

Friends of the Rochester Public Library Annual Meeting

The Friends Annual Meeting was held Monday January 30, 2012 in the Library auditorium following a delicious chicken and noodle lunch arranged by Theresa Friedhoff and committee. Sixty-eight people attended and received a handout that included the Agenda, Budget, Bookstore Report, Volunteer Statistics, 2011 Friends Activities and 2012 Board and Committee members.

The meeting was called to order, a welcome was extended and introductions made.

Minutes of the January 31, 2011 Annual Meeting were approved. David Anderson, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's 2011 Report and 2012 Budget.

Retiring Board members Theresa Friedhoff, Sylvie Nickel, Elaine Schmidt, and Joyce Wenz were thanked and presented with a small gift for their service on the Friends Board. Friedhoff, Schmidt and Wenz had each served as Board President, and Nickel served as Treasurer for 10 years.

New Board members elected to a three year term were: Cathie Armstrong, Delip Cotter, Eugenia Dragomir-Daescu, Harriet Hodgson, Pat Mann and Twila Winter. Re-elected to a three year term were Barbara Eakins, Shirley Edmonson, Carol Mikesh and Elizabeth Ritman.

Board members, committee members and volunteers were thanked for their time and efforts in making 2011 such a successful year. Gail Harris reported on the volunteer statistics and noted that 378 volunteers logged 18,166 hours. Mary Barrett, manager of the Bookstore gave an overview of the bookstore activities for 2011. Elizabeth Ritman, President, gave the highlights of the 2011 Activities and Projects for 2012. Audrey Betcher thanked the Friends for their continued support in time, advocacy

and financial.

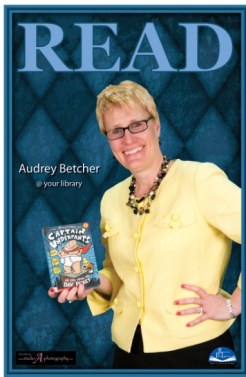
Dr. Gerald Anderson gave a very informative talk titled "The Mystery Story, Then and Now (and Why We All Love a Good Murder)". Copies of his books were available to purchase and be signed. Before the meeting ended a drawing was held for six door prizes given by the Bookstore.



Elizabeth Ritman and Dr. Gerald Anderson



From the Director



In 2011 the library experienced a time of unprecedented change. We had three members of the management team retire as well as several other long-time staff members leave as well. As we were scrambling to get work done, we also took the opportunity to re-evaluate open positions against the Library's strategic plan.

We continue to meet the needs of the entire community: create lifelong learners, stimulate imagination, connect people to the online world, encourage young readers, and so much more. We see areas of opportunity, but we live in a time of tight budgets. We know we can't just add more staff to solve problems and do more; we need to deploy existing staff differently.

So what are we doing differently? We are in the process of consolidating circulation into the Circulation Division. Right now a person can register for a library card, check out materials, and pay fines in either the Children's Division or in the Circulation Division. After the transition is complete, all transactions with check outs, fines, holds, registrations, etc. will take place in the Circulation Division.

The Children's Division staff will have more time to focus on reference, reader's advisory, and programming for the children in our community. That is not to say that we don't value the highly important transactions that happen in the Circulation Division. It all has to work together to create a great customer experience.

A staff team is working on the implementation plan, and we expect the change to happen before June. We sincerely appreciate the support of the Friends on this project. Some funds from the Friends will be used to change the desk in the Children's area. We no longer need such a large desk, and we want to create an environment approachable. What you do makes a difference for our entire community. Thank You!

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Volunteer Statistics 2011

- * Library Volunteer Hours: 18,166
- * Volunteers in 2011: 378
- * Summer of Service Volunteers: 30



- * New Volunteers interviewed and assigned: 89
- * Library Hosts: 30
- * RCTC Faculty assigned for Homework Assistance: 23

WinterFest 2012

A very successful WinterFest Book Sale was held on February 3rd and 4th. We had about 300 people the first day of the sale and about 200 the second day.

