

Friends 2011 Annual Meeting

The Friends Annual meeting January 31, 2011 followed a delicious lunch arranged by Theresa Friedhoff and committee in the Library Auditorium. A hand out of activities of the Friends for 2010 was available, along with Board and committee members and other pertinent information. Retiring Board members: Emily Anderson, Al Dollerschell, Karen Krueger, Dick Massaro and Ruth Stroebel were thanked for their service on the Friends Board.

New officers were elected for a two year term, President: Elizabeth Ritman, Vice President: Barbara Eakins, Secretary: Carol Stucki and Treasurer: Dave Anderson. New members were elected to the Board for a three year term, Denny Anderson, Phyllis Hambright, Liz Ruffalo, Julie Taylor and Bruce Witts. Re-elected to the board for a three year term were: David Anderson, Helen McIver and Carol Stucki. All 2010 Board members, committee members and volunteers were thanked for their time. Mary Barrett gave an overview of the book store activities for 2010.

A total of 20,667 hours were donated by volunteers for 2010. Minnesota counts a volunteer hour worth \$21.00. This gave the Library \$434,007 in volunteer time. Audrey Betcher, Library Director, thanked the Friends for their continued support, in time, advocacy and financial.

Al Dollerschell presented an interesting and informative talk along with pictures of his archeological experiences in Jordan. Elizabeth Ritman presented the 2011 board and committee members, and plans for the Friends. A drawing was held for four gifts.

Shirley Edmonson, Friends President 2009-2010





From the Director

Library Expansion – Will it Happen?

The library expansion was included in the list of projects slated for the sales tax extension. The list of projects was approved by the Rochester City Council in December. We are very excited to be included!

Before library expansion can take place, the sales tax extension needs to get approval from two more entities: the state legislature and the voters of Rochester.

Rochester has had a local sales tax since 1983. It has been of great value to Rochester, Olmsted County, and the State of Minnesota. Past projects included: flood control, local costs for Highway 52 and for other major City and County Arterial Road projects, and funding for Higher Education Facilities at RCTC and the University of Minnesota – Rochester.

In 2010 the City had an extensive public process to identify projects for the sales tax extension. The library presentation was one of many that the citizen committee heard.

The City is asking the state legislature to allow the Rochester citizens to have a referendum to extend the current half cent sales tax.

If the state legislature approves the referendum, then the citizens of Rochester will vote on whether they want to extend the sales tax.

Only if both are approved will the library expansion take place.

If the expansion takes place, here are our preliminary expectations:

- The third floor of the library would be completed and a fourth floor would be added above the rectangular portion of the library. The total addition on both floors would be approximately 30,000 square feet. (The current building is 85,470 square feet.)
- The entire amount the library requested was not approved. We don't know yet exactly what that means for the library expansion, but we expect some of the space to be shelled in to be completed at a later date.

I know nothing is certain as the sales tax extension moves forward through its processes, but I am very jazzed to think about the possibilities of how we can better serve the public through a better space.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

History Hullabaloo

The Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota sponsored this History Day program, and the Library hosted it here on January 5 and 22 mostly for Olmsted County students, although students from Jackson county made the three-hour drive. Participating students were mentored individually by Historical Society staff and U. of MN. student history majors, with our Library staff aiding in locating materials for their History Day completion project. The Friends staffed the registration table and provided juice, cookies and coffee for the participants and parents. Special thanks to volunteers Elizabeth Ritman, Elaine Schmidt, Majel Hall and Carol Mikesh.



Shirley Edmonson



Volunteer Thank You

A big thank you to the following volunteers:

Board members: Dave Anderson, Emily Anderson, Kay Aune, Al Dollerschell, Mary Barrett, Barbara Eakins, Shirley Edmonson, Theresa Friedhoff, Majel Hall, Karen Krueger, Dick Massaro, Helen McIver, Carol Mikesh, Sylvie Nickel, Elizabeth Ritman, Elaine Schmidt, Ruth Stroebel, Carol Stucki, and Joyce Wenz.



Committee members:

Book Store: Mary Barrett, Carol Stucki, Shirley Edmonson, Helen McIver, Yvonne Landgren, Mary Lepkala, Sue McMillan, Bev Reid, Shirley Stevenson, Paul Walding and Ann Griese;

Membership: Emily Anderson and Nan Frie;

Finance: Sylvie Nickel, Dave Anderson, Theresa Friedhoff, Shirley Edmonson and Elizabeth Ritman;

Newsletter: Ruth Stroebel, Barbara Eakins, Francenia Wilson and Nan Frie;

Online Sales: Al Dollerschell, Sylvie Nickel, Carol Smyrk, Pat Stephenson, Mary Leppala, Barbara Eakins and Phyllis Hambright.

Other: Marge Steinbauer, Paul Koeller, Al Dollerschell, Shirley Edmonson, Majel Hall, Pat Stephenson, Sue McMillan and Dick and Nancy Massaro.

