

Library Welcomes Acclaimed Author

by Catherine H. Armstrong



The Rochester Public Library is excited to present acclaimed author P.S. Duffy on November 24th at 2:00 p.m. in the Rochester Public Library Auditorium. Duffy will present her debut novel, *The Cartographer of No Man's Land*, which is being hailed by *The Library Journal* as "Essential reading for historical fiction lovers."

Duffy is a Rochester resident, the science writer for the Mayo Clinic Neural Engineering Laboratory, and author of two non-fiction books. *The Cartographer of No Man's Land* is her first novel.

Set in the year 1917, the world stage is fully engaged in WWI. In a small town in Nova Scotia, patriotism and no small amount of boredom send Hettie McGrath's brother off to war to defend his country in France. His absence is felt keenly by Hettie, whose fear for his safety only intensifies when his letters come to an abrupt stop. In a time before 24-hour news television, the internet and Google-like search engines, Hettie's husband, Angus, sets out to obtain information about his missing brother-in-law the only way he can: he enlists in the army in hopes of finding the information firsthand.

Promised an assignment as a cartographer in London - far from the action in France - Angus is shocked to find himself shipped to France as a lieutenant leading an infantry battalion right in the midst of the action. His short education in seminary school and work as a schooner fisherman - not to mention his upbringing by a rabid pacifist father - have left him unprepared for the death and destruction that the battlefield brings.

Back home in Nova Scotia, Angus' son Simon Peter is navigating his own waters through adolescence. With his father gone, he's now the man of the family; and yet he's still a child trying to understand the many prejudices that come with war, as well as learning to balance his grandfather's anti-war stand with his own pride for his father's sacrifices.

Extensive research went into the writing of *Cartographer*. Duffy travelled through France and the battlegrounds where her novel would take place, then settled back in Rochester to begin researching details. She was initially concerned, however, about the ability to conduct such extensive research through a local library. In 2004, before options like GoogleBooks, authors relied heavily on the hardcopy information they could obtain through local libraries.

"I worried about being able to do the kind of research I needed to do...(and) about how to get those kinds of books." Duffy said. She found that all of the research material - mostly books that had to be brought in from Canada - could be done through RPL using international interlibrary loan.

Duffy's extensive research and brilliant writing allow readers to immerse themselves in a time almost forgotten. Though the battles scenes will appeal to readers of combat history, the book is so much more than a "combat novel," as Duffy does a beautiful job of bringing the characters and their relationships fully to life.

"The 'No Man's Land' in the title is a real place," explains Duffy. "The neutral area between the German and Allied trench lines—but also a metaphoric one, a place of shifting, uncertain ground that each character, whether at home or in battle, must struggle to navigate. I hope that the world of *Cartographer* remains with readers long after they've closed the book."

For more information, call 328-2300.

News From the Friends' President

by Barbara Eakins

Dear Friends, It's been a busy five months at the Rochester Public Library.

In June Rochester celebrated Rochesterfest as did the Friends of the Library with their annual Rochesterfest Book Sale. The very successful sale was led by Bruce Witts and his crew of book sale volunteers.



On July 18, the Friends held a "Celebration of Rochester Area Authors" which included authors from all genres from children's books to thrillers and two great speakers talking about book publishing. I got a chance to talk to each of the authors at the event. What a delight! I have already read four of the books and can't wait to read more. We are already working on our list of writers for next year.

In August, the Friends and the Friends' Bookstore took part in ArtiGras in Mayo Park. When I was there, I noticed that the Friends' booth seemed to be the most popular booth. Pat Stephenson did a wonderful job of encouraging buyers.



I had the honor of giving out teen awards on October 15th. These awards were given for creative movie trailers of the teen's favorite books. This event was sponsored by the Friends.

Remembrance

It is with sorrow that I note the passing in the last few months of two of the Friends' past volunteers: Russ Gangestad and Denny Anderson. They will be missed.



One Day Only!
Wednesday, November 27th
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
in the Friends' Bookstore

Deep discounts on very gently used books!
A pre-holiday sale you won't want to miss!