First day sales total was \$2,250 for fixed-price books and donations. Second day sales were \$949 by donations. Total sales were \$3,199 (a little over \$1,241 last year's sales).

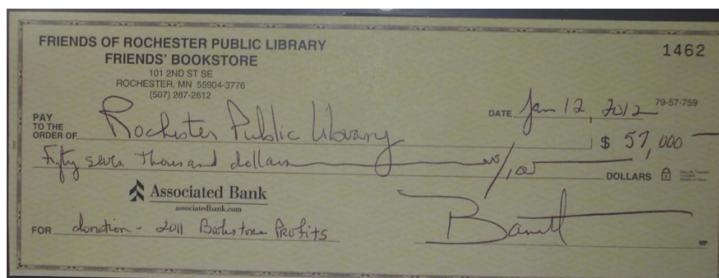
Shoppers were happy with the sale. Some were saying they were glad we had set prices. Others were happily commenting on the improved quality of the books, the better selection to choose from, and the way the sales was organized. The rope barrier by the register helped traffic running smoothly because it help those checking out to form a line. Shoppers also complimented the volunteers about how cheerful and helpful they were. (Total hours donated by Friends were a minimum of 181.)

Bruce Witts, Booksale Chair



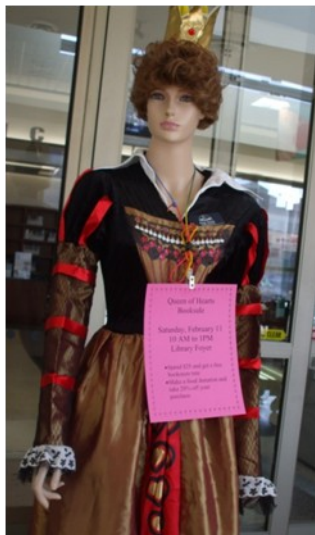
Bookstore Report

The Bookstore had a wonderful 2011, logging thousands of volunteer hours and raising \$57,000 for the library. The check was presented to the Library Board on January 19, 2012. The money raised by the Bookstore goes into Director Boettcher's discretionary fund and is used to purchase materials for the Library. This cash donation is in addition to all of the money raised by the Friends' auditorium sales as well as the online sales. When you add in the value of donated items that are put into the Library collection (over \$200,000 in 2011) as well as the volunteer hours (over 18,000), the support and funding provided by the Friends is incalculable.



So how did the Bookstore raise all this cash? First, all of the materials are donated to the Library by people in the Rochester community and surrounding area. Second, the materials are sorted by the Friends, and the Library adds materials to their collection. Finally, the materials are designated as being for the Bookstore, for online sales, for auditorium sales, and for special collections or events. Once the books are sorted, priced, and in the store, the Bookstore cashiers display the books artfully, chat with customers about favorite authors and possible new reads, re-stock shelves, and generally provide excellent customer service. All of that leads up to the store's ability to generate the amount of money we raise for the Library. Be sure to thank a volunteer the next time you are in the store!

One special event that has provided lots of fun for customers and volunteers has been the 2nd Saturday sales. At least ten months out of the year, the second Saturday of the month finds the foyer loaded with books and other materials Saturday sales have dramatically increased with books and other materials that are offered for



sale. In addition to increasing sales, the second Saturday sales have dramatically increased awareness of the Bookstore's existence. On February 10, we had a Queen of Hearts sale to celebrate Paige Turner's second birthday. As you can see, Paige dressed for the event! The 2nd Saturday sales have raised as much as \$800 in a day, and the entertainment in the foyer (the silly volunteers) and the store (usually coffee and cookies), make for a good time.

Mary Barrett, Bookstore Manager

New Totes in the Bookstore

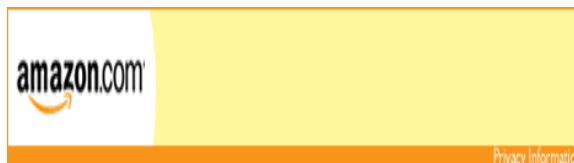
If you have not seen the new totes available in the Bookstore, please check them out. I have the hot pink bag (I love it) and gave the green bag as a gift.



