

## Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

Seventy members attended the Friends Annual Meeting Luncheon January 27th. The catered luncheon consisted of chicken casserole, fruit salad, rolls and butter, with many bars and cookies provided by the Friends board. The fellowship was a time to celebrate our common commitment to the Library.

The business meeting followed with the presentation of the 2009 budget of \$34,880 by Sylvie Nickel. The election of new board members for three years: Carol Mikesh and Barbara Eakins. Re-elected for three year terms were Shirley Edmonson, Theresa Friedhoff, Elizabeth Ritman, Elaine Schmidt and Joyce Wenz. Elected to one year terms are President: Shirley Edmonson, Vice President: Elizabeth Ritman, and Secretary: Dick Massaro; elected for a two year term is Treasurer: Sylvie Nickel.

Our bookstore activities for 2008 included:

- Five book sales raising \$11,128, which includes \$1300 from *Unusual and Rare Books* thanks to Sylvie Nickel and Carol Smyrk. This helps fund the **Read with Me** program at Methodist and Olmsted Hospitals, providing books to newborns in English and Spanish thanks to Pat Stephenson. We were able to have Rochester families photographed for the newest edition.
- We funded \$4500 for Adult/Youth/Children's programming, approved funding to the Library to purchase: five magazine spinners and Children's, purchased stand-up opac stations between FM&M and the circulation desk, purchased a new registration table, implemented slatwalling of an existing reference display, ex-

panded genealogy databases, purchased Rochester Reads books and supported the Summer Reading Program, and paid for a parking space for working volunteer usage.

- The books donated to the Friends contained almost \$127,000 in books that the Library could use.
- The ink cartridge-recycling program raised \$250.
- Our budget funded Books to the Troops and postage thanks to Pat Stephenson.
- Our Amazon link provided \$1,017 in commissions and online sales made \$4,476 thanks to Al Dollerschell, Pat Stephenson, Sylvie Nickel, and Carol Smyrk.
- We initiated an appreciation Breakfast for the Library Staff during National Library Week.
- We made memorial contributions to the Library Foundation for Gil Brown and Jan Karlson.

*See the bookstore article on page three for more information.*

The 370 Friends volunteers contributed 14,603 hours to the Library, provided 42 Library Hosts helped 793 students by means of the Homework Assistance Program.

Mr. Matthew Dacy, Director: Heritage Hall/Museum of the Mayo Clinic spoke about the Pioneering women of the Mayo family, including their connections to the Library. The interesting talk was filled with many antidotes and pictures.

*Shirley Edmonson, President Friends of the Library*

# From the Director



As Friends of the Library, you do so much for the community. You give us your time, talents, and treasures. You also a great advocates for the library as you talk to friends and neighbors about your volunteerism. Especially in tough times, people turn to the library, and you are a part of how we support the entire community.

So as you talk to your friends and neighbors, here are a few things to talk about.

Libraries are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically. During tough economic times, people turn to libraries for their incredible array of free resources, from computers to books, DVDs, and CDs, for help with a job hunt, for learning computer skills, for finding all kinds of information, or to participate in the activities of local and community organizations.

- Circulation was up 18 percent in December 2008 compared to December 2007 at RPL.

Libraries help level the playing field for those in the community who can't afford to pay for information or access to technology. (Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work>) In a world where knowledge is power, libraries make everyone more powerful. Libraries offer free access to all; they bring opportunity to all. Examples:

- Some businesses only take online applications. Many come to the library to apply for jobs using our free high speed internet computers. (Only 44 percent of the top 100 U.S. retailers accepted in-store paper applications in 2006.)
- Many come to read classified ads in our newspapers.
- Many come to check out materials when in the past they may have bought them.
- Some type resumes on our word processing computers and print their resumes on our laser printer.

Public libraries are there to support learners at every age. As schools cut their budgets students look for support in other places. Examples at the Rochester Public Library:

- Homework assistance is also available for free

from the Rochester Public Library. Whether the student comes in to work with community volunteers three nights a week or uses the online tutoring program, Live Homework from Tutor.com, from a computer, the student receives help.

- Practice ACT, SAT, etc. tests and study guides.
- General resources to help in student research.
- Early literacy support from infant to preschooler through materials and storytime kits for parents and daycare providers.

Your ability to get information shouldn't depend on your ability to pay for it. Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer more than 7.2 million questions weekly.

