

Friends Spring 2011 Book Sale

The Friends held another successful book sale on April 2nd and 3rd. There were a total of 15 volunteers who donated 65 hours of their time. We had no complaints about reinstating the suggested minimum donation of 50 cents per paperback and \$1 per hardcover. Patrons were very happy with the bookmarks with the dates of future sales printed on them. The set-up went smoothly and easily; and we were ready for the Friends before 1:30pm. We completed the tear down easily before 4pm and everyone was out by 4:20pm. We brought in just over \$1,150 for the library. My thanks and appreciation go out to everyone who helped.

There will be no shortage of books for this year's Rochesterfest Book Sale. Volunteer sheets will be posted in the Friends' Bookstore on May 16th. Dates and times are:

Set-up: Tuesday June 21st from 3pm to 5pm

Book Sale: Wednesday June 22nd 9:30am to 8:30pm. Friends may enter the sale at 9am; see the coupon on the last page of this newsletter.

Book Sale: Thursday June 23rd 9:30am to 7:30pm.

Clean up: From 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Unusual and Special Books will also be for sale both days of the sale with shortened hours of 10am to 2pm.

See pictures from the last sale on later pages of the newsletter.

Bruce Witts, Book-Sale Chair

Bookstore Volunteer Wins REA Human Relations Award

Pat Stephenson is a Rochester Public Schools employee who is also a valued volunteer for the Friends, both in the Bookstore and as a sorter. In addition to her volunteer hours in the library, Pat is also the liaison for our outreach programs at Channel One, Gift of Life Transplant House, and many others.. This spring Pat was nominated for the Rochester Education Association Human Relations Award, and she was announced as the winner at Bamber Valley (her school) on Thursday, May 5. The Bamber Valley staff honored Pat with a crown, gold cape, flowers, and a song specially written for the occasion – "The Community of Bookwomen." We congratulate Pat on her award; the REA could not have chosen a better or more deserving recipient for their Human Relations Award!



Pat with Gail Harris, Library Volunteer Coordinator, who wrote a letter in support of Pat's nomination.





From the Director

Changes at the Library

In a recent newsletter I mentioned the trial of changing things around in the lobby. The trial is complete and successful, and we will be making the changes permanent.

A keystone in the change is our ability to add more self-check units because of the generosity of the Friends. More self-check units make it more convenient for patrons to check out materials themselves. Patrons like being able to check out materials quickly to be on their way. There are often lines for the self-check units now. When the change is complete, there will be five new self-check units. (There are three units now.)

The new self-checks not only provide for two more stations for people to check out materials, but every unit also has more features than the old self-check unit.

- People will have the ability to pay fines and fees with a credit card at the self-check unit. Each unit will have a credit card swipe.
- The new units are smaller than the current self-check machines. The new units are eleven inches narrower!
- The units are touch screen.
- The units support multiple languages.
- You can see all your account information (and even print it or email it) right from the self-check.
- Receipts will be optional.

Some of the changes to the lobby and adjacent space. The large desk where the self-checks used to be will be removed. The terrazzo floor under the desk will be repaired.

- A permanent table will replace the banquet tables where the self-check are currently. (The table will accommodate one handicapped accessible self-check unit.)
- The Fiction, Movies, and Music desk will get smaller and shift slightly.

- The hold pick-up location will stay where it currently is. It is 26 feet longer than in the old location. Permanent shelving will replace the temporary shelving.
- Although the location of the library catalog computers is shifting, the number of computers for searching the library's holdings remains the same.



New Self-Check Machine

All the changes are being made to serve the community better. None of this would have happened without your generosity!

Changes will begin April 25th and will be complete mid-May.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Schools Out! Get 20% off all fiction books at the Friend's Second Saturday Sale on June 11 in the Library Foyer from 10 am to 1 pm.

Social Media



The Internet, Web, Facebook and twitter are here to stay! Social media has created a fundamental shift in the way we communicate: word of mouth is now World of Mouth.

