

## Friends' Bookstore News

The past few months have been successful ones for us in the Friends' Bookstore. The Friends' Board has approved our statement of Bookstore Policies as well as our Bookstore Job Descriptions. We had a very successful audio tape sale in the lobby, and on May 8 we had a Coffee Table Book Sale in the lobby. Dunn Brothers donated coffee so we could offer our customers a free cup of coffee as they shopped. The Bookstore Committee hopes to implement a "Second Saturday" event, with a special activity or sale offered on the second Saturday of each month. The Coffee Table Book Sale was the first of these events. We have found that having the sale in the lobby draws many people into the bookstore for the first time. In addition to the special sales, we have two major initiatives. One is to increase the number of volunteers in the bookstore. We are hoping to recruit volunteers who are in high school and college as well as the young professionals and empty-nesters in Rochester. If you know of anyone who is looking for a volunteer opportunity, we'd welcome their help in the store – even if for only one three-hour shift per month. The second big initiative is to increase our advertising and marketing. Several of us attended a class on how to market a business; it was sponsored by SCORE and offered through Community Education. We also have plans to create a brochure to be offered at the Mayo Clinic Information desk so that visitors can find us at the library. By fall we hope to be



able to offer customers an electronic payment option (both credit and debit) as they make purchases in the store. Thanks to Helen Whitney McIver, we have a beautifully updated web page as well as a blog and Facebook entries. All of these changes are intended to help more Rochester residents and visitors find and enjoy the Friends' Bookstore.

*Mary Barrett, Friends' Bookstore Manager*

## Friend Donates Digital Video Camera To the Library

A wonderful long-time friend of the library has donated a digital video camera to the Communications Division of the Library. Within four days, Ginny Erbe, our communications liaison person, created 32 videos! We have several interesting clips of the RACE exhibition process/documentation, as it is being put together. Yes, we DID get the full recording of Robert Alexander's lecture as well. We hope you will be able to view these shortly! There is a wonderful potential to have these and other clips available online. And we hope to have them in the Library as well (as DVDs). It could be a good resource for book clubs that discuss these authors or books.

Ginny has been instrumental in keeping the Friends' blog, website and Facebook pages up and running. Please check them out as this is an up-to-date source of information. Ginny is also responsible for the Library's monthly newsletter. I recently heard a patron exclaim that he finds the calendar and then plans his monthly schedule because there are so many wonderful programs in the Library.

*Helen Whitney McIver*



## *From the Director*

The exhibit "Race: Are We So Different?" opened at the library on May 17th and runs through September 4th. As you have probably seen, there has been a lot of activity in the library in preparation.

- Meeting Room B is now the home of the international languages collection.
- Nonfiction VHS tapes and audiocassettes have moved into staff only areas. (And staff are happy to retrieve anything you need.)
- A professional mover emptied shelves and cleared out the rotunda area.
- Some seating was removed.
- A wall went up for the duration of the exhibit.
- Banners went up, came down in high winds, and different banners went back up.
- Extra electrical was installed.
- Doors were widened so the exhibit could get into the building.

Kudos to Karmen Gusa and Louise Moe from Reference for the space planning for the second floor during the Race Exhibit. They have worked very hard to minimize the impact on library users.

Approximately 7,000 students will go through the exhibit during the first three weeks, so we know it will be a busy summer!

### **SAVE the DATE!**

There will be a special fundraiser for the

#### **Rochester Public Library**

TUESDAY 30 November 2010.

#### **CELTIC FEST!**

Join us for a whisky tasting event as we celebrate

St Andrews Night (the patron Saint of Scotland)

Details will be available in the next Newsletter, online and by contacting Kathy Olson at

[KATHY@rochester.lib.mn.us](mailto:KATHY@rochester.lib.mn.us)

We appreciate all the support from the Friends towards the exhibit. A quilt, Threads of our Community, was unveiled at the Library on Sunday, May 16th. The quilt is truly a work of art and could not have been completed without the volunteer and financial support of the Friends. Friends participated by creating some of the quilt blocks, and Friends Karen Koeller and Annette Sjolund designed the quilt and created the final product.



Make sure you also check out the related T-shirts available for sale in the bookstore. The T-shirts were designed by Pat Stephenson and Mary Barrett, and all profits go to the Friends. What a great way to contribute!!

The ability to partner with the Mayo Clinic to be the community gathering place this summer is a once in a lifetime experience. I hope you take advantage of it.

*Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director*

*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](mailto:nanlibrary@charter.net). Thanks to all who have already chosen this option.*



# President's Report

We have been busy this spring beginning with the April 18 National Library Week Book Sale which resulted in a \$888.00 profit from the three-hour sale. Because of our lack of storage space, unsold books were donated to *Books for the Future*, a non-profit agency in Minneapolis. Non-print materials were donated to Channel One. Thanks to the 20 volunteers who helped set up and sell, making the event a success. On April 19 Friends Board members served a Staff Appreciation Breakfast for members of the Library Staff to thank them for their help to the Friends. A volunteer Appreciation Reception, sponsored by the Library Staff was held on the afternoon of April 22. It was a time of thanks and fellowship for the volunteers who work throughout the Library. Thanks to all the Friends members who generously give their time and talents in Library and Friends activities.

Donations to the Rochester Public Library Foundation were given in the names of Linda Tierney, Elizabeth Drips and Rita Salmon, three Friends who passed away in the past few months. If you are aware of any member who has died, please inform us, as sometimes the obituary notice is missed and we are late in recognition. Thank you.

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As you can see in reading the article on Upcoming Events below, we have two summer activities coming up, and hope you can help. Have a good summer, and enjoy the warm weather!

*Shirley Edmonson, President, Friends of the RPL*

## Friends Upcoming Events

### Jun 23 -24 Rochesterfest Book Sale

We will again participate in Rochesterfest activities with our summer book sale. Set up for the sale in the Library Auditorium is June 22, 12:00 - 2:00 pm. Sale hours are June 23, 9:30 am - 8:00 pm and June 24, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. A cart with a free book for anyone wearing a Rochesterfest button will be set up in the Bookstore during the festival. We will be selling buttons in the bookstore in advance, as well as during, Rochesterfest. Call Shirley Edmonson, 288-7553, if you can help with the set up or sale, or you may sign up in the Bookstore.

### August 21 ARTigras Village

We will have a booth at Mayo Park again this year displaying some of our art-related materials as well as membership forms and information on volunteer opportunities. If you can help, call Shirley Edmonson, 288-7553. We increased our visibility in the community last year with our participation in the event.

## COUPON

**Good for 9:00 am admission, June 23**

(enter through Bookstore)

## Rochesterfest Book Sale

**Wednesday, June 23 9:30 am - 8:00 pm**

**Thursday, June 24 9:30 am - 3:00 pm**

**Auditorium**



*Friends  
of the  
Rochester Public  
Library*

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## ***Friends Host Launch of Community Quilt Project***

On Sunday May 16th the Friends hosted the launch of the Threads of Our Community Quilt. The quilt, a collaborative community art project is now hanging on the long stairwall in the library lobby. It features 54 blocks by local artists that represent their culture or heritage and varying needlecraft traditions. Our very talented Friends members Annette Sjolund and Karen Koeller designed and constructed the quilt for us, receiving support from the Quilters' Sew-ciety. A book telling the personal stories behind the quilt blocks is also on display. The celebratory launch featured delightful refreshments, music and dance and closed with the haunting music of the bagpipes. It was a wonderful afternoon for the artists and we thank the Friends for all their support with this exciting project. Do take a few minutes to take a look at the beautiful quilt and the book.

