

News from Friends

Volume 21, Number 2

Summer, 2009

Thank you Library Staff!

RPL staff members joined the Friends' Board for a "thank you" breakfast April 20, following a busy week filled with National Library Week activities. The staff was treated to breakfast pizza, fruit and breads

This, the second annual such event, was highlighted by a visit from a "dumpster diver" (alias Al Dollerschell) who serenaded the staff with his version of "Wouldn't it be Loverly." About 60 people enjoyed the food and camaraderie.

The Friends wish to thank all staff members who help and support us with our projects, put up with our being in their way and make a friendly environment in which volunteers can work.

Karen Krueger



Volunteers Honored



Over 130 people enjoyed an afternoon of good food and light entertainment in late April, when Rochester Public Library volunteers were honored for their many hours of work..

The event, "Two Blocks Short of Broadway", featured innovative and delightful skits based on well-known literature presented by the various departments where volunteers work. What a creative bunch of book-loving staffers we volunteers work with! The skits were clever and the auditorium rocked with laughter during the program.

It is always a pleasure to see so many people attend the recognition event--it means there are a lot of volunteers giving of their time. And it is nice to get a pat on the back for it!

Karen Krueger



Race Exhibit coming to Library in 2010

The Library has been in discussion with the Mayo Clinic about hosting the RACE Exhibit during the summer of

2010. The following information is taken from the website about the RACE Exhibit (www.understandingrace.org):

"The exhibition "RACE: Are we so different?" brings together the everyday experience of living with race, its history as an idea, the role of science in that history, and the findings of contemporary science that are challenging its foundations.

Interactive exhibit components, historical artifacts, iconic objects, compelling photographs, multimedia presentations, and attractive graphic displays offer exhibit visitors an eye-opening look at its important subject matter.

Developed by the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the <u>Science Museum of Minnesota</u>, RACE is the first nationally traveling exhibition to tell the stories of race from the biological, cultural, and historical points of view. Combining these perspectives offers an unprecedented look at race and racism in the United States."

The exhibit is 5,000 square feet and it will be

housed on the second floor in the rotunda area. That's a significant commitment of space. We will move collection and seating around for the duration of the exhibit. Some seating will be moved off-site during the exhibit, and some materials will be stored (but accessible) as well. All library services will continue during the exhibit.

So why host the exhibit at the library? The Mayo Clinic is bringing this exhibit to the community for the community, so what better place than the library to bring people together! When the Mayo Clinic staff asked us if we were willing to host it, the Library Board discussed it. They agreed that it was on mission and a great opportunity for the Library to stimulate community discussion, provide an opportunity for lifelong learning, build community partnerships, and generate additional awareness of the library.

You'll be hearing a lot more about the exhibit, including updates in this newsletter. I anticipate many opportunities for the entire community to engage around the exhibit. I look forward to the Friends being part of the discussion.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Friends' Bookstore Facts

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library Bookstore was formed 11 years ago dedicated to strengthening the existing resources of the Library while promoting awareness and use of the Library services. We are a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers.

We have a lovely store in the 'new' Library with sorting space in the back. We have over 75 volunteers who run the store, another 35+ who help sort, and 10 people who price books. Many other Friends help out in the Library.

We have progressed from one annual garage sale to the Rochesterfest two day event, with three other sales during the year (Winterfest, Spring Cleaning and Fall Cleanup) as well as our December Holiday Book and Bake Sale. The Special and Unusual Book Sales are also held in conjunction with these sales.

Last year we were able to place over 5600 books as new or replacement books into the Library or Book mobile from donations. We have also funded the purchase of books and several programs from sales in the store (generally \$45,000 each year). Volunteers in 2008 spent 1500 hours sorting books, while the bookstore clerks worked over 4500 hours in the bookstore or special sales. Over the last 6 years we have contributed over 36,000 books worth over \$850,000. These are very impressive numbers, which depend on our donations.

Recent projects include Books for Soldiers, Online Sales (text books, out of print books, unusual and special books), Art Walk, and Book Group Book Bags.

Helen Whitney McIver







MEET PAULA POUNDSTONE

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library & Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me! panelist, comedian and author Paula Poundstone join forces to raise funds for Rochester Public Library

Join the Friends and Paula on
Friday, June 26 at the Mayo Civic Center
from 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm

Purchase tickets at any Ticketmaster location, at www.ticketmaster.com, or at the Mayo Civic Center Box Office at 30 Civic Center Dr. SE. Visit www.mayociviccenter.com or call 507-328-2222 for more information.