Last year we expanded and transformed our Webs pages (attached to the Library website), to create an interesting, informative and “a go to” site for Friends events, library activities, and other literary events. We post the dates of our book sales well in advance, up to a year, the special Saturday Sale topics are listed, dates of meetings, coffees and author visits are described. We added links, historical information, newsletter archives and an event calendar. We also highlighted Friends’ projects including the Threads of Our Community Quilt, the RACE exhibition, online book sales or Friends funding (e.g. self check machines, genealogy software). The library website is getting a new look this year (The Library: it is more than just books); consequently the Friends’ pages will also be updated and refreshed. If you have any comments or additions, please email Ginny Erbe or Helen Mclver.

We also added a Facebook presence and a blog, providing more interaction and immediate updates for our patrons as well as attracting new friends, while linking us with the outside world. Interestingly, although over 50% of the population is now under 30 years of age (and 96% of them use all forms of social media), the fastest growing section of Facebook users is 55+ females. All 50 states visit our website, Facebook and blog. We have had some wonderful interactions with authors, poets and other bloggers. Over 50% of our followers are from around the world: Venezuela Argentina China, Hong Kong South Africa, Indonesia, Romania, France, India, Singapore, ...at last count 130 countries.

On the Friends’ bog and Facebook, we try to highlight literary events in Rochester as well as the U.S.A. and internationally. For example May is Get Caught Reading Month and has a Book Buddy Day (first Wednesday in May), Family Reading Week (first week in May), as well as National Library Legislative Day. It also National Feminist week during the week of Mother’s Day. More in-depth information and links can often be found on the blog.

In addition to general information concerning the Friends, book reviews are posted. If you have read a good book please feel free to comment on Facebook or write a review! Email Friendsbookstorerochmn@gmail.com. We have a number of discussion topics relating to the next good book, 15 authors, genres. We had some fun reading contests last summer and anticipate more this year - check out the blog to keep posted! Some contests involve opportunities to win books, early registration prizes, event passes, or even a free bottle of Library wine.

Befriend our sites!

“We don’t have a choice whether we use social media, the question is how well we use it.” Erik Qualman

Helen Mclver, Online Information Chair



Friends’ bookstore blog:

<http://friendsbookstorerochmn.blogspot.com>

RPL blog: <http://rochpubliclibrary.wordpress.com/>

Friends’ Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/friendrochpublib>

President's Column



As newly elected Friends of the Library president, it is my privilege to tell you about some of the recent activities of the Board since the January annual meeting. These dedicated board members are appointed to one or more of the wide ranging committees making up the back bone of our Friend's organization.

Cuts made to Library funding have increased the need for the financial support from the Friends. Committees working to raise funds include the Bookstore, On-line sales, Second Saturday and Auditorium book sales. *Have you visited the Bookstore lately?* Increased sales and returning customers show that team work and ongoing changes have made this store into a place well worth a visit, and are a vital part of the funding given by the Friends to support the Library.

The Board recognizes the need to increase community awareness of the Friends' many activities. The publicity committee is making a concerted effort to widen and co-ordinate information sent to the print media, radio, TV and the ever expanding electronic communication via the Friends' website, blog, and Facebook. *Have you checked out the Friends' website at www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/friends lately?* Keep watching this site as staff and board members update the templates with a new look.

Friends funding goes to support RPL programming for children, young adults and adults. Board members work closely with library staff for the Rochester Reads and the Author Series to help publicize the events and sell the author's books. *Have you been to an Author Series lately?* Plan to attend and listen to visiting author Kamala Nair on July 28 when she talks about her latest book "The Girl in the Garden."

The Board appreciates a strong working relationship with the RPL staff to keep the many and varied activities running smoothly. A Staff Appreciation Breakfast was held on April 18th where the Board and RPL staff sat and visited – a delightful way to thank them for all their help.

The success of the Friends doesn't rely just on the Board - it needs the active support of many volunteers. Being involved increases the enjoyment of being a Friend. It promises to be a rewarding year ahead. Consider stopping by the library or going on-line and offer your help – we need the help of Friends like you!

Elizabeth Ritman—Friends of the Library President

Pictures from the April Book Sale



Friends' Bookstore Hours

Monday: 10 am-7 pm
Tuesday: 10 am-4 pm
Wednesday: 10 am-7 pm
Thursday: 10 am-7 pm
Friday: 10 am-4 pm
Saturday:
 Summer 10 am-1 pm
 Winter 10 am-4 pm
Sunday:
 Summer: Closed
 Winter 1:30 pm-4:30 pm

Friends' Bookstore News



Does anyone really know all that the Friends do in relation to the Bookstore? For example, the sorters look over each donated book, set aside books for the library staff to go through, screen books for online sales, and price books for the store. The Bookstore cashiers stock shelves, keep the store tidy, interact with customers, organize books in the back room so the books are ready to go out on the shelves, keep the discard cart full, and take care of Paige Turner. These are the two most obvious groups: the sorters and the cashiers.

