

## **Mystery Writer, Mystery Hot Dish to be Featured at our Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting, set for Monday, January 28 will feature mystery writer William Kent Krueger and a “mystery hot dish”. Socializing begins at noon followed by a lunch of hot dish and bars, then a short business meeting.

We are delighted that Mr. Krueger, well known Minnesota writer, will be our guest speaker. He is the author of the popular Cork O’Connor mysteries, beginning with *Iron Lake* in 1999 and continuing through #7, *Thunder Bay*, published in 2007. He is also a contributor to the Thirteen Tales of Mystery Anthologies-- *Silence of the Loons and Resort of Murder*--by Minnesota’s Premier Writers. Mr. Krueger will sign books after his talk. Copies of his books will be available for purchase or bring your own.

**Please mark the date and RSVP to 287-2627 by January 20.**



## **Holiday Sale Earns \$1900**

The annual Holiday Book and Bake Sale, held Sunday, December 9, garnered the Friends over \$1900 this year. Thanks to many busy Friends, the donations for the bake sale were awesome—nearly all disappeared in the first hour. Over 400 gift quality books were sold. Our entertainment for part of the afternoon was again John Hulsizer playing seasonal piano music; this year Majel Hall sang along with him on a number of the pieces—a nice addition.

Proceeds from the sale will go towards Friends projects, including children’s programming, the Read With Me program and other library programs. Thank you to all who helped with this project and thank you to all the people who came to the sale—hope you and yours enjoyed the gifts you found.

*Karen Krueger, Book Sale Chairman*

## **Bookstore Volunteers Thanked With Coffee and Tour**

October 30<sup>th</sup> marked the Bookstore’s annual volunteer coffee, complete with a visit from Edgar Allen Poe himself (aka Carol Stucki). Attendees may have noticed a surprising absence of witches at this Halloween-themed gathering. However, there was nothing lacking in the array of scrumptious treats and friendly conversation!

Library director Audrey Betcher gave an informal presentation about the implementation of a new marketing approach to library materials, followed by a tour of the library to point out the exciting new displays, furniture, and other items of interest. For people who spend so much time at the library, we were amazed by the magnitude of what we hadn’t seen.

If you are a Bookstore volunteer who was unable to attend this event, please be sure that the Bookstore committee thanks you for all you do. It takes each and every one of you to make the Bookstore a success!

*Sue McMillan*

# From the Director



## Counting Blessings . . .

In the Christmas Classic "White Christmas", Bing Crosby's character sings about closing out the day by counting blessings. I would like to close out the year of 2007 by counting the blessings that the Library can offer to the community, thanks to the generosity of the Friends this year.

Thanks to the hard work of the Bookstore volunteers, \$45,000 worth of new materials were added to the library collection. Thanks to volunteer sorters, more than 4,700 donated items were added to the collection. Thanks to the Friends, Heritage Quest Online, Ancestry Plus, and the Grolier Encyclopedia

databases were available to patrons online. Researchers and students can find old newspaper articles on a new microfilm reader. Children enjoy Big Cozy Books furniture in the children's area. Adults, children and teens are enriched with programs. "Rochester Reads" participants can check out copies of titles. Browsers find items of interest more easily due to new displays and merchandising techniques partially funded by the Friends contribution.

And, last, but certainly not least, I count the blessing of the life of Karen Moxness, who shared her time and talent with us during her life and her treasure with us in her death. People like Karen Moxness and all of the Friends make Rochester a special community and the library in particular one of its brightest lights. As we count our blessings, know that each and every one of you are a blessing, and we would not be the enriching place that we are without your support.

*Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director*

# Friends' Bookstore News



Welcome Reading Season!

As the weather cools off, we have had a surge of patrons and sales in the Bookstore. Sales were strong in October and November; December is traditionally one of our best months to find new homes and readerships. The Bookstore is a great place to find books for the coming winter—stay warm inside with a great read! History books and new fiction have been especially popular, while we have had a good assortment of science fiction/fantasy as well as trade paperbacks.

On our special Holiday Sale on December 9 we had an excellent selection of gift books, coffee table books and the usual scrumptious baked goods. In the Bookstore check out the new half cart located near the door with special books that will change frequently during January and February. Lately, we fill a shelf and the books or videos disappear in minutes. This is just as well as donations continue to arrive and are most gratefully received. We would also like to welcome several new sorters and Bookstore volunteers—your

efforts are most appreciated. Thanks for joining!

Also, we would like to thank the Associated Bank for providing us with space to display our Friends materials and books. We gave away many books and coupons and hope to bring in new customers. Bring your family and friends into the Bookstore and show them that we have much better prices than Amazon.com! Please consider giving a gift of a membership to your friends or family. And remember, gift certificates to the Friends' Bookstore are a great gift!

*Helen McIver, Bookstore Co-Manager*

*Friends of the Rochester Public Library*

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# News from the Friends' Board



Happy New Year to all! I hope that the Holiday season was enjoyable and that everyone got a good new book!

There has been a lot going on with the Friends. Our Library liaison, Carrie Farrow, moved to Salt Lake City where she is preparing for a wedding. Congratulations, Carrie, and best of luck in a new home and a new job.

