

A “Mysterious” Mix

Uff da! The Friends’ Annual Meeting in January was W-A-Y above average! The promise of hot dish and a captivating speaker drew some 70 attendees, including specially invited guests, the RPL Mystery Book Readers group. No one had to be asked three times to “have a little lunch” of wild rice hot dish on a patty shell and lots and lots of bars!

After the reports and the thank-yous from the library staff, we welcomed new board members Dave Anderson, Emily Anderson, Ruth Stroebel and Carol Stucki, re-elected board officers, and then settled back for a delightful talk by Minnesota mystery writer, William Kent Krueger. He is the author of seven books in the popular and honored Cork Corcoran mystery series, set in Northern Minnesota. He told of how he decided, at age 40, to begin writing; his difficulty getting the first book published; his rewarding association with other Minnesota writers; and how he distinguishes himself at an appearance—he dons a striped prisoner’s suit! After the talk, he sold and signed copies of his books, from “Iron Lake” to “Thunder Bay.”

A good time was had by all.

Sylvie Nickel



Automation

You probably noticed the construction near the inside and outside book drop areas. The library has installed a new device to check-in library materials more efficiently. The Automated Materials Handling system scans barcodes on



the items being returned and automatically updates a patron’s record. Another time-saving feature of the system is that items will be automatically sorted by type of material, such as children’s, video, fiction, etc. This has been done manually. Before installation of the new system, it took up to four days to process books and return them to the shelves.

Volunteers will be available to help patrons learn to use the new system. Unlike the self-check system, patrons will need to learn to use this system as there will be no manual return site inside the building.



Winterfest Sale

Lucky for us, our Winterfest event was indoors! Many patrons and volunteers braved the sub-zero weather to make this year’s sale a success.

At the end of the day we had made \$1152.25 in the auditorium. Add to that another \$167 from our special and unusual book ladies, Carol Smyrk and Sylvie Nickel, and we reached a grand total of \$1319.25. That’s a lot of donations from a lot of people..

This sale went especially well thanks to the efforts of not only our volunteers, but also the Library staff who turned out in force to set up tables, move carts and set out books. Given our tight opening schedule, we could not have done it without their enthusiastic assistance. Thank you so much!

See you all when we kick off National Library Week with a sale Sunday, April 13 starting at 1:30 pm. Come in and support your Public Library.

Theresa Friedhoff

From the Director

At your service...



Have you noticed the Public Service desk has a new look? As part of our continuing effort to make the library a more inviting place, we are evaluating public desks in all divisions. The Public Service desk was changed first since it is the first desk that people view as they come into the library. No specific plans or timelines are defined for other desks at this time. Some changes to the Public Service desk include:

- ◆ Defined work stations (for some the old desk was very confusing as to where to go.)
- ◆ Additional lower counter space (this is to make it easier to serve children and those in a wheelchair.)



- ◆ Displays for material (think of it as the library's equivalent to the candy at a retail checkout.)
- ◆ Narrowed the desk (the new desk literally brings staff and patrons closer as it's six inches thinner.)
- ◆ Ledges for people to set books and purses on.

The new desk configuration offers a more friendly and inviting first impression and it is more comfortable and efficient than the old desk for both patrons and staff.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Friends' Bookstore News

2007 was another banner year for the bookstore and its affiliated special sales. Roughly \$125,000 worth of donated books were added to the Library's collection, either as new additions or replacement of worn books. The bookstore presented the Library with a \$45,000 check to be used for programming, acquisitions and other library needs. In addition, special sales raised over \$10,000 which the Friends use in support of programs such as Read With Me and Rochester Reads and for purchase and support of special equipment such as the genealogy program now available at the Library. Al Dollerschell raised an additional \$4,000 specialized donated books through Amazon. On-site sale of other special and collectible books gave the Friends another \$1000.



A guidelines booklet that should help clarify procedures for sorting books for the library, the bookstore and other sales has been compiled. The booklet will be given to all new sorters and will be available as a reference to all others. Ask for a copy of the four-page document from either Carol Stucki or Helen Whitney McIver. A copy can be found in the Bookstore Binder.

Hope to see many of you at the National Library Week sale Sunday, April 13 from 1:30 to 4:30 in the Library

Auditorium.

Summer hours at the bookstore go into effect following Memorial Day weekend; since the library is closed Sunday, the store is also closed. We are looking for new volunteers to expand our Saturday hours. If you would like to join our group of volunteers please contact Carol Stucki or Gail Harris or pick up a brochure in the bookstore.

Finally please save grocery bags, especially paper bags, for both the spring sale and the June Rochesterfest garage sale.

Helen Whitney McIver

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News from the Friends' Board



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our annual meeting. I certainly had a nice time, enjoyed the lunch, the company of the agreeable Mr. Krueger

and so many Friends. I especially want to extend our thanks to Bev Reid, who coordinated the menu, arranged the catering and graciously served it with our other “planner,” Karen Krueger. Good job, ladies!

The Friends continue to be involved in many Library projects, including Rochester Reads , volunteering to help acquaint the public with the new return sorting system, and showing our appreciation for Library staff during National Library Week (April 13-20).