Photo credit: www.alaskapublic.org

Iditarod Musher to be Featured Speaker

Jim Lanier, a sled-dog musher from Alaska who has raced in the Iditarod, will be speaking in the Rochester Public Library Auditorium on Friday, October 18th from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Lanier's recent publication of *Beyond*

Ophir is a memoir of his mushing experiences.

In addition to discussing his experiences, Lanier will answer questions from lecture attendees and will have copies of his books available for purchase.

Join the Friends of the Library and listen to Jim Lanier discuss his experiences during the race – including how he drank hot Tang to keep warm. It's an event you won't want to miss!

Space Changes at the Library

By Audrey Betcher, Library Director



Space changes are happening at the library. These changes were driven by the new strategic plan. The primary funder of all the changes is the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

On the southwest side of the second floor we've cleared an area in preparation to add three new uses to the library.

The first new area is the Wellness and Career Corner. This is a dedicated space for our partnerships with local agencies who are providing education and assistance to citizens on specific topics such as Job Hunting, Wellness, and New Business Support. Our partners include the Workforce Center, SCORE, and Winona State University Nursing Program.

The second area is a space we are calling the Maker Space. Rochester has been built around innovation and creativity. We are adding the space in the library for adults to be creative and innovative. Why should kids have all the fun? The use of the space will evolve over time, but we expect partnerships to play a role in how this space is used as well.

The third space is a meeting space that will be used by the Library's Homework Assistance program. The library provides Homework Assistance three nights a week during the school year. Any student can show up to get assistance from community volunteers.

The Quiet Study room will become a dedicated computer lab to make it easier to teach people how to use computers and software. There will be a space set aside for people to video chat over computer (Skype).

On the first floor we are adding another meeting room. This will be in the space that once was part of the bookmobile collection room. We expect this space to be used primarily by staff, the Friends, and the Foundation. This will make the other meeting rooms more available to the public.

The Friends have taken over a maintenance room for their sorting space. We're still working through some space issues, but we are making progress.

A small conference room will be added using panels in the Readers Services area.

The Children's staff workroom has been configured and a new Young Adult space is being carved out there.

Once the Young Adult area moves into the Youth Services area, the old Young Adult area will become a quiet reading area. The Fiction, Movies, and Music collection will be spread out. Music, in particular, will be easier to find. No more spinner racks!

Autumn Auditorium Book Sale!

**October 11th & 12th
9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**

**October 13th
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

*Preview sale for Friends' members only
on October 10th from 5-7 p.m.*

*On the last day of the sale, buy a bag of books
for a \$5 donation!*

Now Accepting Credit Cards!

Don't Miss It!

News from the Bookstore

by Mary Barrett, Bookstore Manager



You can always find something new at the Friends' Bookstore! Recently one of our volunteers updated the window paintings in the store, and the use of paint specially formulated for glass has made a huge difference. Another volunteer is constantly creating new book displays, so be sure to stop in to see what the store has to offer.

In September, the store will have new long-sleeved t-shirts for sale, complete with a new logo. When you are thinking of gifts for birthdays, holidays, or other occasions, keep in mind that the Friends' Bookstore has several very nice options. In addition to the short- and long-sleeved tees, the store also offers sturdy and attractive tote bags for sale. Did you know that if you spend twenty-five dollars in the store in a single purchase that you will receive your choice of a free tote bag or free short-sleeved tee?

With the holidays approaching, this is also a good time to remind you that the Friends' Bookstore offers gift certificates in various amounts, up to twenty dollars. Since our books are so reasonably priced, twenty dollars will purchase quite a few books. And the gift certificate recipient does not have to spend the total amount on one purchase; the store cashiers will keep track of the balance remaining on the gift certificate.

The store volunteers, including cashiers and sorters, continue to have fun! In late August the volunteers gathered for an afternoon of root-beer floats and joined in a scavenger hunt. We have social gatherings two or three times each year.

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that allows you to meet new people and have fun, consider offering to help in the Bookstore or as a sorter. You could help with special sales (such as ArtiGras in August or the Autumn sale coming in October) or you could volunteer on a regular basis.