Of course, this means we welcome a new Communications Manager to the job. I was involved with the committee to interview several good candidates and ultimately, the position was offered to and accepted by John Hunziker, previously of the Olmsted County History Center. You may remember him as the featured speaker at our last two annual meetings. He is a longtime supporter of the Library and we look forward to working with him.

The Friends were pleased to be invited to have a member join the search committee for the for the next Minnesota Poet Laureate. Thank you Sue McMillan for taking on the task.

Our Holiday Book and Bake Sale came to a successful completion, and now we move on to the Winterfest Sale on Thursday, February 7. Thanks again to all the volunteers who make these great fundraisers work!

The Friends have again provided auction items for the Foundation Board's fundraiser, Wit, Wisdom and Wine, on January 12. This is always a fun event and a huge fundraiser for the Library.

I hope to see most of you at our Annual Meeting on Monday, January 28. It is a good time to catch up with each other, meet new board nominees, Dave Anderson (book pricer and regular Bookstore volunteer), Emily Anderson (longtime Bookstore volunteer), Ruth Stroebel, (newsletter editor), and Carol Stucki (Bookstore manager) and thank outgoing longtime Board members Marion Bagne, Bev Reid, and Nan Frie. Not to mention sharing some tasty food. If you think you can make it, please RSVP to 287-2627 to help our planning. See you there.  
*Theresa Friedhoff, President, Friends of the RPL*

## ***Al Dollerschell's Amazon project exceeds \$10,000***

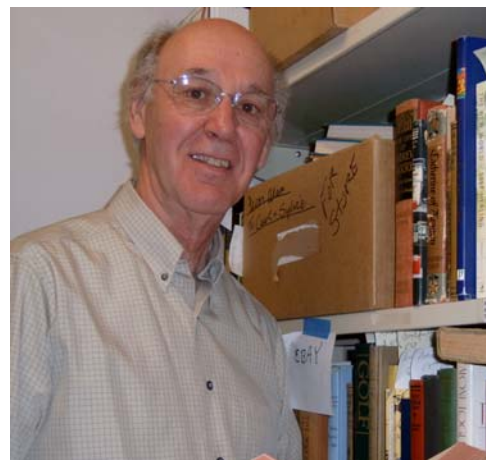
Since September, 2004, Al Dollerschell has maintained a one-man bookstore for the Rochester Friends on Amazon.com. This summer his net sales surpassed a milestone \$10,000.

Al started the enterprise when he noticed that some of the books contributed from the community were highly specific in topic and might be valuable. He explained that all book donations are first screened for possible use on the library shelves before being turned over to the Friends. Most are either placed in the Bookstore or held for our quarterly sales. When "rare or interesting" books come to the Friends, Al researches them for value and lists them on the Amazon.com web site.

He credits the educated book sorters for setting aside many of the books for possible Amazon sale. All types of books are listed, with subjects "all over the place," he says, although there is very little fiction.

Recent sales have included a picture book on Mexican costume which sold for \$599, an introduction to magnetic materials which went for \$349.95, and a book written in Croatian which was purchased by a woman in Vienna, Austria for \$82.95.

He currently has 750 titles listed. Thanks for all of your hard work, Al!



### ***COUPON***

**Good for 11:30 a.m.**

**Admission to Winterfest Book Sale**

**Thursday, February 7**

**12 Noon to 7 pm**

**Auditorium, Rochester Public Library**

# Winter Calendar — 2008

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

\*indicates advance registration needed at [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org) or 285-8506

**Sat Jan 5, 10:30 am** Family Film Program: Three Tales for a Winter Day—*Charlie Needs a Cloak, The Mitten, and Good Morning, Granny Rose*

**Wed Jan 9, 6:00 pm** IFilms: International and Independent Films: *Her Name is Sabine* (IFilm Series is intended for mature adults)

**Sat Jan 12, 10:30 am** Family Film Program: *Ben and Me*

**Sat Jan 19, 10:30 am** Hooray For Saturday! Family Film Program: Two Films—*Martin's Big Words* and *Snowflake Bentley*

**Tues Jan 22, 6:30 pm** Bedtime Stories

**\*Wed Jan 23, 7:00 pm** Story Time Program—Six Week Session for children independent of their parents or care providers beginning Jan 23

**\*Wed Jan 23, 7:00 pm** Introduction of Funding Resources. Meeting Room B

**Thurs Jan 24, 10:30 am** Stories for Toddlers and Twos

**Sat Jan 26, 10:30 am** Hooray for Saturday: Special Family Program—*The Magic of Bob Miller*

**Sun Jan 27, 1:00 pm** Yaggy Colby History Lecture

**Tues Jan 29, 12:00 pm** Internet. Meeting Room B

**Tues Jan 29, 6:30 pm** Bedtime Stories

**Thurs Jan 31, 10:00 am** Stories for Toddlers and Twos



## *Don't forget our Annual Meeting*

on January 28 with special guest, author William Kent Krueger. See front for more details.

We will also have the election for positions on the Friends' board.

Nominees for new members (3 year term): David Anderson, Emily Anderson, Ruth Stroebel and Carol Stucki.

Nominees for re-election (3 year term): Al Dollerschell, Karen Krueger and Dick Massaro.

Nominees for elected office (1 year term): President—Theresa Friedhoff, Vice President—Shirley Edmonson, Secretary: Dick Massaro

Nominations from the floor can be presented with a nominee's permission.

**Friends  
of the  
Rochester Public  
Library**

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