

News from the Friends' Board

Here we are at the end of another summer. I may have gotten behind in my summer reading, but the Friends have certainly been busy.

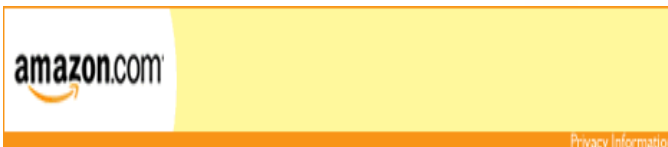
The Rochesterfest Sale was again busy and successful. This issue's article will give you the specific numbers. We changed a few things: the location, the hours, and the layout, and were pleased with the results. We made almost \$3900 on the sale. If anyone has feedback to give us about the sale, please leave a note at the Bookstore.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and or purchased. We could not have done it without you! And we will be doing it again on Sunday, October 5th. Signups will be posted soon and we would be happy to see new and familiar faces.

I also want to extend a very big thank you to the Schmidt Foundation for their generous grant of \$6000 to be used for improving security in the Bookstore. This is due to Carol Smyrk's idea to join forces with John Hunziker to write a grant proposal! What a dynamic duo!

And while I'm in the thank-you mode, I want to mention a donation I received while working a Saturday in the Bookstore. A couple from Connecticut came in to shop. They asked if the Friends were involved in the program that gives books to newborns, I explained the Read With Me program. They asked if they could make a donation in honor of their new granddaughter, Brynna Katherine. I feel that this is a great example of how exciting our programs are, and impressed people around the country are with the projects our Friends of the Library support. You should be proud of the part you play in our organization.

Theresa Friedhoff, President, Friends of the RPL



AMAZON.COM LOVES RPL

As the Big Shopping Season nears, the Friends remind you (and your friends, neighbors, relatives, and colleagues) that when you **Shop on Amazon.com by entering through the RPL website***, the library receives an average 5% return on ALL Amazon purchases (including Marketplace vendors): books, music, DVDs. Computer printers, bass guitars, patio furniture, vitamins, diapers, duvets, pancake mix, generators, birthstone jewelry... This RPL/Amazon associate relationship began in 2005, and since then the library has received over \$2,250. [Go ahead, your son would love that \$1200 Les Paul Gibson guitar.]

* From the library's home page, click on **FRIENDS**, then click on the banner at the bottom of the screen to connect with Amazon. (Sometimes the banner is also displayed on the Library's home page.) Of course, we encourage you to support local merchants, but when you need to turn to Amazon, remember to **THINK RPL** and enter from the banner on our Web site. Thanks for supporting our library.
Sylvie Nickel and Al Dollerschell

Parking for Volunteers

The parking experiment with the City Public Works and Republic Parking System has been a success and will continue. Parking for Friends volunteering at the library for over an hour is free when they sign with back of the ticket with name and purpose of stay (and add RSVP if an RSVP member).

Friends' Bookstore News



If great sales are any indication, the Friends have enjoyed reading this summer!

Both the Rochesterfest garage sale and our bookstore sold an estimated 20,000 books during this quarter. We are absolutely delighted with the books donated that we are able to directly place into the Library Collection. Thank you again to all the Friends who donate books and time to make this possible. This autumn will be an exciting time in the bookstore with displays highlighting school and university textbooks, travel, mysteries, and cooking. After much discussion, we have decided to make a modest increase in prices, mostly in the paperback area

Rochester Art Walk

The Friend's bookstore will continue the Art Walk well into the Winter months. We are planning themed nights with the September event highlighting the art of flower arrangement with a local prize winning Friend. October will host members of the Southeastern Minnesota Poetry group. November will see the return of the book whisperer (if you have authors or subjects you like to read, or are looking for a book to give as a gift, we will recommend wonderful new authors and favorite books—all at our affordable prices!) For December, we anticipate the art of holiday baking, with a discussion of cookbooks, ideas, and wonderful samples, some of which will be available for sale at our Holiday and Bake sale the next Sunday (December 7th). Remember there are also a number of prints and paintings from the Library collection that are for sale.

For the new year, we are considering topics to include Fiber Arts (needlepoint, knitting, crafts), photography, the art of book care (including mending, antiques, and theatre. If you are interested in hosting an evening for these or other topics, please contact Carol Stucki or Helen McIver

Helen Whitney McIver

Membership Renewal Time

A letter requesting membership renewal in the Friends will arrive this month. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and allows us to support many of the Library's programs.