The Rochester Friends of the Library will be selling Paula Poundstone's book *There's Nothing in This Book That I Meant to Say* on the evening of the show. A percentage of the proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Friends of Rochester Public Library. Paula will sign books following the show.

Current Friends of the Rochester Public Library

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Friends' Bookstore News

The Friends' Bookstore continues to be the best deal in town--not only do we have an amazing selection of books, they are organized, in good to excellent condition, often new or sought after editions, and are the least expensive books locally! In addition, our volunteers are delighted to help locate or suggest books. I am sure this contributes to our rising sales, which helps us support the Rochester Public Library.

We are frequently asked questions concerning our book donations: where they come from, where they go, how they are priced. Sorting the books and media (dvds, books on cd or cassette, music cds) that we receive from generous patrons of the Library and the Bookstore has become a huge, but welcome task. Although it is sometimes overwhelming, our sorters do a tremendous job. To highlight a few: Russ Gangestad remains our stalwart sorter every Monday, coping with the weekend deluge. Bob DeBus has helped organize and label sorted books which make access easier for the bookstore volunteers, Special Sales and requests. Jean Davison and Ruthann Yaeger, and many other sorters provide a great deal of time and experience in our quest to provide books to readers, Library and Bookstore alike. We have over 35 sorters and 75 bookstore volunteers.

The Library has first dibs on any book that is donated. Currently they are accepting not only newer fiction, but also older novels in good condition for replacements. We are also trying to sort/stock books that need to be mended, saving time and money. Many children's books are also added to the collection each year. Mary Leppala single handedly does a brilliant job with all our children's books! Non fiction accepts books that are printed within the last 10 years, but also specialty books of interest as well as replacement copies. I am delighted to report that the Friends' donations also replace books that are lost from the Book Group Book Bags and that we are starting new book bags.

The Friends' Bookstore sells books that the Library doesn't take, as well as their discards (for an amazing price of 25cents). We also hold 'garage' sales at specific times of year, where the prices are incredibly low. Theresa Friedhoff has been instrumental in the success of these sales. We stock books in the bookstore DAILY and have ever changing displays to highlight seasonal reading as well as new arrivals.

We have a great team of people who find readers or collectors for other books. Books are sold online at many sites, at Special and Unusual sales, given to Soldiers in Iraq and other venues. We have been able to provide the Library and the Bookmobile with additional funds and programs because some books that were previously thrown away or added to the garage sales (old textbooks, condensed books, foreign language) are now being sold online. I must commend Al Dollerschell, Carol Smyrk, Sylvie Nickel and Pat Stephenson for their initiative and continued dedication. In addition, when stock is plentiful, the Bookstore provides books to other local libraries in times of crisis (floods, fires, etc) or to local organizations such as schools and nursing homes.

These are only some of the areas where we sell or donate our books. All bookstore profits are given to the Rochester Public Library for the purchase of books, materials and programming. I am amazed that very FEW donated books are not used somewhere. Only if a book is in poor condition (read here musty, mildew or torn), is it discarded. Hardcover and paperback books in any genre or language are accepted. Our fabulous volunteers spend HOURS sorting books, organizing, categorizing, selling in the bookstore or online, packaging, scouting out new opportunities and attending meetings to look for new ways to help both the Library and the Community. A huge thank you to Marj Steinbauer for organizing/ juggling the monthly schedules. Behind the scenes, Nan Frie, Annette Sjolund and Karen Krueger do a wonderful job keeping abreast of the Friends Database. Niru Bhatia somehow manages to make sense of all the bank statements, bookstore receipts, special sales and donations. The Friends Newsletter is admirably run against deadlines by Ruth Stroebel and Barb Eakins. Last, but not least, Carol Stucki, is our Bookstore Manager Extraordinaire.

We do have a Bookstore Committee – if you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of them. Carol Stucki, Helen Whitney McIver, Bev Reid, Karen Krueger, Paul Walding, Shirley Stevenson, Yvonne Landgren, Mary Leppala, Sue McMillan, Shirley Edmonson. From time to time other members attend the meeting to address issues/concerns (special books, sales, mending, volunteer applications, etc). It is always difficult to select only a few names to thank, as there are SO many wonderful **FRIENDS**.

Helen Whitney McIver



As a result of the hard work of co-chairs Theresa Friedhoff and Paul Walding and many volunteers, the April 11 book sale was a great success. The profit was \$1439.00.

