat Mar 3 Hooray for Saturday Family Film: Winnie the Pooh and a Day for Eeyore. 10:30 am

Sat Mar 10 Hooray for Saturday Special Storytelling Program with Heidi Hoks 10:30 am

Tue Mar 13 Chi-Shu Writing Award Presentation & Writing Group 6:30 pm in the Auditorium

Wed Mar 14 iFilms: Madeinusa (Drama|Spain-Peru) 6 pm

Sat Mar 17 Hooray for Saturday Family Film: Dr. Seuss on the Loose 10:30 am

Sun Mar 18 Coffeehouse Author Program: Susan Meissner 2 pm

Tue Apr 3 Spring issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* mailed.

Tue Jun 5 Summer issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* mailed.

**Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library**

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Thank you for your support.

News from the Friends' Board

Friends of the Rochester Public Library



As I turn the gavel over to our new president Theresa Friedhoff, I wish to thank all of you for your support the last two years while I served as president. Whenever we asked people to do something they always accepted the challenge without complaint. This kind of dedication is what makes the *Friends* successful and able to provide our public library with the support it needs.

Over 13,500 hours were provided by volunteers in 2006. Over 6500 of those hours were spent in operating the bookstore and the several sales held during the year. It was a thrill to watch



retiring bookstore manager Sue McMillan present a check for \$45,000 from bookstore profits to the new RPL board president Chris Colby.



We accomplished all of this and I think we still had fun. Keep up the good work and remember to ask a friend to be a *Friend*.

Al Dollerschell, Past President, Friends' Board

News from Friends

Friends of The Rochester Public Library
101 Second Street S.E.
Rochester, MN 55904-3776

(507)287-2627

<http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/friends>

Newsletter Staff:

Editor	Jenni Hulsizer
(507) 288-3475	hulsizer@charter.net
Typesetting & Graphic Design	Jenni Hulsizer
Library Staff Liaison	Carrie Farrow
<i>Friends</i> President	Theresa Friedhoff
Circulation Manager	Francenia Wilson
Membership Chair	Shirley Edmonson
(507) 288-7553	shirld.edmonson@chartermi.net

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

Classes at the Library

® indicates that you must register for a class. To register call 285-8002 or stop at the Reference Services Desk on the 2nd floor of the library or register online at the library's website under events-events calendar. Classes are held in Meeting Room B.

® **Wed Feb 14** Senior Techies (Email For Beginners) 9:30 am

® **Thu Feb 22** Introduction to eBay 7 pm

® **Thu Mar 1** Using the Online Catalog noon

® **Wed Mar 7** Google and More 9:30 am



Winterfest Sale

We are overflowing with books again from several generous donations. There are many excellent used books in the bookstore as well as a backroom full of books which will be available at the Winterfest Sale (Thursday, February 8th, noon to 7 pm). Come early (your *Friends* membership will get you in a half hour early), and come again, as we will continue to stock the shelves and tables as items sell.



Helen McIver

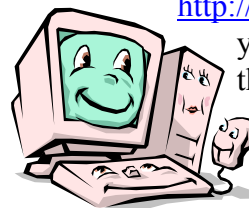
A Well Kept Secret!

If you will visit

<http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/>,

you will find that the site is easier than ever to navigate and you will have all sorts of fun exploring!

Thanks to the library staff for the revamping!



A list of Friends

Have you ever wondered who else besides yourself belongs to *Friends* of the Library? This edition of the *Friends' Newsletter* has a list of current *Friends* tucked into it! And if you notice friends who are not on the list, suggest to them that they join! They will be supporting our library and be placed on the mailing list for this newsletter!



From the Director

Changes are a comin'

Part of the strategic planning for 2007 has included implementing merchandising techniques. Under the strategic issue of "Access to RPL Services, Programs and Collections", we have a goal of providing adequate facilities to provide needed library services. Our action plan for 2007 states: Evaluate and implement merchandising techniques to increase access and appeal to the library's collections.

So what does merchandising really mean in a library? One of our goals as librarians is to make our collection accessible. For many that means that materials are in the right place, in the right order, so that they can find the specific item they are looking for on the shelf. But for many who come in to browse, all those books with the spines facing out are unappealing (the publishers create eye-catching covers for a reason!) and it is difficult to find something that really interests them. So we asked ourselves, can we do both?

We have a merchandising team who has been studying merchandising in libraries. They attended a training session at the Minnesota Library Association conference last fall. They read about it. They visited libraries in the Twin Cities to see how they merchandise. Then they worked very hard to create a proposal to increase visibility of the incredible resources we have at the Rochester Public Library. Some of the things you'll see:

- Better use of the library's walls and end of aisle end caps using slat wall and plexiglass to display materials cover out
- More gondolas and octagons to create "market places" for displaying materials
- Moving computers to open spaces for the market places
- Highlighting the best view in the library. The reference reading area will move to the rotunda with the view overlooking the river.

Merchandising will be an on-going effort, but you will begin to see major changes in mid-February.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director



Friends' Bookstore News

2006 was a banner year for the *Friends' Bookstore*. We were able to provide over \$150,000 worth of books (addition and replacement) to the Library through donations. In addition the bookstore and special sales sold over \$45,000 with which they will continue to support numerous programs and projects at the Library, including the microfilm reader/printer and online databases. Many thanks to all the *Friends* who contribute their time and energy; there were 8500 volunteer hours this year!



Carol & Sue

We welcome a new Bookstore Manager, Carol Stucki who accepted the challenge of replacing Sue McMillan. Carol grew up in south Florida, spent 30 years in Utah raising her family and finally moved to Rochester in 2003. Her husband is a graphic designer at Mayo. Her two daughters and two grandchildren have since moved to Rochester as well. Welcome! Many many thanks to Sue for all her wonderful work and effort - we are glad you will still be here to support us!

Helen McIver, Bookstore Co-Manager

Holiday Book & Bake Sale

The annual Holiday Book and Bake sale was fun and rewarding, with over \$1800 worth of gift-quality books and baked items sold. Turnout was very good, with a big rush when the doors opened.

There were lots of beautiful, slightly used books donated this year and people enjoyed shopping for these gift items. *Friends* bakers donated cookies and candies that were snatched up in the first hour of the sale.

Thanks go out to all who helped—those who priced the books, those who helped set up, those who were there the day of the sale, the bakers and the piano player! It was a great way to start December.

Karen Krueger



List of *Friends of the Rochester Public Library* as of January 1, 2007

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Please invite your friends to become *Friends of the Rochester Public Library!*