

Annual Meeting set for January 27

Please mark your calendars on Tuesday, January 27 for the Friends' Annual Meeting at 12 noon. We will provide a lunch, introduce Board members and officers, conduct business and welcome our speaker.

We are delighted to have Matthew Dacy, Director of the Heritage Hall/The Museum of Mayo Clinic, who will introduce to us The Pioneering Women of the Mayo Family. Photos, quotations and vignettes will bring to life the key role that five women played in the founding and growth of Mayo Clinic and Rochester.

You will meet Louise Abigail Wright Mayo, wife of Dr. William Worrall Mayo and mother of Dr. Will and Dr. Charlie; Gertrude Mayo Berkman, the older sister of the Mayo brothers; Hattie Damon Mayo, who married Dr. Will; Edith Graham Mayo, wife of Dr. Charlie; and Alice Plank Mayo, the daughter-in-law of Dr. Charlie and Edith. These women were pioneers, business leaders, medical professionals, civic activists and goodwill ambassadors whose impact extended from the Civil War to the 1960s. Their dedication and commitment established a lasting legacy in our community.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Meeting. *Theresa Friedhoff*

Friends' Bookstore News

Women in witch hats reigned as the Friends' Bookstore committee hosted a fall coffee on Halloween to thank all of our wonderful Bookstore volunteers for sharing their time and talent with us. There was a wonderful array of home-baked goodies (cookies, muffins, brownies, fudge, and even a bit of fruit for the health-conscious) as well as some fun and imaginative costumes. Andy Stehr talked on how and when to use the walkie-talkie we now have in the Bookstore, and Purna Gurung unveiled the new telephones that will be installed. Dean Crowson then treated us to a tour to see how all of the new security cameras installed around the library work.



To those volunteers who were unable to attend the fall coffee --the Bookstore committee thanks each and all of you for your hours of dedicated service. All this effort has paid off! 2008 has, so far, been the best year in the history of the Friends' Bookstore, with sales through September totaling \$36,174. That's \$4000 more than we had at this time last year. Congratulations to all of you!

As the holiday season approaches, we encourage everyone to stop in for great bargains on holiday books as well as gifts for your friends and family. We even have gift certificates for the indecisive. Whatever you do, don't forget to build your own reading stash for the winter months. You never know when that big snowstorm is going to move in and leave you stranded--you don't want to be stuck at home without a good book to curl up with! Your friends at the Bookstore are always happy to make recommendations and help you build your stash. *Sue McMillan*



From the Director

One of the many things I appreciate about the Friends is your willingness to look at new projects. Change and growth are challenging for all of us. I've found with the Rochester Public Library, that even though change can be difficult, it is necessary to make sure that we stay relevant and on mission. There is one recent change and two possible future changes for the Friends that I thought worth discussion.

Parking -- I hope everyone is enjoying the change in parking. I give John, Gail, and Marilyn credit for figuring it all out and implementing the changes to make volunteering at the library easier and cheaper!

Take It And Read -- This is a program that is under discussion at the Friends Board. Here is a description about the program piloted in Dayton, Ohio:

We have eight branches who are taking collections of books to "places of opportunity" where people find themselves sitting for awhile with nothing to do. We place discards and gift books--each has a sticker that says:

Take it and Read

This book was donated by the Dayton Metro Library. You don't need to check it out, just take it with you and read! When you're done, share it with someone else, or return it to any Dayton Metro Library.

Books have been placed in laundromats, doctor's offices, barber shops, a local arts center, a local hospice, and similar spots. The laundromat owner has asked us to refill his supply five times, and mentioned that he thinks his business has increased! Hospice featured the books in their recent newsletter, saying: "Patients and their visitors will benefit because they will be able to lose themselves, if even for a short time, in the spiritually restorative therapy gained from reading a good book."

I think this is an opportunity to reach non-traditional library users, increase visibility for the Friends of the Rochester Public Library, and make use of even more of the community's generous book donations.

A Scanner for the Bookstore Sorters -- This project is under consideration at the Bookstore Committee.

Many people now use scanners and specialized software to determine the value of donated books. It has the potential to increase efficiency in the sorting process and increase revenue by not letting any "hidden gems" slip through. There is a cost to purchase the scanner and an ongoing cost for the software and service. I look forward to seeing if the Friends think the costs are worth the gain.

As always I appreciate your dedication to the Rochester Public Library. Your willingness to jump in and embrace projects that benefit the community is refreshing.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Nominating Committee Report

Our Thanks to Frank Braithwaite, who is going off the Board this year. Election of new Board members will be held at our annual meeting on January 26.

Nominees for re-election to a three year term: Shirley Edmonson, Theresa Friedhoff and Elizabeth Ritman.

