

## Rochester Reads Ends with Visit by Author Tony Horwitz



*Horwitz with event organizer, Katherine Stetcher*

Rochester Reads 2012 concluded on April 9th with the guest visit of author Tony Horwitz whose two Civil War-era books, *Confederates in the Attic* and *Midnight Rising*, were the feature of this year's Rochester Reads.

Horwitz spoke before an audience of more than 200 people at Willow Creek Middle school, where he highlighted the life of John Brown in the years leading up to his secret raid on Harper's Ferry and which ignited the war between the North and South.

Horwitz spoke for about 45 minutes and then opened the floor to questions from the audience, where he was peppered with countless questions about both books, his thoughts on the mental process which led John Brown to organize the uprising, and his research and writing process. Horwitz then

met individually with audience members and signed copies of his books.

Prior to the evening's events, Horwitz was given a guided tour of the Mayo Clinic buildings including the History of Mayo Exhibition, where Horwitz found a photograph of his grandfather, who had been a Mayo Clinic Surgeon in the 1920s under Dr. Will Mayo.



*Horwitz signs copies of his books for Mayo HS Students Amber Armstrong and Manal Abadi*

## World Book Night

World Book Night 2012 was a rousing success on April 23rd, as Friends of the Rochester Public Library distributed free copies of popular books to pedestrians on the west side of Downtown's Peace Plaza.

Thank you to our Friends and volunteers for spreading the love of reading with this wonderful event!

# From the Friends' Bookstore

Mary Barrett, Friends' Book Manager



The Friends' Bookstore continues to grow and change! Most recently, the bookstore added some special shelving to showcase some of the unique, unusual, and collectible books in the store. The Bookstore is a treasure-trove of books and other materials, and often people aren't aware of what is available in the store. For example, last fall the Bookstore started carrying music CDs, and we generally have a wide selection in many genres – and a CD is only one dollar! Since the volunteers are constantly stocking the shelves, a shopper can often find new music each week. You can even find Christmas music in July!



If you are a music lover, the bookstore also carries sheet music and music books. The music is sorted into categories such as brass, strings, and piano. Some of the books are texts appropriate for various skill levels, and others are collections of songs by individual artists. Occasionally the Bookstore has music books from a particular era.



If you are shopping for a gift for a reader, be sure to check out the Friends' Bookstore. Not only does the store have gift certificates in denominations from three dollars to twenty dollars, the Bookstore carries sturdy canvas bags in popular colors. The price is a budget-friendly eight dollars. And of course, you can always find books for the book lover if you know a favorite author, genre, or series. You will find friendly clerks who are eager to help you locate the perfect gift. And locating specific books is easier than ever since all of the Bookstore's fiction is now alphabetized. We hope to see you in the Bookstore soon!

**Visit us on the Web!**

**Friends' Blog: [www.friends4rpl.wordpress.com](http://www.friends4rpl.wordpress.com)**

**RPL Blog: [www.rochpublibrary.wordpress.com](http://www.rochpublibrary.wordpress.com)**

**Friends' Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/friendrochpublibrary](http://www.facebook.com/friendrochpublibrary)**



# Friends' Bookstore

## Seeking Co-Managers for our Friends of the Library Bookstore

After Mary Barrett's commitment as manager is completed in January 2013, we are seeking 2 volunteers to replace her.

**The co-managers' responsibilities will include:**

- Training bookstore volunteers
- Purchasing supplies for the store
- Liaison with library staff
- Attending monthly board and committee meetings
- Updating the bookstore as needed
- Handling bookstore correspondence

The co-managers will be supported by the Bookstore Committee who have designated responsibilities.

If you would like to find out more, please feel free to talk to or email any of the following people:

Elizabeth Ritman ([emritman@aol.com](mailto:emritman@aol.com))

Bev Reid ([bobandbevr@yahoo.com](mailto:bobandbevr@yahoo.com))

Pat Stephenson ([patstephenson@charter.net](mailto:patstephenson@charter.net))

Mary Barrett ([mtbreader@gmail.com](mailto:mtbreader@gmail.com))

Gail Harris ([gharris@rochester.lib.mn.us](mailto:gharris@rochester.lib.mn.us)) or (507) 328-2341

We know Mary will be very hard to replace but she has moved our wonderful store into a really good position for the future.

Thank you ~ The Bookstore Manager Appointment Committee

# From the Director

Audrey Betcher



Sometimes I get so focused on where the library is going that I don't always take time to appreciate where we are.

