

Friends Donate Book Bags & Books to New Moms

We live in a wonderful city noted for its medical facilities. Over 265 babies are born each month at Rochester Methodist Hospital and the Olmsted Medical Center Hospital. We realized that we had a great opportunity to reach each family, even before they left the hospital, by providing a READ WITH ME bag to each new mom containing reading and library information and baby's first book.

Also included in the bag is an application for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Working with the United Way of Olmsted County, each child born in Rochester may receive a free book in the mail each month until the age of five.

Children who are read to from an early age are more successful at learning to read. Reading aloud to children is the single most important intervention for developing their literacy skills.

The Friends of the Library have been providing this valuable service for almost 20 years.

Pat Stephenson

Vote in "Rochester Reads"

One of the following books will be selected for community discussion in February 2009. Choices for the 2009 "Rochester Reads" are: **Candyfreak** by Steve Almond, **Prairie Son** by Dennis Clausen, **Mindset** by Carol S. Dweck, or **Last Woman Standing** by Winona LaDuke. Ballots and more information are available at the Rochester Public Library, or vote online at www.rochesterreads.org. Hurry—voting ends June 30, 2008.



Bookstore Part of Art Walk

The Bookstore will be part of the Art Walk for at least the summer months, remaining open from 7 to 9 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. We have a great selection of coffee table art books as well as books on crafts, art techniques and artists. During our first Art Walk in May we were delighted to welcome new Friends who have just discovered the bookstore! Volunteers are needed to work the additional two hours—if you can help, please let our Bookstore shift scheduler know.

Staff Appreciation Breakfast Held April 21

Hoping to start an annual tradition, the Friends invited the staff to an early morning breakfast the Monday following National Library Week. The staff often thanks us for helping them and we wanted to thank the staff for all the extra help and support they give us in our projects. It's a win-win relationship!

We served a selection of fruits, breakfast breads and pizzas, and beverages. Almost everyone who was in the building at that hour came to share the food and friendship.

Karen Krueger

From the Director



In March of this year, several Rochester Public Library staff joined almost 10,000 colleagues in Minneapolis while attending the Public Library Association conference. This biannual conference is very focused. It is small enough that all the meetings are in one location, yet it is large enough to attract vendors and nationally renowned speakers.

National conferences are a great time to get re-energized while learning about all the wonderful things happening in libraries around the country. I thought many times, “We can do that” or “We should be doing that.”

It is also a time of reaffirmation when you hear speakers talking about what they are doing, and then think, “We already do that!” What is very obvious

when talking to colleagues around the country is how strong and active the Friends are here in Rochester. I talk about the things you are accomplishing, and they are amazed and envious. For example, there is NO WAY we could handle the number of donations that we get without the help of the Friends. I know of a library that quit taking any material donations at all because they didn’t have the support they needed to accept them.

The strong volunteer support makes it much easier for the library to take calculated risks – risks that are necessary to become a better library. Your grassroots volunteer and financial support challenge us to be the best we can be.

As we are already starting the budgeting process for 2009, we’ll use what we learned to make the Rochester Public Library a better place. I strongly believe that we must keep growing and changing to meet the needs of the community or we will cease to be relevant at all. You help us succeed, and I am grateful for your support.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Friends’ Bookstore News



The Friends’ Bookstore has had a strong second quarter--great sales of books, videos, audio books, and other items. Once again we are having the summer surge of book donations. This is a great opportunity to find those summer reading treasures! But Friends, please note that we need additional help sorting all these books!

The Friends’ bulletin board will continue to have news on our sales events, opening hours, volunteers, great reading cartoons, and other information. We hope to entice you into the Bookstore by reading about the current displays, especially as our displays frequently change. Be sure to pick up the handouts, which will list some of the prizewinners, best sellers, recommended reading, and other great books. All suggestions or ideas are welcome as we evolve to make it a useful and interactive exchange for the Friends.

As Rochesterfest approaches, we have both the

great selection and volume of books ready to be sold at the Friends’ “garage” sale. A huge **thank you** in advance to all the energized volunteers who make the Rochesterfest book sale happen. Thanks, too, to all the people who continue to donate great books. We, the Bookstore and the Library, are very fortunate to have such dedicated Friends.

