

2013 Friends of the Rochester Public Library Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Friends of the Rochester Public Library annual meeting in the Auditorium on January 28, 2013 at 11:30 AM. Following a delicious lunch a short business meeting will be held to elect new officers and board members. We will celebrate a successful 2012, review our achievements and give a preview and dates for 2013 activities. Richard and Sharon Krom are the speakers for the annual meeting and will be discussing their book "The 1st MN....Second to None".

In order to plan for food please RSVP by January 21 to Elizabeth Ritman 282-9708, Gail Harris or Marilyn Campbell 328-2341.

Richard and Sharon Krom

Authors of their recently published book, "The 1st MN....Second to None", Richard and Sharon Krom have had an interest in history for many years. More recently that interest has focused on the American Civil War. Richard is the President and Sharon the Program Chair of the Rochester Civil War Round Table. They have spoken on a wide range of Civil War subjects at

schools, History Centers and to numerous groups across the state. They especially enjoy sharing the story of the First Minnesota Regiment in which Richard's Great Grandfather Edward H. Bassett served.



After a nearly decade long search Richard and Sharon located 218 letters written by Edward that are included in their book. The letters along with an extensive historical narrative provide an illuminating insight into the daily lives of these brave Minnesotans as they endured the arduous marches, tedious camp life and fought in more than 34 major battles and 61 other engagements in three years.

Friends of the Library Board Nominations for 2013

The Nominating Committee for the Friends is pleased to announce the slate of Officers and Board Members to be elected at the Annual Meeting on Monday, January 28, 2013.

At that time board member Majel Hall will leave the Friends' Board: Thank you Majel for your years of dedication and service.

Nominations for new board members (Three-year term)

Iris Fried, Lathika Nair, and Pat Siljberg

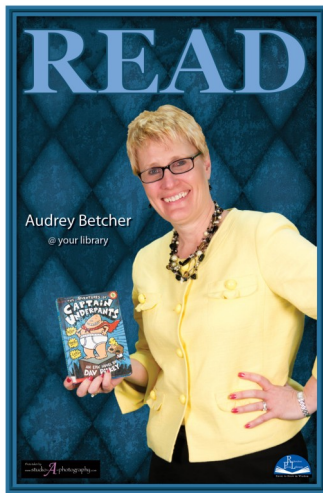
Current Officers

President: Elizabeth Ritman
Vice President: Barbara Eakins
Treasurer: Dave Anderson
Secretary: Kay Aune
Bookstore Manager: Mary Barrett

Nominees for 2013 Officers

President: Barbara Eakins
Vice President: TBD
Treasurer: Dave Anderson
Secretary: Harriet Hodgson
Bookstore Manager: Mary Barrett

From the Director



I want to publicly thank the Friends of the Rochester Public Library who contribute so much of their time and expertise to significantly enhance Library services for the entire community. Our Friends group began in 1949 and over the years has given many thousands of hours and dollars to cover programming,

collections, equipment and space upgrades.

In 2011, the Friends donated 18,166 hours of volunteer time from 378 people. They select and deliver materials to homebound individuals. They sort all of the books that are donated and from these donations, books valued at \$201,369 were put back on the shelves for the public to enjoy. The proceeds from the Friends' Bookstore goes right back into the library's material budget, so we can buy more books. The Friends also have auditorium sales and special events that support Children's, Teen and Adult programming, summer reading projects, databases, Rochester Reads, and library technology. They have made major contributions towards the upgraded Children's Room. These are items that would not have been funded without their help.

I know that the Rochester Public Library is a source of pride for our community. Our Friends group is a source of pride as well. I hope that you will consider calling the library to find out how you can join and support this outstanding group.

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Notes from the Bookstore

White-Out Wednesday Sale

On Wednesday, November 21, the store will be participating in White-Out Wednesday, an event sponsored by the Rochester Downtown Alliance. The theme is for folks to get their holiday shopping finished early, before Black Friday, and thus to have a more restful Thanksgiving. The store will open at 9:00 AM on the Wednesday, and we will keep selling books until the customers stop coming in. Last year we finally closed the



doors at about 4:00 PM. We had a huge number of shoppers last year, so any helpers will be welcome. Last year we had a total of eight volunteers working that day, and we were kept busy. Please let Mary Barrett know if you can come in that day to help out.

