

Friends 2010 Annual Meeting

Sixty people attended the January 25th Annual Meeting, enjoying a luncheon of beef stroganoff, fruit salad, rolls, dessert, fruit punch, and coffee.



The treasurer's report of 2009 expenditures and our budget for 2010 were presented at the business meeting. Also, 392 individual volunteers recorded 17,021 hours at the Library in 2009. The Friends lists about 500 on our membership rolls in 2009.

Marjorie Berryman retired with our grateful appreciation for her years of service on the Board. Majel Hall and Sylvie Nickel were re-elected, and Kay Aune and Mary Barrett were newly elected, all to three

year terms on the Board. Elected officers for 2010 are: President, Shirley Edmonson; Vice-president, Elizabeth Ritman; Secretary, Dick Massaro; and Book Store Manager, Mary Barrett. Beginning in 2011 the officers will be elected for two-year terms; as we have been serving two years by custom.

Important activity dates for 2010 were in the hand-out packet, along with the 2009 membership lists. Those members were individually recognized and thanked for their committee service. Elizabeth Ritman and all members of her committee was thanked for organizing the luncheon.

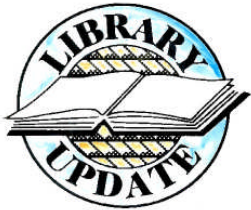
The quilt made for the RACE exhibit was discussed and the Friends will host the unveiling. *See the article about the RACE exhibit on the next page.*

Audrey Betcher, Library Director, thanked the Friends for all of the volunteer hours and financial support of the Library.

Following the business meeting, we enjoyed an informative talk by the well-known local author, Harriet Hodgson, entitled *Health Writing in this Economy*. Afterward, there was a drawing for four autographed copies of some of her recent books.



Shirley Edmonson, Friends President



From the Director

I have recently been presented with the annual numbers of volunteer hours and the value of the materials added to the collection

through donations. WOW!!!! I hope each and every one of you is patting yourself on the back.

You volunteered more than 17,000 hours in 2009. That is equivalent to more than 8 full-time employees. Independent Sector estimates the value of a volunteer hour in 2008 as \$20.25. That puts a value of \$344,675 on the hours you donated to the library. Please keep patting yourself on the back.

Through your efforts in sorting through the donated materials, the library was able to add 8,501 items to the collection with an estimated value of \$196,575. Another WOW! Your work made possible an amazing gift to the entire community

I haven't even begun to sing your praises for all the work that goes into the bookstore (and the \$50,000 just given to the Library at their January board meeting), book sales, and online sales.

I was at a recent meeting with other library directors and I was telling them about the incredible job that you do. One director lamented that she doesn't have the volunteer support to handle donations except during a very short time once a year.

The entire community is very generous with their material donations to the Library. I am so grateful for the support of each and every one of you who maximize those gifts by turning them into items for the collection, dollars for materials, programming, and other library essentials. Pat yourself on the back again. You deserve it.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Volunteers Needed



RACE: Are We So Different? is a traveling exhibition that is being hosted by Mayo Clinic and the Rochester Public Library as part of a cross-country tour of museums, science centers, and community areas. This exhibit will help communities understand what race is and what it is not, and will offer individual visitors critical tools to recognize race and racism in their own lives. The exhibit will be on display at the Rochester Public Library May 17 - to September 4.

We are looking for volunteers to lead facilitated discussions, or act as Lead Docents and Docents. Training will be provided for all volunteers. Your help is needed to make the exhibit a success! When you go to the link below, you will find the job descriptions for the three positions available. Also, please use this information at this link, if you are interested in applying, or for more information, please go to the following link:

<http://diversitycouncil.middlewaygroup.com/community/race-exhibit>

Check this out:

- ◆ New blog created by Friends for Friends.
- ◆ Enter <http://www.friendsbookstorerochmn.blogspot.com>
- ◆ This great new blog contains book reviews, Bookstore hours, and more.

President's Report: 2009 Friends of the Rochester Public Library Activities

The following items were:

- Presented a check to the Library Board for \$50,000 from Bookstore profits.
- Sorted and made available to the Library collection \$196,575 in book donations.
- Planned and executed five Book Sales through out the year, raising \$11,496.53. Below are pictures from the June RochesterFest Sales and the December Sale.



- Received 5% (\$1500 in 2009) on sales totals on purchases made through the Amazon link on the Friends webpage. See the Amazon article on the next page of this newsletter. *Please continue to use this link for all of your Amazon purchases.*
- Made \$16,000.83 in On-line Sales thanks to the efforts of Al Dollerschell, Sylvie Nickel, Carol Smyrk and Pat Stephenson. A storage cabinet for the sorting room was purchased for the books to be sold online.
- Continued an ink cartridge-recycling program raising \$ 423.49, thanks to Connie Havers and Paul Koeller for handling that project. *Encourage your friends to bring their cartridges into the library.*
- Continued funding the *Read with Me Program* at Methodist and Olmsted Hospitals, providing books to newborns in English or Spanish. Many thanks to Pat Stephenson.
- Purchased a bookstore neon sign for the Library window.
- Participated in the Paula Poundstone Concert, June 26, with sale of her materials, with the Friends receiving the profit of \$229.
- Participated in the Art Council sponsored ARTigras Village, August 22, with books to sell (\$124.00) and Friends information
- Provided 709 books sent *Books to the Troops*, thanks to Pat Stephenson.
- Approved funding to the Library for:

Children's programming	\$4,500
Summer reading projects	\$1,000
Databases	\$7,286
Merchandising project	\$9,500
Rochester Reads	\$486
Total	\$22,772
- Provided an Appreciation Breakfast for Library Staff during National Library Week
- Donated two baskets to the silent auction at Wit, Wisdom and Wine fundraiser for the Library Foundation and one basket to the Minnesota Libraries.