The Friends Staff Appreciation Breakfast April 20 was successful, thanks to Theresa Friedhoff and the Friends Board. Al Dollerschell wrote and sang a song about books and reference librarians to the tune of *Wouldn't it be Loverly*. The April 23 Library Volunteer Recognition attendees ate delicious food provided by Dunn Brothers, were entertained by book-related skits by librarians from different departments, and received many door prizes.

Our sincere thanks to Dorothy Gauthier who gave a \$500.00 donation to the Friends, which will be used for children's programs.

In June, we have two activities coming up: the Rochesterfest Book Sale June 24 and 25 and the Paula Poundstone fundraising performance at the Mayo Civic Center June 26. Remember to wear your Rochesterfest button when you visit the bookstore June 20-28 and choose a free book from the button cart

Dates to mark on your calendar: Sunday September 20--Friends 60th Anniversary celebration, Saturday October 3--Fall Book Sale, Sunday December 6--Gift Book and Bake Sale.

Shirley Edmonson, President, Friends of the RPL

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Rochesterfest Book Sale set

Please mark June 23, 24 and 25 on your calendar for the Rochesterfest Book Sale. We will set up on Tuesday, afternoon June 23. The sale is open to the public Wednesday, June 24, 9:30am to 9:00pm (9:00 am to Friends members) and Thursday June 25, 9:30am to 7:00pm. We will need volunteers to set up on Tuesday and to help at the sale Wednesday and Thursday. Please sign up on the sheet in the back room of the bookstore, or if you can help in any way, call Shirley Edmonson at 288-7553.

Help save money, environment

You can help us save printing and postage costs if you choose to have the Friends' newsletter sent directly to your mail. Simply send an e-mail with your a n d e-mail address name to nanlibrary@charter.net. By removing your name from our post office mailing list and adding it to our e-mail list, we can reduce the cost of printing and postage and also be more environmentally friendly. Thanks to those of you who have already chosen this option.

COUPON

Good for 9:00 am Admission

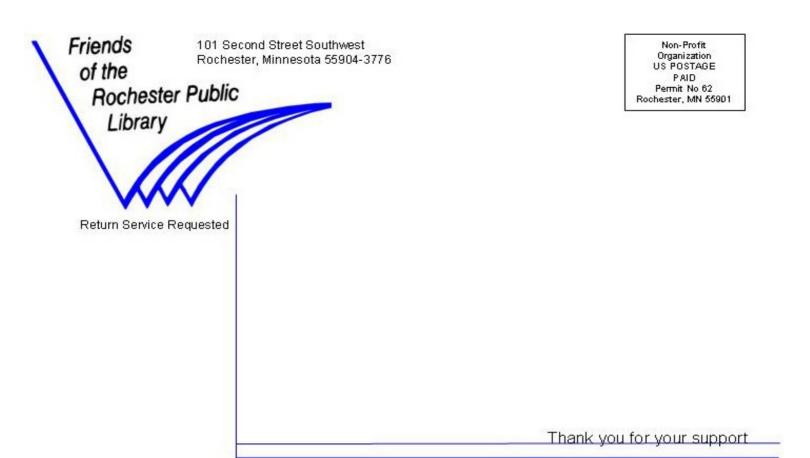
Wednesday, June 24

Rochesterfest Book Sale

Wednesday, June 24, 9:30 am - 9:00 pm

Thursday, June 25, 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

Rochester Public Library Auditorium



Paula Poundstone Live!

Paula Poundstone, comedian, author and the national spokesperson for ALTAFF (Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations), is performing June 26 at the Mayo Civic Center 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm. As part of her commitment to ALTAFF, she is pleased to partner with the Friends group in every city where she performs. She will make space available in the lobby for us to sell her book, *There's Nothing in this Book that I Meant to Say*, and keep the proceeds. She will sit with us after the show and autograph them. We also will have space available for a promotional display to encourage Friends membership.

This is a unexpected fundraiser and publicity for the Friends. Please plan to attend and enjoy a hilarious evening while benefiting the Friends. Tickets are \$35.00 and \$29.50 If any books are left over, they will be available at the bookstore, retail price: hard-cover \$24.00 and paperback \$13.95.

Amazon Ordering Reminder

When you make any Amazon purchase--books, toys, household goods, etc.-- don't forget to access the Amazon site through the Library main page (www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org) or the Friends' page. Click on the Amazon banner and continue your purchase, and the Friends will receive a percentage of the total amount. Thanks in advance!

Summer Bookstore Hours

Monday	10 a.m 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m 4 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m 4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m 4 p.m.
Saturday (summer)	10 a.m 1 p.m.
Sunday (summer)	Closed