New Book Pricing

A new pricing scheme is being used in the bookstore. No mass-market paperback should be more than \$2.00. This includes the following sections: Mystery/Thriller, Romance, General Fiction, Teen Fiction, and Westerns. No trade-size paperback should be more than \$2.00.

**RENEW YOUR FRIENDS'
MEMBERSHIP**

Friends' bookstore blog:

<http://friendsbookstorerochmn.blogspot.com>

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

Friends' Facebook page:

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

Gift-Quality Book and Bake Goods Sale

Saturday, December 1 ♦ 1:30 - 5 pm
Sunday, December 2 ♦ 1:30 - 4 pm

Rochester Public Library Auditorium
101 2nd Street SE

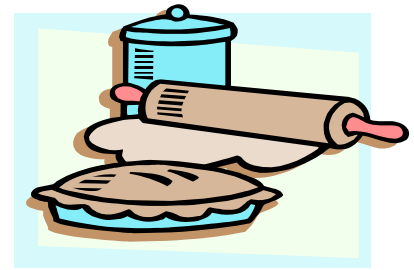


♦ Reasonable Prices ♦
♦ Home Baked Specialties ♦

All proceeds support the Rochester Public Library



Be sure to check out the Friends Book Store
Monday Wednesday Thursday: 10 am—7 pm
Tuesday Friday Saturday: 10 am—4 pm
Sunday: 1:30—4:30 pm



HOLIDAY BOOK AND BAKE SALE

The annual Holiday Book and Bake Sale will be held the first weekend in December (Saturday December 1 (1:30—5:00 PM) and Sunday December 2 (1:30—4:00 PM)).

Gift-quality books at reasonable prices and home baked specialties from the Friends of the Library make this sale extra special. Unusual and Special books are also available. Free gift wrapping will be offered both days of the sale. As always, all proceeds from the sale benefit the Rochester Public Library. *Be aware that only cash and checks are accepted as payment.*

Our baked goods sell out fast, so please add to out great assortment. Cookies, jams, breads, candy or any other goodies are very much needed. Contributions may be brought to the bookstore the day before the sale.

Friends of the Library who volunteer to set up, serve at the sale, and take down are really appreciated. Please sign up in the bookstore to assist with the sale and to bring baked goods.

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

Congratulations Sue McMillan, Poet and Friend

The League of Minnesota Poets sponsors an annual poetry contest, which is open to all poets, not just those from Minnesota. Long-time Friend, Sue McMillan took home six awards: one 1st place, one 3rd place, two awards of merit, and two citations (citations in a poetry contest are a good thing, not like a traffic citation). Three other poets in the Rochester chapter also won awards—four of these poets collectively brought home twelve awards.

“Literacize”—Exercise Your Freedom to Read

The 30th anniversary of banned books week recently celebrated your right to read. The American Library Association (ALA) fights hard for the freedom to read because books are challenged and banned every year (especially in school libraries). Books have been banned for centuries, but even in the 21st century the number of books challenged or banned has been increasing. Our beloved Harry Potter continues to have dissenters... Books and authors continue to be prosecuted for moral, racial, religious, and political reasons; for example, Chinese writer Lin Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2010 but was imprisoned by his government.

The Library held a whisky-tasting event not only to raise funds for the children’s area in the Library, but also to raise awareness for our freedom to read. While it is true that not every book is intended for every reader, the Rochester Public Library firmly believes that each of us has the right to decide for ourselves what to read, listen to, or view. By highlighting banned and challenged books during Banned Books Week, we are not necessarily endorsing specific titles, but we are working to raise awareness that censorship exists in American and within our community.



The picture to the right shows President Elizabeth Ritman showing two copies of the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, a once banned book.

Needed Homework Assistance Coordinator

Purpose: To help facilitate the volunteering staffing of the library’s homework assistance study table.

Qualifications Required:

- * Understanding of the library’s homework assistance study table program
- * Ability to provide homework help to students of all ages
- * Ability to work with other volunteers and library staff

Duties:

- * Ensure there is volunteer staffing for the library’s homework assistance study table
- * Encouraged to fill in when there are no volunteers and notify staff when the program has to be canceled due to no available volunteers
- * Report any issues or needs to support the program to the library staff

Time Commitment Needed: Variable

Approximate Starting and Ending Dates: November—May

Number of Volunteers Needed: 1-2 for the coordination

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinators Gail Harris or Marilyn Campbell at 507-328-2341.