Helen Whitney McIver

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News from the Friends' Board

I hope everyone enjoyed a fine spring and is settling into summer with a good book in hand. If you don't have one yet (or not enough of them as the case may be), let us help you at one of our next events—the sale previously known as the "Garage Sale," and the "Unusual and Special Book Sale." They are still held during Rochesterfest, but indoors, near and in the Auditorium. Dates and times for the big sale are listed on the coupon in this issue. The "Special" books are available Wednesday only, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you have some extra time and energy, please consider signing up to volunteer. Not only is it fun, but you get a first hand and close-up look at the inventory. Sign up sheets will be located in the back of the Bookstore. Set up is on Tuesday 6/24, 1 p.m.–4 p.m., and shifts during the sale will run from 9 a.m.–9 p.m. on Wednesday 6/25 and from 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m. on Thursday 6/26.

The breakfast for the Library staff was a great success and we hope to make it an annual event. We want to thank the staff for all the help and support they give us while we struggle with space, scheduling, and equipment issues. We've been both blessed and cursed with a huge influx of books these last few weeks. The custodians have been extremely helpful, and patient with us. Thanks for everyone's extra work.

We are very fortunate to welcome a new volunteer who will help with the Friends' newsletter. Some of you may know Barbara Eakins from the Rochester Music Guild. She is retired from IBM and EDS after about 30 years as a technical writer. Previous to that she was a high school English teacher in south Florida. She and Ruth Stroebel have some great new ideas for the newsletter. We are lucky they are so willing to share their time and creativity with us.

The other news we're excited about concerns the efforts of John Hunziker to make some parking available for Friends while they are volunteering. This has been an issue for years. It's admirable of John to tackle it. Many of you may have received a letter explaining a three-month trial. Let's hope it works out! And thank you, John, and everyone else who was involved, for making it happen!

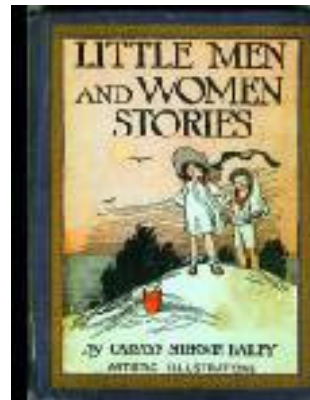
Theresa Friedhoff, President, Friends of the RPL

Unusual & Special Books Sale

One day only
Wednesday, June 25
10 AM to 3 PM

Look for us in the Library lobby outside
the Bookstore back entrance

*Individually priced "collectible" books
on many subjects*



**Little Men and
Women Stories**

by Carolyn Sherwin
Bailey

Numerous wonderful
old-fashioned artistic
colored illustrations by
Marjorie Howe Dixon

A sample of one of our many unusual and special books

Coupon

Good for 9:00 a.m. Admission

Rochesterfest "Garage" Sale

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Auditorium, Rochester Public Library

Using the New AMH System

In mid March the Rochester Public Library installed a new Automated Material Handling System (AMH). The library's goals were to get items back to our shelves faster, decrease the number of items missed during the check-in process, and to have items immediately taken off a patron's record. Though the automated materials handling system has been working very well for the most part, there have been some challenges.

The AMH can only accept one item at a time; therefore, it may take longer to return items. This was a drawback that the library was aware of when we purchased the system, but we hoped that any inconvenience would be offset by the items being directly checked in. If a patron puts more than one item through the mouth, it can cause the system to shut down so it is important that correct return procedures are used.

There is also a learning curve; we have noticed that patrons who take the time to read the provided instructions experience a high level of success. Also, library staff and volunteers have been stationed diligently at the external AMH for weeks to assist patrons who are having a difficult time adjust-

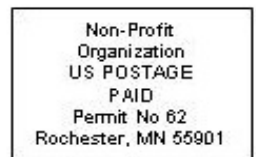
ing to the new system.

The basic steps for a successful return are: place an item into the AMH mouth with the title up, flush with the right side of the opening. Then slide the item forward until it catches on the rollers. Wait until you see either a green bar of light at the mouth of the AMH or a green check mark on the screen. Then insert the next item. If you're at the external book drop, you'll need to press the black button to start the process. If the AMH sends an item back, it means it could not read the barcode. Simply wait for the green light and try the item again.

It can be a challenge to reach the external AMH from inside a vehicle. We're currently working with our vendor, FKI, to re-engineer the external drop. Hopefully this will help with some of the reach issues.

The AMH has been working very well and has helped the library return items to the shelves much faster. The library is committed to using the AMH, and we hope that, given time, our patrons will adjust to this new procedure. If you see someone struggling, be sure to help them out. If we all work together, we can all get the benefits of the Automated Material Handling System.

Andrew R. Stehr, Circulation Services Manager



Thank you for your support