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- Donated two baskets to the silent auction at Wit, Wisdom, and Wine fundraiser for the Library Foundation and one basket to the Minnesota Libraries.
- Published four newsletters for members. Our newsletter is now available online for members who sign up for delivery; see the last page of this newsletter for information on receiving the newsletter online..
- Paid for one parking space in the ramp for our volunteers.
- Celebrated our 60th Anniversary September 20th with a program and tea.
- Received a \$1,000.00 grant from the Rochester Commercial Bank Association for Children's programming.
- Received a \$1,500.00 grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation to purchase 100 postal container boxes for the storage of books in the sorting room and two rolling carts for them.
- Logged 17,021 hours by 392 volunteers at the Library.

Shirley Edmonson, Friends President

Amazon Pays Off Friends!

Tell your friends! Tell your family! Tell the person behind you at the checkout line!

When you shop on Amazon.com **through the Friends portal**, we receive a commission on your purchases!



Just click on the **Friends** tab on the RPL website, then click on the **Amazon** link, and spend at will!

Every month, Amazon deposits a check for 5% of all purchases made through the Friends site. **All** your purchases! Not just books, music, movies, software -- but also headphones, iced-tea makers, pet fountains, sweatshirts, nutmeg, propane torches, lighters...! Not just Amazon's products, but offerings from Amazon Marketplace vendors as well! Last year we earned over \$1500 in commissions.

A win-win example: RPL asked the Friends for a new laminator to replace the old one "on its last legs". The office staff found the best-priced one on Amazon, and we ordered it for \$1503. The purchase delighted the staff, pleased the Friends, AND earned us a \$75 commission.

Please, remember your Friends when you shop Amazon!

Sylvie Nickel, Treasurer



Friends' Bookstore News



Many changes are occurring in the Friend's Bookstore. First, Carol Stucki has turned over the management of the bookstore to Mary Barrett. Thanks to Carol for all of her time and effort during her three years as manager.

Second, the Bookstore Committee has begun a review of all the bookstore's policies and job descriptions. The current ones are so old that they are not even on anyone's computer! The various bookstore documents have been retyped, and the Bookstore Committee will begin reviewing them at the February meeting. While most of the documents are fine, some do contain outdated information. For example, the policies say that Friends can only get a 10% discount on the day that they work, and only working Friends can earn the discount. Obviously, this is not the way the bookstore has been operating.

Finally, the Bookstore Committee has been reviewing the way books are priced for the store. While this review has led to some very emotional discussions, we hope to arrive at a pricing policy everyone can agree on when we meet in February.

The Friends' Bookstore's number one charge is to act as a fundraiser for the library; another charge is to serve the community. The pricing policy we develop has to reflect both of those charges. The next time you are in the bookstore, introduce yourself to Mary Barrett. And if you don't meet her in the bookstore, feel free to contact her at home with any questions or suggestions. You can call her at 288-5173 or e-mail her at mary.barrett@charter.net.

Friends Bookstore Hours

Monday: 10 am-8:30 pm
Tuesday: 10am-4 pm
Wednesday: 10am-4pm
Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday: 10am-4pm
Saturday: 10am-1pm
Sunday (School Year): 1:30pm-4pm
Sunday (Summer): Closed

WinterFest Book Sale

Thanks to Pat Stephenson and Mary Leppala, co-chairs, plus many volunteers, we had a very successful sale.

463 people attended with sales over \$2350, a payment is still to come in, which should bring us close to \$2400.

Along with the books, we sold one picture and five 8x4 tables and two 8x18 tables.

Children's books and cook books that were left over from the sale were given to Channel One.

Left over books on tape and VCR tapes were taken to the Bookstore for sale.





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Thank you for your support

Friends of the Rochester Public Library

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**National Library Week Book Sale
Sunday, April 18**

Join the search for book bargains in many categories at the April 18th sale from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (1:00 p.m. for Friends). Friends, please use the coupon below or your membership card for early admission. Volunteers are needed for setup on the 17th from noon to 2 p.m. and for help on the 18th. Please sign up in the Bookstore backroom or call Shirley Edmonson at 288-7553.

National Library Week Book Sale

Sunday, April 18

Early Admission Pass

1:00 P.M.

Rochester Public Library Auditorium

Are you still receiving your newsletter via the postal service? To help us save postage and paper, please send your e-mail address to nanlibrary@charter.net. Thanks to all who have already chosen this option.