There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the U.S.—a total of 16,549, including branches.

The national average annual cost to the taxpayer for access to this wide range of resources is about \$31, the cost of one hardcover book. Libraries are among the most effective of all public services, serving more than two thirds of the public with less than two percent of all tax dollars.

Americans spend more than twice as much on salty snacks as they do on public libraries.

Thank you so much for all you do. You make Rochester and Olmsted County a better place to be, especially in financial hard times.

*Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director*

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## *Friends of the Rochester Public Library*

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## News from the Friends' Board

### 2009 will be an active year for the Friends

Thanks to **Theresa Friedhoff** for her strong leadership of the Friends for the past two years. We have increased our sales, money raised and other library involvement. Her warm friendly smile made everyone feel welcome.

Also, thanks to Theresa Friedhoff and her volunteers for another successful Winterfest Book Sale and to all who came to purchase.

As part of National Library Week, the Friends Board will serve an Appreciation Breakfast for the Library staff. A Spring Book Sale is scheduled that week on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The bookstore volunteers are continuing to do a great job sorting and selling. Congratulations on your efforts, which produced a check for \$45,000 for the library. Carol Stucki presented the check to the Library Board at their January meeting. Your work is greatly appreciated by Library Board and staff.

In 2009, we will continue to support Library programming, fund Read with Me, maintain the work of the Friends Book Store, hold a total of five Book Sales, publish four Newsletters, find one parking space in the ramp for volunteers, provide emergency relief funds and books to libraries in distress, and provide funding and volunteer hours for Library needs and requests. The Friends provided 370 volunteers in 2008. See our bulletin board for a list of our 2009 activities.

If you would like to volunteer with the Friends in one of the above activities or in a different area wherever your talents lie, we can find a place for you. Give Gail Harris or Marilyn Campbell, the Library Volunteer Coordinators a call at 328-2341 or stop by the Library office. You can also call me, Shirley Edmonson at 288-7553.

This is a stressful economic time for the Library, and by giving of our time and support, we can make a meaning contribution of relief.

*Shirley Edmonson, President, Friends of the RPL*

## Friends' Bookstore News



2008 was a great year for the bookstore and our wonderful volunteers are the ones to be congratulated for our success. In January we were able to give the library board a check for \$45,000.00. The volunteers put in over 6000 hours of service to accomplish our goal.

We are looking forward to another great year. We have started by getting clean and getting organized. Bev Reid and Shirley Stevenson have cleaned and organized the back office so we actually now have room to put the priced books on the shelves. Helen McIver and Bob DeBus have been organizing the stacks in the back room so that it will be easier to find the categories we need for the store when we are shelving.

We are looking forward to participating in ArtWalk again this year when the weather warms up and we always look forward to helping with the Friends garage sales. We also want to welcome Shirley Edmondson and Mary Leppala to our committee and give our heartfelt gratitude to Pat Wade and Theresa Friedhoff, who are leaving the committee. Thanks to everyone who contributes to our success.

*Carol Stuckey*

\*\*\* **COUPON** \*\*\*

**Good for 9:00 AM Admission**

**Spring Book Sale**

**Saturday, April 11, 2009**

**9:30 AM to 5:30 PM**

**Auditorium, Rochester Public Library**

## **Tribute to Adrienne McConahey**



The Friends note with sadness the death of longtime volunteer and RPL supporter, Adrienne McConahey. She, along with her husband Bill, were long-time Friends of the Library, giving of their time in many ways, including much support of the bookstore project in its infancy. She served on the Friends board from 1982 to 1986. Dr. McConahey was among the original organizers of the store and served as head of its management committee for a number of years. Adrienne worked with him weekly as a clerk in the store and supported all projects of the Friends. She enjoyed the annual garage sales, helping at the checkout table. Adrienne had also been active in other volunteer activities in the community, including acting as a tour guide at Heritage House.

From *Browse*, newsletter of the Jackson County (IN) Public Library:

“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can’t read them.”

*Mark Twain*

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From *Just Between Friends*, newsletter of the Friends of the Clinton (IA) Public Library:

“The richest person in the world—in fact all the riches in the world—couldn’t provide you with anything like the endless loot available at your local library.”

Malcolm Forbes

**Friends  
of the  
Rochester Public  
Library**

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Thank you for your support