

Harriet Hodgson to speak at our January Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting, set for Monday, January 25, will feature well-known non-fiction author Harriet Hodgson. Socializing begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by a delicious lunch and a short business meeting. We will celebrate a very successful and exciting 2009, reviewing our achievements, elect Board members and officers, and preview (with dates) the Friends' plans for 2010 activities. All Friends of the Library are welcome. **In order to plan for food, please RSVP by January 22, if possible, to Shirley Edmonson at 288-7553.**

We are delighted that Ms. Hodgson will be our guest speaker. She has been an independent journalist for 31 years, and is a member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors, Association for Death Education and Counseling, and Association of Health Care Journalists. A prolific writer, she is the author of 27 books and hundreds of print and internet articles. She is a monthly columnist for *Caregiving in America* magazine and is also an Open to Hope Website author. Her writing comes from experience and Hodgson has shared her experiences on more than 160 talk shows, including CBS Radio and WCCO,



and dozens of television stations including CNN. Her work is cited in *World Who's Who of Women*, *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who in America*, *Contemporary Authors* and other directories.

Friends Mark 60-Year Anniversary in September



The Friends of the Rochester Public Library came together to celebrate their 60th anniversary on Sunday, September 20th. It was an occasion to greet long-time colleagues and new volunteers.

Tea was served with pastries, memories shared, pictures and newspaper articles that spanned the years examined.

Shirley Edmonson welcomed us and introduced former presidents. Audrey Betcher, Library director, thanked the Friends for their continued efforts to support the Library. Judith Taylor, former Library director, shared memories of past Friends activities.

We came away pleased with how much we've accomplished over the years and plans to support our Library in the future.

Theresa Friedhoff, Anniversary Tea Chair



From the Director

Congratulations to the Friends of the Rochester Public Library for 60 years of making a difference in the lives of Rochester and Olmsted County citizens!!

I was privileged to attend the 60th Anniversary party and help celebrate the event.

Sixty years is truly amazing!! Just think about what was happening in 1949. . .

- Harry S. Truman was president.
- The Berlin Air Lift continued through May when the blockade ended.
- China established the People's Republic.
- Arthur Miller won a Pulitzer Prize for "Death of a Salesman".
- George Orwell published "1984".
- RCA introduced the 45 rpm record.
- South Pacific opened on Broadway.
- Jackie Robinson was voted World Series MVP.

I see the Friends and the Library working together very much like a good marriage. Both the Friends and the Library have grown and changed over the years to meet the needs of our ever growing city, yet we continue to have the same commitment to the community and to each other.

Kudos to all of you for the work you do today built upon a solid foundation from the past.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

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Friends' Bookstore News



This is the time of year that I normally welcome the "READING SEASON". However, I have had a reading year. Now, in intensive physiotherapy I haven't had time to read; not fewer books purchased, as that pile continues to grow! I still can barely contain myself when I find a gem in the Friends' Bookstore! I will have a Book list Handout available in the bookstore of recommendations, both current titles and previous best sellers/classics. Please feel free to pick one up or make up your own and add it to someone's Christmas or birthday book gift. I personally love to receive a list of books that some one has said 'you must read this' and have discovered so many new authors. As the holiday season approaches, stop into the bookstore for great gifts for your friends and family. We have gift certificates in all denominations.

Fall and winter are traditionally our best sales months in the Friends' Bookstore. I am so pleased to report that this has been a banner year for the Bookstore, with increasing sales in the Bookstore, online and at our annual book sales. Donations continue to arrive. So many books, new and used, are being added to the library collection, to book-group bags, to the children's department. I am so pleased to report that hardly a book is ever thrown away. We have even made some damaged books into purses and bags! Friends at work can be very creative!

We will have had our annual fall coffee by the time you read this. Thanks again to each and everyone volunteer for the many hours of dedicated service. Your efforts have been instrumental in our support of the library, especially now during these uneasy financial times. Thank you to the volunteers who staffed the Friends Art Walk nights, keeping the bookstore open longer hours. We look forward to starting this again in the spring.

Please continue to encourage more people to buy and donate books to the Library and Friends. The Library and the community need our (your) support. We at the Bookstore are happy to make recommendations and provide you with the stack of books beside the bed, at your reading chair, near the fireplace for the coming months ahead!