Some of our volunteers have visibility, while many are behind the scenes. All our over 378 Bookstore and Library volunteers did a great job!!

Shirley Edmonson, Friends Past President

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 to 4 pm

Sunday:

Winter 1:30 pm-4:30 pm

Summer: Closed

Rochester Public Library Friends Board for 2011

Officers (2 year term)

President	Elizabeth Ritman: 282-9708
Vice-President	Barbara Eakins: 288-8700
Secretary	Carol Stucki: 282-7805
Treasurer	David Anderson: 289-3794



Board Members (2 year term)

Book Store Manager: Mary Barrett

Denny Anderson

Kay Aune: *Membership Chair*

Shirley Edmonson: *Past President*

Theresa Friedhoff: *Events Chair*

Majel Hall: *Publicity Chair*

Phyllis Hambright

Carol Mikesh

Helen McIver: *Electronic Communications Chair*

Sylvie Nickel: *Foundation Board Representative*

Liz Ruffalo

Elaine Schmidt

Julie Taylor

Joyce Wenz

Bruce Witts: *Book Sales Chair*

Library Volunteer Coordinators: Gail Harris and Marilyn Campbell, 328-2341

Library Communications Manager John Hunziker, 328-2343

Library Communications: Ginny Erbe, 328-2340

Elizabeth Ritman, Friends President 2011

Friends bookstore blog:

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

President's Column: 2010 Activities



We had a busy year in 2010 with ongoing and new activities. Thanks to the generous donation of many thousands of books by the Rochester community, the Library was able to add or replace 10,593 items in their collection for an estimated value of \$250,684. The Friends of Rochester Pubic Library sorted all of the contributed materials to permit the selection of these items for the current RPL collection.

Not only were the Friends responsible for regular bookstore sales of other selected items throughout the year, but we staffed and managed five large auditorium book sales including Rochsterfest and Winterfest and multiple other special sales.

Our bookstore profits check for 2009 given in January 2010 was \$50,000. In addition, the Friends made another pledged cash contribution of \$25,901 to pay for specific requested library projects, plus special requests of \$4,000 during the year, for a total value of **\$330,581**. Our 2010 pledge of \$15,000 for a self-check machine is carrying over to 2011. The Friends:

- Volunteered for the Minnesota Library Association meeting in Rochester, where we won the MLA "Best Friends Project" Evy Nordley Award, including \$1,500 for "The Threads of Our Community" quilt project. We hosted a celebration of the quilt unveiling for the artists and families.
- Helped with the RACE exhibit.
- Participated at the August ARTIgras event at Mayo Park with a booth that gave us visibility.
- Won a \$1,500 prize from the Unique Management Services survey drawing. The money was donated toward purchase of a Mac Pro laptop computer and software to enable the Library staff to improve their online communications and video projects.
- Donated money to buy six new tables for the children's area and \$1,565 to pay for the electrical work needed in replacing the computers in the Children's area of the Library.
- Donated \$400.00 toward purchasing a Cricut Cutter Machine for the Children's Department.
- Bought new carts and tables for the book store and book sorting area.

- Sold books online, which has enhanced our ability to pledge more money to the Library.
- Backed the Library sponsored Rochester Reads event, Summer Children's programs, Library programming, databases and software, materials and training with \$25,901.
- Provided volunteers and refreshments for the History Hullabaloo in January 2011, sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society to aid students with their research for History Day projects.
- Increased our visibility through the Internet and social networking. In addition to the Library's website, we have a bookstore blog and are on Facebook and Twitter.

Projects we are continuing are: Read With Me (books for the young child), mailing books to the military in various areas of the world, donating books to Channel One, recycling of printer cartridges, paying for a parking space for volunteers in the ramp next to the Library, and providing a Library staff appreciation breakfast.

A big "Thank You" to our members, who donate so much time to the Library, as well as dues for membership. You make all of the above possible.

Shirley Edmonson, Friends Past President

Holiday Book and Bake Sale

On Sunday, December 5, 2010, the Friends of the Library held its annual Holiday Book and Bake Sale. This is a festive sale with gift-quality books, free gift wrap, and great baked goods. This sale brought in \$1344 for the Friends. We would like to thank all Friends who donated their time and baked goods to

make this a successful sale.



Friends' Bookstore News

Year-End Summary



2010 was a year of growth and change for the Friends' Bookstore. The Bookstore Committee had several areas of focus for this year, including alphabetizing all the fiction, an increase in advertising, adding special sales, and recruiting new volunteers.