Nominees for election to a three year term: Barbara Eakins and Carol Mikesh.

Officers to be elected for a one year term with re-election again next year:

President: Shirley Edmonson, Vice President: Elizabeth Ritman, Secretary: Dick Massaro

Two year term--Treasurer: Sylvie Nickel

Holiday Bakers Needed. . .

Attention bakers! We need your Holiday goodies for the December 7 Holiday Book and Bake Sale. Please deliver them to the Auditorium on Saturday afternoon, December 6 (or drop them off in the Bookstore on Friday). If convenient, package your items to be sold (i.e. a dozen cookies on a paper plate wrapped in plastic wrap, etc.) Any and all donations are welcome!

News From the Friends' Board



We're ready to close the books on another successful year for the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.

There have been four great book sales in the Auditorium with one left to go on December 7, the mouth-watering Book and Bake Sale. We found good homes for a lot of books.

The Annual Meeting is just around the corner on January 27. Come in and meet new Board members and our incoming President, Shirley Edmonson. Last year's lunch format was so well-received that we decided to do it again. We look forward to hearing Mr. Matthew Dacy speak on the formidable early Mayo women and their instrumental role in our community.

"Extraordinary" Gifts

Thanks to an Extraordinary donation from a local bookseller, the Friends now have a large assortment of over 200 military history books for collectors and interested readers: Civil War, World War I, World War II and more. Many large picture books about WWII aircraft are available. We are pricing the books at half their current market value and will be offering all of them at the December Book and Bake Sale. The Bookstore also now has a limited display of Civil War books and a list of all the military history books available.

Also, look for another interesting group of "Unusual and Special" books at the Holiday Sale,



as well as a delightful selection of REALLY OLD magazines (e.g., an issue of *Better Homes & Gardens* from 1940!), an array of handsomely bound classics, and perhaps a few more surprises. See you at the Sale!

Sylvie Nickel

Please contact us if you are interested in working with the new Take It and Read program mentioned in our Director's article.

I've heard from many of the volunteers who have been able to take advantage of the new parking program. It's wonderful to see a program like this get off the ground and enable volunteers to help in the Library without a financial burden! Thanks to the efforts of John Hunziker and Gail Harris and the support of the Library, the Friends, and RSVP, we've seen a long-time problem close to being solved.

I'd like to close my last president's article by thanking all of the Friends out there who have made the two years of my term so satisfying. All of you have helped with so many projects and raised so much money for Our Library! I come away from this time feeling like we really did something worthwhile.

Theresa Friedhoff, Friends' President

COUPON

Good for 1:00 p.m. Admission

Holiday Book & Bake Sale

Sunday, December 7

1:30 - 4:00 p.m., Auditorium

(Enter through the Bookstore)

COUPON

Good for 12:00 p.m. Admission

Thursday, February 12

Winterfest Book Sale

Thursday, Feb. 12, 12:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13, 9:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Libraries I Have Known

I recently returned from Chicago, which is a lovely dynamic city, with over 25 libraries within its boundaries. Most tourists don't travel to Chicago to visit a library or include one on their itinerary, but they are missing treasures. Over the years I have discovered many surprises and delights in local libraries. Who knew for example that the library in Charles City, IA had a world renowned collection of etchings, left by a local boy made good? You have to ask for the lights to be turned on, but will have lots of room to look at the unique collection by yourself! Toronto, with several excellent libraries, often has exquisite exhibitions of their collections--pop-up books, science fiction manuscripts, or local writers' paraphernalia.

In Chicago, the old library is a stunning piece of architecture, and now the Cultural Center. The current main library at State Street was built in 1991 to look like Old Chicago. Its literature suggests it is the largest municipal, public circulating library in the country with over 70 miles of shelving for books and materials. It also has an interesting collection of paintings and sculptures that you can wind your way up nine floors to view. I think one of the main reasons to tour is to read the thought

provoking comments inscribed on their walls. A few:
--"The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man." *T. S. Elliott*

--"Books are carriers of civilization." *Barbara Tuckman*

--"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life." *Henry Ward Beecher*

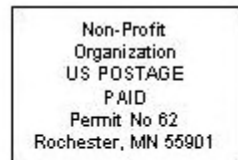
--"Reading is a means of thinking with another person's mind; it forces you to stretch your own." *Lionel Trilling*

And my personal favorite:

--"What journeys of mind and spirit are there for the taking with a library card." *David McCullough*

Surprisingly, they did not have a Bookstore. All they have is a cubby of well worn used library books (for free) called Second Hand Prose. We are spoiled (and grateful) in Rochester to have the wonderful Friends of the Rochester Public Library Bookstore. Come in and make the most of it! Once again we have an excellent selection for perusing as well as great gifts.

Helen Whitney McIver



Thank you for your support