Barbara Eakins, Editor

Amazon Sales Support the Library

When shopping for items from books to prom dresses to weed whackers, remember to go through the Amazon logo at the bottom of the Friends page on the Library Web site. The Library receives a percentage of all purchases.



Unusual & Special Stewardship Books Lobby Displays

Did you have a chance to see the Library lobby display of special books on rivers and lakes and waterways before they were “swept away?”

The Friends’ Unusual & Special Books Stewardship Team barely had the display assembled before the books began selling! (We do still have a pair of impressive Mississippi Rives maps and navigational charts available.) Here Delip Cotter, newest steward on the team, adjusts the display, other stewards are Carol Smyrk, Barbara Eakins, and Sylvie Nickel.



Our next display will be “History of Mysteries”, inspired by Dr. Gerald Anderson’s talk to the Friends’ Annual Meeting and supplied by the hundreds of mystery books donated to the Library. You will discover (or re-discover) such sleuths as Philo Vance, Mr. Moto, Albert Campion, Miss Seaton, Charlie Chan, many incarnations of Sherlock Holmes, and many more.

In addition to the lobby displays, the Stewardship Team sells “above average” donated books online, maintains the collectibles shelf in the Bookstore, and offers special books at several of the Friends’ online sales.

Book Talk with Friends

Please join the Friends for conversation, coffee and cake when popular local author and historian Ken Allsen will talk about his most recent book published in 2011 - “Old Frontenac – Its History and Architecture”. Ken will give a power point presentation, take questions and have his book available for purchase.

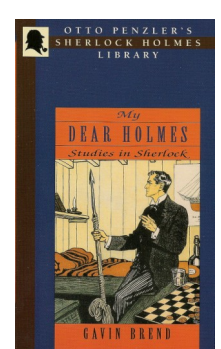
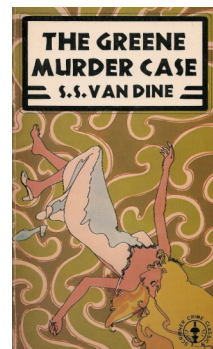
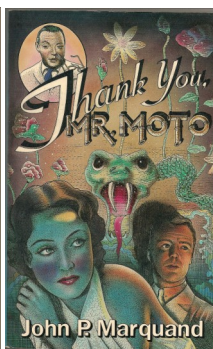
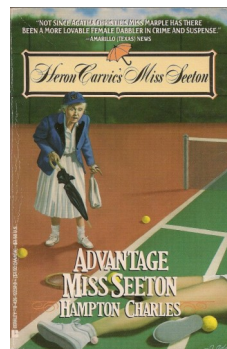
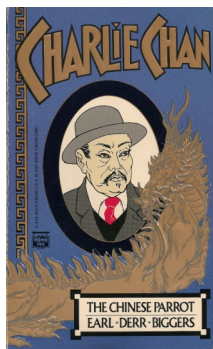
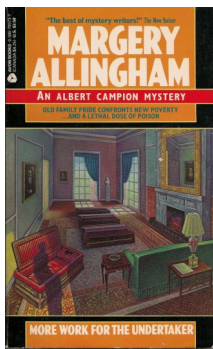
A retired software developer and freelance architectural draftsman/designer, Ken currently works as an architectural historian, researching structures, conducting tours and writing articles. Ken is the author of two books – Houses the Hill, The Life and Architecture of Harold Crawford, and A Century of Elegance— Ellerbe Residential Design in Rochester , Minnesota.



March 8 – 1:00 pm
Plummer House
1091 Plummer Lane SW
RESERVATIONS required:

The historic Plummer House will be the location for this event. This can be an opportunity to ask Mr. Allsen your architectural questions about houses in Rochester.

Mysteries by Minnesota authors will be available for sale by the Bookstore and regional books will be available for sale by the Unusual and Special Stewardship team.