Helen Whitney McIver, Bookstore Co-Chair

FRIENDS' BOOKSTORE AND BOOKSALE PRICING SURVEY

Because of current and future budget cuts, Our Library is in need of our help more than ever. The Friends are a major supporter of programming and materials for Our Library. Our pricing practices have changed very little in the last 10 years. We are currently reviewing these pricing guidelines and would like our members' input. ***Please complete this survey by December 5, either on-line at the Friends' link or on paper and deposit it at the Bookstore.*** Your ideas are important to the Friends' Board, the Bookstore committee and the Library staff. Thank you.

What is your opinion of the prices in the Bookstore?

Just Right

Too High

Too Low

Your suggestion:

What do you think of book pricing at Auditorium sales? Should it be:

By Donation only

Suggested Donation (ie 4/\$1)

Individual pricing (ie paperbacks .25, hardcovers .50, etc)

Your suggestion:

What do you think of the number of auditorium sales we hold? Currently we have 5. By donation sales are in February, April, June, October, plus we have a December Holiday Gift Sale. Should we:

Stay the same

Fewer Sales

Add another Sale

Add another day to current Sales

Your suggestion:

Please add your comments to encourage Member Participation. What can we do to improve? How would you like to become more involved and help Our Library?

For the Holidays: Something Old - and Unusual and Special!

Are you despairing of finding “the newest thing” for everyone on your Holiday gift list? Why not go for “the oldest thing” instead?

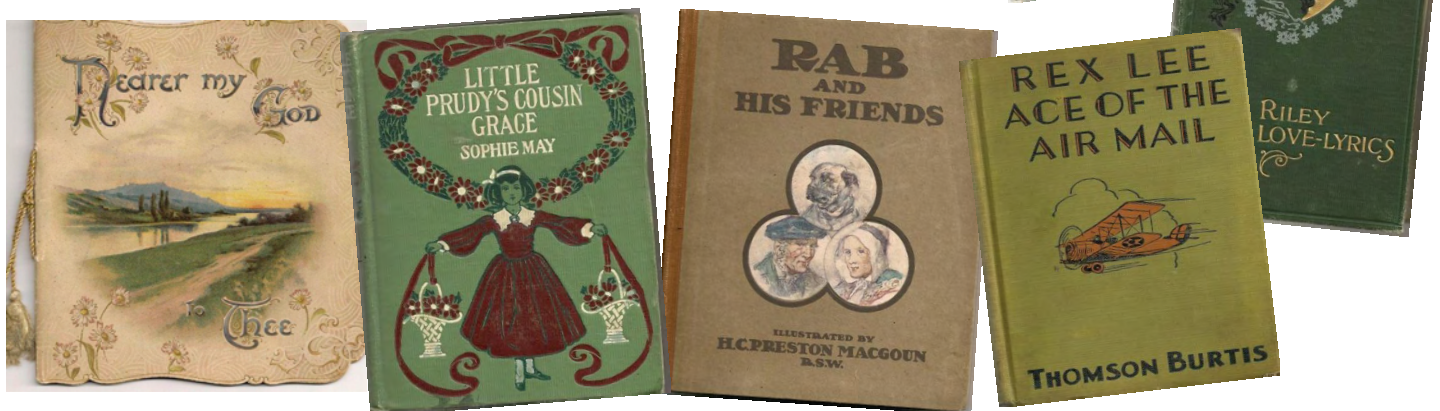
The Friends' Unusual & Special Books team is offering a treasure trove of REALLY OLD and rare books (1871-??) at the Dec 6 Friends of the Library Holiday Book & Bake Sale. These books range from large to small, pretty to plain, inexpensive to pricy, virtually pristine to “very well loved”.

You will find something for everyone! Here are some examples:

- >Familiar Literature: Washington Irving - *Selections from the Sketch Book*
- >Obscure Fiction: *Little Prudy's Cousin Grace*
- >Poetry and Verse: *Riley Love-Lyrics* (1905); *Farm Legends* (1871)
- >Cookbooks: *Cookbook of Leftovers* (1911)
- >Schoolbooks: *Elson-Gray Basic Reader Book 5* (1936)
- >Spiritual/Inspirational Books: *Nearer My God to Thee* (~1893); *Song of Our Syrian Visitor* (1911)
- >Young peoples series books: *Rex Lee, Ace of the Air Mail* (1929)
- >A few children's picture books: *Barnes Boys* (~1881); *Rab and His Friends*

Come November, we will be displaying these and many more “coming attractions” in our brand new glass display case right next to the elevator in the RPL lobby – watch for them!