President's Column



Fall is well underway and the Friends are busy with many activities supporting our library. Donations of books from our community fill the back rooms to be sorted and sold online, in the bookstore and at the Auditorium sales.

Our on-line sales are a steady source of income due to the hard work and many volunteer hours by Pat Stephenson, Phyllis Hambright, Al Dollerschell and others.

The Autumn Auditorium Sale was a winner, but lots of hard work for Bruce Witts and his team spending three days in set up and sales. This does not include time spent boxing and storing the culled books prior to the sale. A total of \$2,700 was raised, \$900 more than last year's sale.

The Bookstore stock is always kept current. Friends stock shelves and cheerfully answer questions as they sell books to appreciative customers. Sue McMillan does such a great job with monthly three dimensional displays highlighting seasonal and holiday themes. Patrons know to look for the Second Saturday Sales when Pat Stephenson and helpers target an over supply of a certain genre and sell them at a fun morning sale. These sales have excellent results in moving many books and raising funds. Mary Barrett and her committees are working hard to achieve their targeted 2012 Bookstore donation to the library.

The Friends were happy to be part of the celebration of the new bright blue RPL bookmobile on Monday September 17th. Friends provided coffee and cake in the auditorium to the Mayor of Rochester and many other guests who came for the opening and to tour the bookmobile. For those touring the bookmobile the Bookstore generously provided a \$2 coupon towards purchases in the store.

The National Friends of Libraries week was October 22-27, 2012. The Rochester Friends participated with an exhibit in the entrance of the library. The bold blue Friends' banner stood beside a table displaying brochures and information about how the Friends support the library. Programs that the Friends fund help to benefit babies, children and young adults. Brochures included the current Author Series, when selected authors come to speak and have their books available to purchase.

A list of Friends' Activities in 2011 noted that last year we raised \$101,838. To continue raising this impressive amount, the Friends need to encourage new membership. Brochures were available asking patrons to consider becoming a Friend.

Fall is membership drive - and by now all current Friends should have received a letter asking them to renew their membership. Thank you if you have already sent in your renewal. If not, please do so soon. Your membership goes to help our library continue serving the Rochester community to the very best of its ability.

The Friends' Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday January 28, 2013. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter. Make a note of this date - hope you can come.

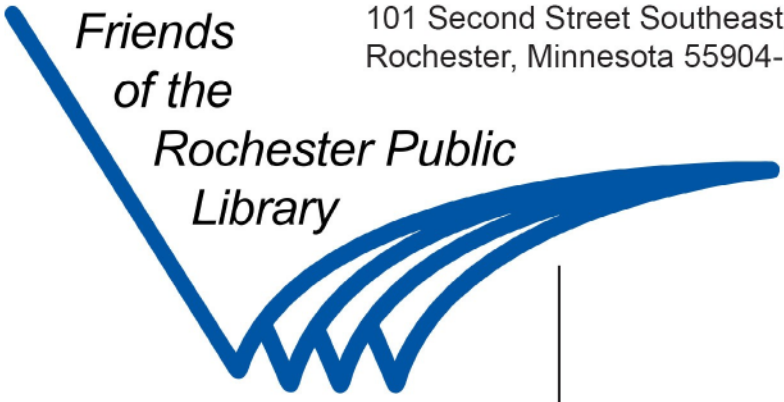
I would like to end with a special note of condolence from the Friends to Audrey Betcher, our very special and dedicated Director. It was with great sorrow that we learnt about the passing of her husband, John Brockman. Our thoughts go out to Audrey and her family at this time.

National Friends of the Library Week

The National Friends of the Library Week was held October 22-27, 2012. This was an opportunity to celebrate the Friends of the Library.

Rochester celebrated by placing an informational table inside the doors of the library. Thanks to staff in the Children's Department, we had books, a t-shirt, Frisbee, and book bag to display. We also had book marks containing dates of upcoming sales to library patrons to pick up.





*Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library*

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Rochester, Minnesota 55904-3776

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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.

**Upcoming
2013 Auditorium Sales**
The 30-minute early entry for Friends is being eliminated and replaced with the "Friends' Preview Sale," which takes place for two hours the night before all sales except the December Sale.
WinterFest Book Sale—February 8—10
Rochesterfest Book Sale—
June 25—27
Autumn Book Sale—October 11—13
Gift-Quality Book and Bake Sale
December 7—8

HAPPY HOLIDAYS