I had one of those moments last week that really makes me appreciate the community and the support the library

gets continuously. I received a questionnaire from an intern from another city (to remain nameless) that had this as one of the questions: *Can the mayor or council decide to take funding from them [the library] and put it somewhere else such as the police department?*

The simple answer is "yes," but the real answer is "We have not had that situation. City Administration tries very hard not to pit departments against each other, since we all need to thrive for the city to succeed. In years where the city has received cuts (i.e., LGA cuts or unallotments), all departments share in the cutting to make the budget balance."

I thank all of you for your support. I know that if we were in the situation described above, you would be making phone calls to the city council in support of the public library. Your level of financial support and all of the volunteer hours make so many things possible. It creates a situation where the city and county fund a very good library, and the Friends and the Foundation make us a great library.

Isn't it amazing where we can go when we are all pulling in the same direction?

**You're Invited to an  
Ice Cream Social!**

**1st Annual Celebration  
of Rochester Authors**

**Monday, July 23rd  
Library Auditorium  
3:00-7:00 PM**

*RSVP to [Kayaune35@aol.com](mailto:Kayaune35@aol.com)*

**Win Free Books!  
Compliments of the Friends of  
the Library Bookstore and Blog!**



Visit our blog this summer for your chance to win FREE gently-used copies of some of the books we review!

[www.friends4rpl.wordpress.com](http://www.friends4rpl.wordpress.com)

**Winners to date:**

Danette Grimsrud  
*Death Comes to Pemberley*

Sara Hill  
*The River Between Us*



## Visit the Largest Book Sale in Rochester!

### Rochesterfest Book Sale

Located in the Rochester Public Library Auditorium

Wednesday June 20 from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM  
(Priced at 50 cents for paperback and \$1 for hardcover)

and

Thursday June 21 from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM  
(No set price – You donate however much  
you feel the book is worth)

**Friends of the Library Members Admitted 30 Minutes Early!**

*No Credit Cards, Please - Cash and Check Only*

## President's Column

Elizabeth Ritman

As we step into summer it is timely to look at some of the Friends' activities since the January Annual Meeting. In February, the Finance Committee performed the annual audit of the Treasurer's 2011 records. Dave Anderson, Treasurer, is to be complimented in maintaining a steady hand to keep the 2012 budget on track.



The Friends undertake to give the library profits from the Bookstore plus an additional pledge of around \$50,000 raised by on-line, auditorium and other sales and events. These pledged monies are used by the library for specified programs and to purchase equipment throughout the year. This commitment makes it essential that our fundraising efforts continue at a steady pace. To this end, pledged funds raised so far this year include the following:

- The February WinterFest Book Sale was a resounding success. Bruce Witts and his indefatigable committee generated \$3,089 in total sales - one of the most successful yet!
- "Book Talk with Friends" was held at the Plummer House, thanks to the generosity of

Andy's Liquor. This was a fitting location to hear local author and historian Ken Allsen talk about his latest book. 42 people attended and enjoyed coffee from Dunn Bros. and carrot cake from Daube's. \$445 was raised.

- Online and Mixed Sales receive both library discards and community donated books which are priced, listed, sold and shipped. Phyllis Hambright is chair of this committee and these busy volunteers raised \$5,628 in the first quarter of the year.

In appreciation to the Library staff, who provides essential support so the Friends can achieve these results, the Friends' Board hosted a Staff Appreciation Breakfast on Monday, April 9. Organized by Majel Hall and her committee, 50 staff and 15 Board members came to socialize and enjoy breakfast pizza, fruit and treats.

Many hours are given by dedicated volunteers ensuring the Rochester Public Library remains a first rate community resource. You too can show your continuing support during these up-coming summer months. Check out what is new at the bookstore. Visit the Rochesterfest Auditorium sale, Second Saturday sales or ARTigras in Mayo Park.

Hope to see you there.

# 2nd Saturday Sales Don't Miss Out!



Join us on the 2nd Saturday of each month for our 2nd Saturday Sale in the Friends' Bookstore. Each month we feature a different genre of book at specially discounted prices!

Due to Rochesterfest, there will be no 2nd Saturday Sale in June. Instead, please join us at the Rochesterfest Auditorium Sale on June 20th and 21st, then mark

your calendars for July 14th when we'll celebrate "Christmas in July"!

The Friends' Bookstore is located just to the right of the inside doors leading to the Rochester Public Library. 2nd Saturday Sales are held - weather permitting - in the lobby between the Library and Friends' Bookstore.