The first big change was alphabetizing the fiction, both paperbacks and hard cover books. The first big step in the direction of re-organization came with the help of John Hunziker who built the Bookstore



enough shelves to fill the tops of our window bookcases. This allowed us to both increase the number of books we displayed as well as to reduce the crowding on our shelves. Another huge help in this re-organization project was a donation by Barnes & Noble of a large bookshelf, which allowed us to re-



move three carousels and consolidate and alphabetize all of the mystery and suspense novels as well as classics and science fiction. Later Barnes & Noble donated a smaller shelving unit that allowed us to re-

move the final carousel and re-organize the general fiction and romances. The library also gave us a shelving unit that allowed the Bookstore staff to alphabetize all of the trade-size fiction on one side and all of the new hard cover fiction and non-fiction on the other. Finally, we did a bit of re-organization on the built-in shelves, so all of the hardcover one- and two-dollar fiction is alphabetized on the East wall. As a result, the Bookstore has a much more professional look – plus customers' favorite authors are easy to find, and all of the carousels and rolling carts are gone. Sue MacMillan has kept the store beautiful with her clever and timely displays.



2010, the Friends' Bookstore has dramatically increased its online presence. Helen McIver and Ginny Erbe have kept all of the Friends' events in the public eye via Twitter, Facebook, and the library website. We have advertised all of our sales in a variety of online venues as well as on local cable channels. Sorters such as Mary Leppala, Pat Stephenson, and Phyllis Hambright screened books for online sales. Pat Stephenson, Al Dollerschell, Sylvie Nickels, and Carol Smyrk handled the online sales for the Friends.

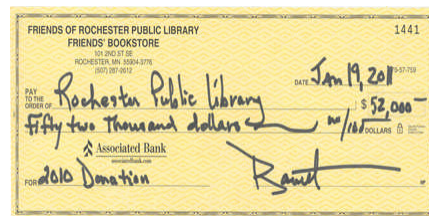
In 2010 we began our Second Saturday Sales, with each sale revolving around a theme such as cookbooks or beach reads. Held in the library foyer, the sales dramatically increased community awareness of the Bookstore. Although we still occasionally get the question, "Oh, do you have a bookstore?" most of the library patrons have learned about the store and look forward to seeing Paige Turner in the foyer. The sales have also proved to be a good source of revenue. The Friends' Bookstore also participated in the Art Walk several times and had a booth at ArtiGras in August. Finally, the Bookstore has many new volunteers, both cashiers and sorters, who have joined us this year.

One of the new members, Sandy Glocke, has

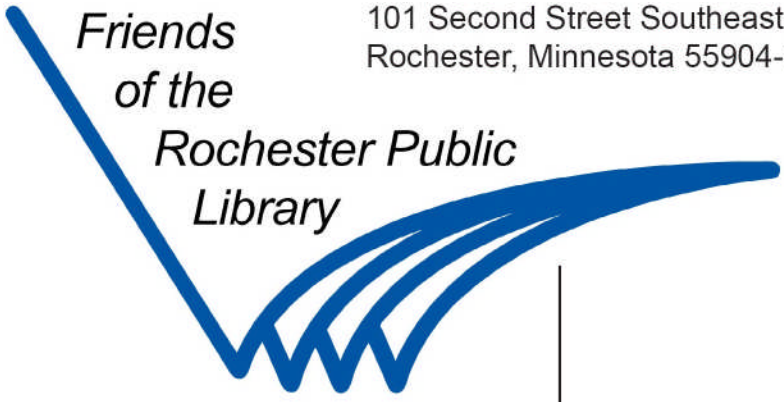


Painted our windows with books, and each season she has added decorations to match. Currently, we have snowflakes.

In October, the Bookstore celebrated its 15-year anniversary, so it seemed appropriate to present the store with a facelift, updating the appearance. Sue MacMillan created a chart that shows the growth of the Bookstore sales and donations to the library during this time.



On January 19, the Friends' Bookstore presented a check to the Library Board for \$52,000, our donation for 2010. This is in addition to the almost \$250,000 in materials that the Library took for its collections during the year. All in all, 2010 was a great year due to all the hard work and dedication of our many volunteers.



Friends
of the

Rochester Public
Library

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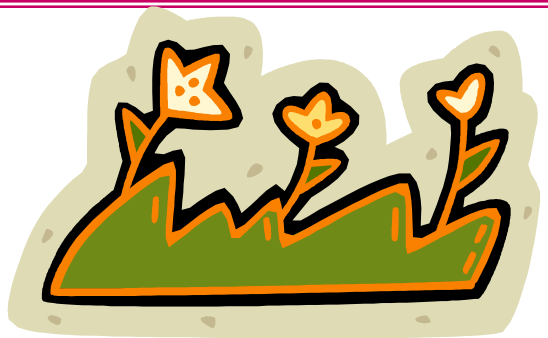
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Thank you for your support

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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.



Spring Book Sale 2011

April 2—2:00 to 5:00 PM

April 3—1:30-4:00 PM

**Early Admission Pass for April 2
Friends may enter at 1:30 PM**

Rochester Public Library Auditorium