President's Column

2011 Activities



2011 was a busy and rewarding year for the Friends. Due to the Rochester Community donating many thousand of books, the library was able to add 8,540 books to their collection with an estimated value of \$201,369. Volunteers sorted through these donated items and after the library took their selection, the rest were sold with profits going to fund much needed programs and equipment for our library, or donated to worthy causes.

Materials sold raise monies, which are then given to the library in different ways. The Bookstore operation had a very busy and successful year. The store constantly updates the stock and provides a friendly and attractive place for book lovers, both young and old, who came in droves to peruse and purchase. In January 2012 Mary Barrett, Bookstore manager, presented a check to the Library Board for \$57,000.

The Friends also pledge and fund specific requested library programs and equipments. In 2011 the amount totaled \$44,838. Programs included \$6,000 for Children's, Young Adults and Adults Programming. \$3,000 for Summer Children's programs and \$2,700 for Rochester Reads. Equipment included \$11,746 for Databases and software, \$4,424 for ADA workstation upgrades and a new Express self-check machine (\$15,000 carried from 2010) were installed.

To raise these pledged funds, many Friends donated their time and expertise. A group of dedicated volunteers sold on-line, raising an all time record amount of \$26,481. Friends were responsible for five Auditorium Sales, two included in Rochesterfest and Winterfest community events, raising \$12,100. Other funds came from a variety of sources. \$8,779 was contributed in membership by 229 Friends, \$1,215 from 5% Amazon commissions, a \$1,000 Rochester Commercial Bank Association grant for children's programming and \$1,720 from the Donation Jar in the Bookstore.

As well, the Friends:

- * Assisted library staff with Author Reads by selling books in the store and at events, staffing tables, and providing coffee treats, and hosting a most successful Mystery Tea.
- * Hosted an Appreciation Breakfast for library staff.
- * Assisted library staff and provided treats in January 2011 with the History Hullabaloo, sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society to aid students in their research for History Day projects.
- * Published four newsletters for members available both by mail and online.
- * Participated in the August ARTIGRAS event in Mayo Park.
- * Increased the Friends visibility through Internet and social networking. Maintained the Friends' Website with current events and photos and were on Facebook, Blog, and Twitter.
- * Paid for two parking spaces in the garage for Friends volunteering at the library.

Other projects included \$7,259 for the Read for Me program, which provides books for the very young. The Bookstore donated many books and materials to other organizations, such as: Channel One, local charities, schools, and libraries both in Minnesota and abroad. Operation Paperback provided books and postage for troops both at home and abroad.

So to all the 378 volunteers who logged 18,166 hours to make these 2011 activities happen, a very big *Thank You*. **You make the difference.**

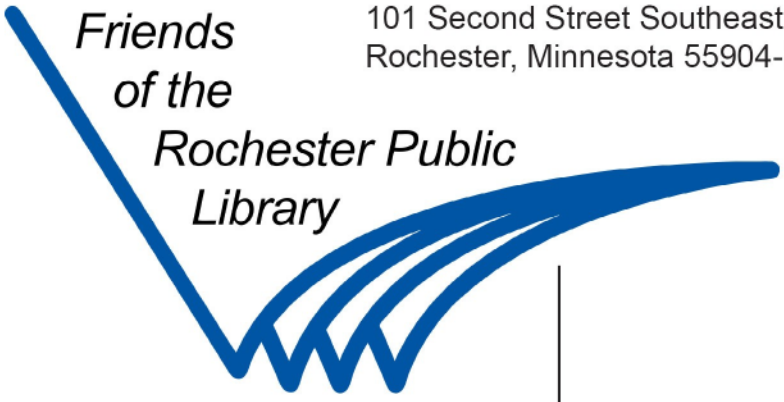
Upcoming Friends' Activities

March 8: Author Talk with Ken Allson. See page 4.

March 10: Second Saturday Sale in Library foyer.

April 14: Second Saturday Sale in Library foyer.

Friends' bookstore blog:
<http://friendsbookstorerochmn.blogspot.com>
RPL blog: <http://rochpubliclibrary.wordpress.com/>
Friends' Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/friendrochpublib>



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of the
Rochester Public
Library*

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Thank you for your support

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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

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