## 2nd Saturday Sale Dates (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

July 14th  
August 11th  
September 8th  
October 13th  
November 10th

## Book Talk with Friends

*Elizabeth Ritman*

*Book Talk with Friends*, a special event held on March 8th at Rochester's Plummer House, was a great success and raised nearly \$450 to support the Rochester Public Library.



L to R: Majel Hall, Mary Barrett, Barbara Eakins, Elizabeth Ritman, Yvonne Landgren, Kay Aune and Sylvie Nickel

42 attendees came to hear author Ken Allsen give a power point presentation about his latest book, *Old Frontenac, Its History and Architecture*. His informal style and the stories about the founding of a historical township on the Mississippi near Lake City, kept the audience enthralled. After his presentation many questions were asked about those intrepid founders who started Old Frontenac before the Civil War. Ken was able to not only tell the historical side, he could also update the story to current times.

The Plummer House, with its local history and spacious rooms, is a great place to host such an event. In keeping with the Minnesota history theme that Ken Allsen's talk detailed, the Friends of the Rochester Public Library had a selection of Minnesota Mystery writers, as well as special and unique books of regional interest for sale.

Attendees were treated to delicious carrot cake from Daube's Bakery and fragrant coffee from Dunn Bros. It was a fun and educational time to meet old and new friends, look at special Minnesota books and learn more about the history of our region.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for enthusiastic, friendly and responsible volunteers to assist our young library patrons check out library materials, renew items and review their accounts. Training will be provided. This is a fun summertime opportunity for ages 14+.

### 2-Hour Shifts, Monday - Friday:

10:00am - 12:00pm

12:00pm - 2:00pm

2:00pm - 4:00pm

### Contact Gail Harris or Kim Dahl:

Gail Harris  
Volunteer Coordinator  
gharris@rochester.lib.mn.us  
(507) 328-2341

Kim Dahl  
Circulation Division  
kdahl@rochester.lib.mn.us  
(507) 328-2307

## Amazing Volunteers

*Gail Harris*

On May 8th volunteers and staff came together to recognize and celebrate our fantastic volunteers, who gave 18,166 hours of help to the Library in 2011.

Music was provided by the Bellicoso ensemble and refreshments by Dunn Bros. The rather dodgy acting talents of staff were on show as the Off Broadway Players took to the stage once again and our Library Director, Audrey Betcher, and Board President, Diane Moench, gave heartfelt thanks for all the support our volunteers give us. We are truly privileged that you have chosen to give your time to our Library and thank all our volunteers for everything you do for us!!!

### Shopping on Amazon?

Remember to use the link on the Bookstore Webpage and a percentage of your purchase will go back to benefit the library.



[www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/supporting/bookstore](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/supporting/bookstore)

## Staff Appreciation Breakfast

*Majel Hall, Chair*

The Rochester Friends of the Library and our whole community are very proud of our library employees; therefore, the Friends again provided an appreciation breakfast for the library staff on April 9, 2012.

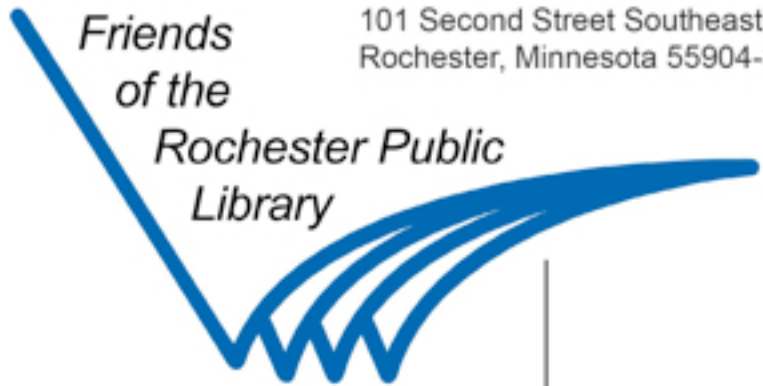
The meal featured breakfast pizza (both meat and vegetarian), juice, fresh fruit and a wide variety of breads and sweets. Any left-overs were taken to the staff break room for those who came later.

Our thanks go to Elizabeth Ritman, Harriet Hodgson, Carol Mikesh, Twila Winter and the library custodians. Many other board members served and cleaned up before our board meeting.

All of us appreciate the library staff and we had many compliments.



*Marilyn Sheehan and Ginny Erbe*



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Rochester Public  
Library

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**Friends' Bookstore Hours**

**Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays**

**10:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

**Tuesdays and Fridays**

**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Saturdays**

**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (Summer)**

**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Winter)**

**Sundays**

**Closed (Summer)**

**1:30 PM - 4:30 PM (Winter)**

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