--Sylvie Nickel and Carol Smyrk



Holiday Bakers Needed

Any and all donations are welcome for our December 6 Holiday Book and Bake Sale. Donations may include cookies, breads, candy or your own specialty. If convenient, package your items for sale--such as a dozen cookies on a paper plate wrapped in plastic wrap or a clear zip lock bag. Please deliver your contributions to the auditorium on Saturday afternoon, December 5, or drop items off in the bookstore on Friday. Your Holiday goody contributions are very much appreciated by both the Friends and our customers!

Holiday Book and Bake Sale

Due to the generosity of our community, we are pleased to offer many gift quality books during our Holiday Sale on December 6. These books are individually priced and free gift wrap will be offered by Friends volunteers. A very popular companion Bake Sale is a special treat. The sale is from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm, but members can come at 1:00 pm and enter through the bookstore. (Call 328-2341 to become a member). Don't miss the great bargains in our Holiday Book and Bake Sale!



President's Report

We had a 60th Anniversary Celebration on September 20, and memories were shared. Thanks to the committee for their excellent work: Theresa Friedhoff, Al Dollerschell, Karen Krueger, Elaine Schmidt and Joyce Wenz.

The Fall Book Sale on October 4 was a great success with a large number of people making a cash donation for books. The people of Rochester have been very generous to the Library with their donation of books. After the Library checks for what they can use, the bookstore is next, and what we do not have room for there, we sell in the auditorium book sales. As a result, we are now up to four cash donation book sales and one priced gift book sale each year. These help with our \$22,000 pledge to the Library, separate from the bookstore profits.

Our next project is the Holiday Book and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 6. This is the sale for gift quality books and great homemade baked goods. Karen Krueger and Majel Hall will be co-chairs.

The Rochester Public Library Foundation will be having the Wit, Wisdom and Wine Gala fund raiser on January 16, 2010. The Friends will be contributing some silent auction items. Mark your calendars now to attend this fun and educational benefit, where you can bid on the silent auction items which range from inexpensive on up.

January 25, 2010 is our Annual Meeting with luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the auditorium. Our speaker will be Harriet Hodgson, a local non-fiction writer. Come and meet friends, enjoy lunch and share in our 2009 accomplishments.

We are participating in Winterfest again with a 2-day book sale February 11 and 12.

This has been a busy year for the Friends; and some new activities were made available for us, in addition to our ongoing projects and the bookstore operation.

Friends have been generous with their time volunteering in many areas. Thank you for all you do for the Library. Have a Happy Holiday and New Year!

Shirley Edmonson, President, Friends of the RPL



On October 23, The Bookstore Committee thanked Bookstore volunteers for their efforts during the past year with a coffee and program. Volunteers with over 10 years were given special recognition, and attendees heard local author Ellissa Elliott speak on her new book, *Eve: A Novel of the First Woman*. (Can you guess the names and characters portrayed by committee members, above?)

COUPON

Good for 1:00 p.m. Admission
Holiday Book & Bake Sale
Sunday, December 6
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, Auditorium
Thursday, Feb. 11, 12:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 12, 9:30 - 1:00 p.m.



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Thank you for your support

Wanted: Co-Chairs for Our Bookstore

Are you looking for an interesting challenge that will help your reading community and the Library? Do you love reading? Do you have some time available each week to oversee general operations or be available to the Friends' Bookstore?

The Friends' Bookstore is in need of two Co-Chairs to manage the Bookstore and coordinate Volunteers for the next two years. This is an excellent opportunity to bring your creative ideas and managerial skills to help out the Bookstore Sales.

The person should have previous experience with our Bookstore, have a flexible schedule and be comfortable with delegating. You will need to be involved in one Bookstore Committee meeting per month (second Wednesday) as well as one Friends' Board meeting per month (second Monday). Please contact Gail Harris/Marilyn Campbell--Library Volunteer coordinators, or Carol Stucki, current Co-Chair if interested.

Thanks for Another Successful Fall Book Sale

The Fall Book Sale on October 4 was a little different this year as we had a preview sale on Saturday, October 3 for the Minnesota Education Media Meeting attendees after their meeting at the Mayo Civic Center was finished.

Sunday saw many customers who donated \$951.39 for the auditorium books and brought in \$145 for Rare and Unusual books giving us a total of \$1096.38 deposited with more to come in, so sales will total over \$1100. THANKS to the 31 volunteers who set up, restocked and repacked the books for a total of 108 hours.

The Minneapolis group, Books for the Future, took our remaining books. They sell them, and with the proceeds, buy trees for Africa. Thanks to Elizabeth Ritman for helping load the books.

Shirley Edmonson, Fall Book Sale Chair