But what happens behind the scenes of the Bookstore is awe-inspiring.

- Friends Bookstore volunteers deliver books to Channel One, where clients may pick up free children's books, or adult non-fiction and fiction.
- Friends Bookstore volunteers deliver books to places in town such as the Gift of Life Transplant House so those who are here waiting for treatment at the Mayo Clinic have adequate reading materials.
- Friends gather requests from soldiers in Afghanistan, Iraq, and all over the world. From the donated books, Friends fill the requests and ship off books to men and women in the military. The Friends send a variety of additional books in most genres in case they have not been able to submit requests.
- Friends manage the newborn program, *Read With Me*, where each baby born in Olmsted County receives a book bag containing his or her first book.
- Friends have adopted libraries in other communities and helped them to fill out holes in their collections when we have multiple copies of books.
- Friends attend events such as the ArtiGras and ArtWalk and Poetry Conferences, and sell books and materials to these specialized audiences.

- Friends volunteer to give up their Saturday mornings in order to conduct the Second Saturday Sales as an additional fundraiser.
- Friends take requests from people looking for specific title with specific copyright dates, post these requests in the sorting area, and fill requests on a regular basis.

All of these special activities – and more – are coordinated through the Friends' Bookstore.

New in the Bookstore

During March and April, the Bookstore has finished its face-lift begun a year ago. We now have two "Bookstore Open" flags for the lobby and the foyer.

The back room has been rearranged so that

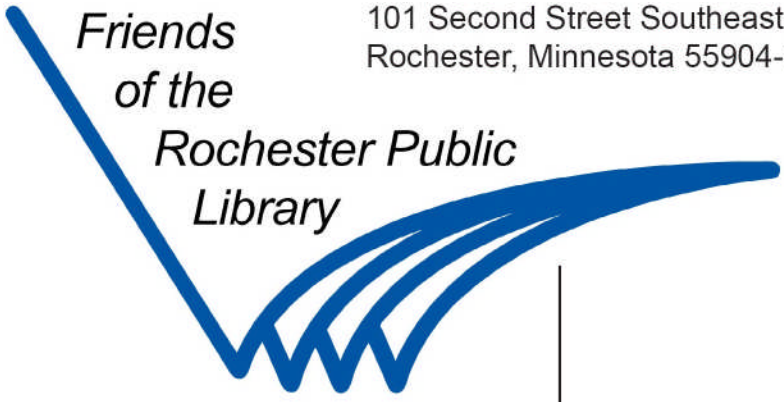


we can provide a second entrance to the store from inside the library. The check-out desk has changed position to accommodate the new wires for the credit/debit card reader. We are now a full-service Bookstore and continue to get great customer

feedback. The goal we've set this year is to raise \$60,000 for the library, so come in and shop with us! We will continue with our Second Saturday Sales through the summer, and in the fall we'll evaluate all of the changes we've made (including our extended hours) to make sure that the changes are productive.



Mary Barrett, Bookstore Manager



*Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library*

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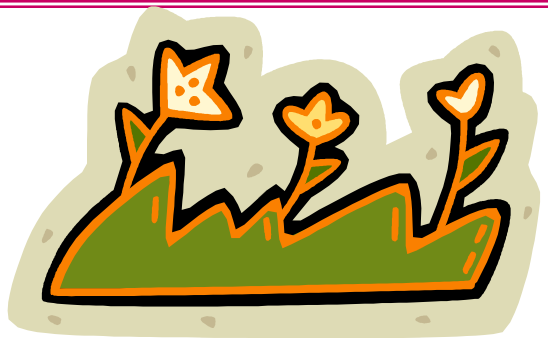
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Thank you for your support

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



Rochesterfest Book Sale 2011

June 21—9:30am to 8:30pm

June 22—9:30am to 7:30pm

**Early Admission Pass for June 21
Friends may enter at 9am.**

Rochester Public Library Auditorium