The hours are flexible, so you can take off time to travel south for the winter months or to take a long-awaited vacation. You will be welcomed as a volunteer at any time and the times you volunteer can fit into your schedule. Since the store will be going back to winter (perish the thought!) hours after Labor Day, we will add back the Saturday and Sunday afternoon shifts. If you have any questions, contact the store and we'll be happy to answer those questions.



Library Garage Door Gets a Makeover!

If you have not driven by the garage door for the Bookmobile, you have missed seeing some awesome art! Peter Lex has been working on a mural (painted and sealed with automotive paint for longevity) that is adding both interest and beauty to the Library's "back door." Do drive by or walk by and chat with Peter Lex and his kids as they work on the garage door. It will be finished this summer, but right now you can get an idea of how beautiful it will be.

News from the Bookstore...Continued!

CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK – 2013

THIS COUPON GOOD FOR \$1.00 OFF ANY PURCHASE AT THE
FRIENDS' BOOKSTORE
OCTOBER 20 TO 26, 2013

National Library Week

The Library will be celebrating National Library Week from October 20 through October 26 this year. If you bring this newsletter coupon into the Friends' Bookstore, you will receive a discount on your book purchase.

White Out Wednesday Sale

On Wednesday, November 27, the Friends' Bookstore will participate in the citywide White Out Wednesday event. How many of you have been frustrated by long lines and a shortage of sale goods when you have gone shopping on Black Friday? Downtown Rochester, including the Friends' Bookstore, can help you enjoy your holiday shopping and enhance your ability to relax on Thanksgiving Day. How? On White Out Wednesday, the Bookstore will have a fantastic sale; in fact, the store will open an hour early to facilitate shopping and ease the crowds. So from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM on November 27, please join us and enjoy free gift wrapping on all of your purchases.



October 23 Twin Cities Book Store Tour

On October 23, the Friends' Bookstore is sponsoring a bus trip to the Twin Cities to visit four different used book stores – Common Good Books, Wild Rumpus, Birch Bark Books & Native Arts, and Magers & Quinn Booksellers. In addition to shopping, the participants will be able to see the printing process at Birch Bark Books. Lunch will be at the St. Clair Broiler where Wm Kent Krueger will join us. At this time, the tour is sold out, but the Friends hope to sponsor a second tour in March. You can check for publicity on the spring Book Store Tour on the Library web site (<http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/supporting/friends/index.html>) or watch for further information in upcoming Friends' Newsletters.

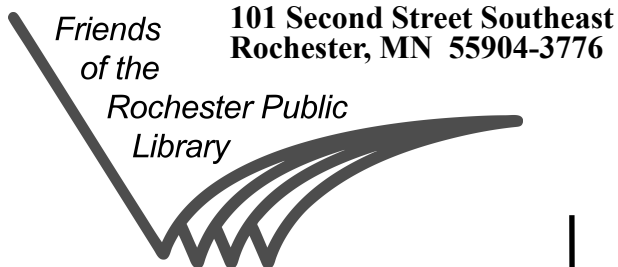


New Friends' Bookstore Merchandise

Now available in the Friends' Bookstore: New T-shirts in new designs and colors! For the first time ever, we now offer long-sleeved shirts for those cool winter days. We have a variety of colors available, and the new design is awesome! Additionally, the Friends' tote bags will once again be available in six colors. Just a reminder: If you spend \$25 on books, you will receive a free tote bag!

2nd Saturday Sales

Did you know that on the second Saturday of each month the Friends' Bookstore moves books into the Library foyer and sells them at special prices? The sale runs from 10 AM until 1 PM, but we begin to sell books as soon as the books are set up – often by 9:30. Each Second Saturday Sale has a special theme; for example, we have done Cookbooks, Beach Reads, Children's, Overstock, and many more sales. You can put the dates on your calendar now for this year's remaining sales: November 9 and December 14. We hope to see you there.



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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 - 4:00 PM (Winter)

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

It's time to renew your Friends' Membership for 2014. You can renew your membership at the Friends' Bookstore, by U.S. mail or online at www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/supporting/friends/membership.html.
Address to renew by U.S. Mail: Friends of RPL, 101 Second Street SE, Rochester, MN 55904.
Thank you for being a member!