In order to keep you up to date on the Friends activities and programs between newsletters, we are requesting your e-mail address on the member renewal form. Your privacy will be protected as we do not sell or share our member information. We have had a successful year assisting the Library with your financial and volunteer support.

Thank you from the Friends of the Library board.

Shirley Edmonson and Nan Frie

Operation Paperback

Since April, 2007, the Friends of the Rochester Public Library has been working with the non-profit organization, Operation Paperback, to send books to our soldiers stationed all over the world. We have sent books to Middle Eastern and European addresses. Most soldiers ask for general fiction, science fiction, classics, westerns, thrillers, and military history. Many soldiers have written back to let us know they have received the books and how much they mean to them and their units. It is gratifying to know we are able to support these soldiers so far from home.

Pat Stephenson

Friends of the Rochester Public Library

101 Second Street S.E.

Rochester, MN 55904-3776 (507) 287-2627

www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/friends

Newsletter Staff:

Editors

Ruth Stroebelruthstroebel@yahoo.com

Barbara Eakins.....eakinsbf@aol.com

Library Staff Liaison.....John Hunziker

Friends President.....Theresa Friedhoff

Circulation Manager.....Francenia Wilson

Membership Chair.....Shirley Edmonson

(507)288-7553.....shirld.edmonson@chartermi.net

From the Director

The Library Helps Students Succeed



The Rochester Public Library has always been a place for students to turn for help with school work. Librarians assist students in finding books, journal articles, DVDs, and other materials to research and write papers. Staff helps students find science experiments for science fairs. Copies of classic literature and literary criticism are used for English classes. Computers and laser printers are provided for typing up papers for those who don't have computers at home. Students get personal help from community volunteers three evenings a week at the Homework Assistance program at the library. This only scratches the surface on how the library is already working with learners of all ages to succeed.

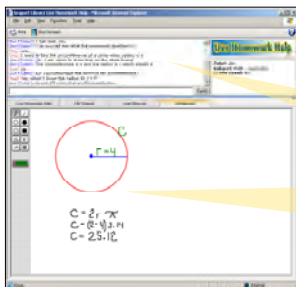
Starting September 1st, the Rochester Public Library is providing another service to students. Tutors from 4 pm to 10 pm every night of the week are provided through a service called Tutor.com. The student starts at the library's web page. She enters her library card to verify that she's a library card holder from the Rochester Public Library; this is required for licensing. Then she's connected to Tutor.com where she indicates her grade and subject, and she's connected to a tutor.

An example of a screen is shown below:



How It Works: The Online Classroom

Once connected, student and tutor enter the "online classroom" where both parties can use a variety of tools, including instant messaging-style chat and a dynamic whiteboard.



Session Info & Help
Technical help is always a click away.

Real-Time Chat
Notifies the student when the tutor is writing.

Whiteboard
Full array of text and drawing tools. Tutors can add more boards as necessary.

A student can even send a paper in for the tutor to proof.

Library staff have been talking, planning, and working to fund this service for more than two years. Funding is being provided by the Rochester Public Library Foundation, Rotary Basketball Tournament proceeds, and Charles and Barbara Withers.

An implementation team of library staff and school personnel has been planning for months. Marketing this service is very important because it only benefits the students and parents if they know about it and use it. Staff will be at many open houses as the school year begins and at the Education Summit on September 6th. Every student will get a folder with information about Tutor.com. Library cards and information about the service have been mailed to many Olmsted County students. You may have even seen a bus with information about Tutor.com.

If you know someone who can benefit from this service, please let them know!

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Book Sale Snapshots



New Security Camera in the Bookstore

The Friends of the Library received a grant from Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation to provide funds for a new security camera in the Bookstore. A recent incident brought to our attention the need for a volunteer to be able to ask for assistance quickly without leaving the store and to be able to identify persons whose behavior was unacceptable in the Library. In addition to the panic button, which should be used only in extreme emergencies, and the walkie talkie, which connects the book store to the front desk, volunteers now have immediate access to assistance. The camera will be focused on the check-out area and will record any unusual occurrences and help with identification. Our thanks to the Schmidt Foundation for funds to insure the safety of our volunteers and customers.

Carol Smyrk

"A room without a book is like a body
without a soul."

Cicero

Coupon

Good for 1:00 p.m.

Admission to Fall Book Sale

Sunday, October 5

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Auditorium, Rochester Public Library

(Enter through the Bookstore.)

Holiday Book & Bake Sale — December 7th.

Fall and Winter Book Store Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library**

101 Second Street Southwest
Rochester, Minnesota 55904-3776

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Thank you for your support