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with the auditorium sales, particularly people able and willing to moving boxes of books. If you have the interest and the time, please contact any Board member or Gail Harris/Marilyn Campbell.

I also want to remind everyone that this year's Rochesterfest sale (June 25 and 26) will be held in the auditorium, not the garage — step in from the glaring sun, shop in air-conditioned comfort, forget your fears of being run down near the book drop — give the indoors a try and give us your feedback.

Once again, thank you for your time, encouragement and support — financial and otherwise.

Theresa Friedhoff, President

Finding a State Poet Laureate

Minnesota now has its first official state Poet Laureate, and few poets can rival the accomplishments of Robert Bly! I hope you read or heard about this amazing author in recent news. Though we have had poets serve unofficially in this capacity in the past, last year Minnesota lawmakers passed legislation to make the position official. (For details, see the Minnesota Humanities Center website at www.minnesotahumanities.org.)

As a writer and insatiable reader of poetry, I was honored to serve on the statewide committee to select the Poet Laureate. Thank you, Friends, for nominating me for this amazing opportunity! (What a treat to read all that poetry, some of which was unpublished work by famous people!) The selection committee was intended to represent the breadth of the state of Minnesota. Eleven members represented various arts and Friends organizations.

More than 50 poets were nominated for the poet laureate, many of who had such impressive credentials it was hard to know where to begin. Each poet was evaluated on the quality of their poetry, their contribution to Minnesota's literary community and their perspective of the role of poet laureate. For the committee, this meant long hours of reading, analyzing and agonizing. Each nominee was given a score, and the scores tallied in a database. The first round reduced the list to eight poets, which was then whittled down to only three — a heartbreaking task. Those three names were forwarded to Governor Pawlenty, who made the final selection.

Our Poet Laureate will help manifest Minnesota's treasure trove of poetry. Indeed, poetry is in good hands in Minnesota.

Sue McMillan

P.S. Since April is poetry month, why not discover some Minnesota poets? Read their work and be inspired—You might try: John Berryman, Richard Eberhart, John Reznemski, Carol Muske-Dukes, Joyce Sutphen, David Mura, John Minczeski, Leslie Miller.....

Coupon

Good for 9:00 am Admission
Rochesterfest "Sale"

VOID

Wed. June 25, 2008

9:30a.m. to 9 pm

Auditorium, Rochester Public Library

Coupon

Good for 1:00 p.m. Admission
Library Week Book Sale

Sunday, April 13

1:30 to 4:30 7 pm

Auditorium, Rochester Public Library

April Calendar — 2008

(All events will take place in the *Judith Taylor Auditorium* unless otherwise noted)

*indicates advance registration needed at www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org or 285-8506

Spring Calendar

Tue Apr 1 10:30 am Family Film: *Lambert the Sheepish Lion, Charlie Needs a Cloak and Bear Wants More*

Tue Apr 1 6:30 pm Bedtime Stories

Wed Apr 2 10:30 am Family Film: *The Lorax*

Wed Apr 2 6 pm Spring Break Movie: *Transformers*

Thu Apr 3 10:30 am Family Film: *Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree*

Fri Apr 4 10:30 am Family Films: *Curious George* and *Curious George Goes to the Hospital*

Sat Apr 5 10 am Family Film: *The Cat in the Hat*

Sun Apr 6 2 pm Author Program: Catherine Friend

Mon Apr 7 6:30 pm Sit-Stay-Read

Tue Apr 8 6:30 pm. Bedtime Stories

Tue Apr 8 6:30 pm Writing Group Mtg Rm A

Wed Apr 9 6 pm iFilms International and Independent Films: *The Violin*

Sat Apr 12 10:30 am Family Film: *Wild About Books, Beverly Billingsly Borrows a Book and Wolf*

Sun Apr 13 1:30 to 4:30 pm Friends National Library Week Sale

Mon Apr 14 6:30 pm Sit-Stay-Read

Tue Apr 15 4 pm Introduction to Blogging* Mtg Rm B

Tue Apr 15 6:30 pm Bedtime Stories

Wed Apr 16 6:30 pm Earth Day Movie: *Arctic Tale*

Thu Apr 17 3:30 pm Libraries Share* Mtg Rm B

Thu Apr 17 7 pm Rochester Reads Author Visit: Deborah Ellis, John Marshall HS Auditorium

Sat Apr 19 10:30 am Schiffelly Puppets!

Mon Apr 21 4 pm GOAT meeting Mtg Rm A

Mon Apr 21 6:30 pm Sit-Stay-Read

Tue April 22 6:30 pm Bedtime Stories

Wed Apr 23 6:30 pm Writing Group Mtg Rm A

Thu Apr 24 7 pm Lecture: *Tenets of Peaceful Coexistence and Conscious Living*

Sat Apr 26 10:30 a.m. Family Films: *The Dingles* and *Rain Babies*

Sun Apr 27 2:30 pm Yaggy Colby History Lecture

Tue Apr 29 6:30 pm Bedtime Stories

Wed Apr 30 4 to 6 pm Volunteer Recognition

Wed June 25 9:30 am to 9 pm and Thur June 26 9:30 am to 7 pm Friends Annual Garage Sale

Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library

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