

Friends' Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Library was held on Monday, January 28th in the library auditorium and featured a delicious lunch arranged by Majel Hall and her committee of Carol Mikesh, Shirley Edmonson and Barbara Eakins.

New officers elected for a two-year term included Barbara Eakins, President; Harriet Hodgson, Secretary; David Anderson, Treasurer; and Mary Barrett, Bookstore Manager. The election of Vice President will be determined at a future date. New members elected to the board for 3-year terms were Iris Fried, Lathika Nair and Pat Siljeborg. Leaving the board this year after many years of hard work, love and dedication were Majel Hall and Helen McIver.



Following the formal business of the meeting, a wonderful lecture was provided by guest speakers Richard and Sharon Krom, authors of *1st MN, 2nd to None*, whose presentation of "Letters Home from the Civil War" was based

upon letters from Richard Krom's own Great Grandfather during his time in battle.

Thank You 

A Volunteer Appreciation Poem

*The key to our success
rests in people like you,
who embody the spirit of greatness
by saying, "yes I can, and you can, too!"*
~ MyThankYouSite.com

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

From Gail Harris

Thank you to our many wonderful volunteers! The numbers are in and, in 2012, the Rochester Public Library was very fortunate to have 371 volunteers who gave us an amazing 17,751 hours of help.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for us. You are an Inspiration!!!

News from the Friends' Bookstore

By Mary Barrett, Bookstore Manager

Time has flown in the Bookstore as we have been involved in so many things! In January, we presented the Library Board with a check for \$50,000 – the money earned by the Bookstore in 2012. Everyone who is involved in the process (scheduler, sorters, pricers, cashiers, and other volunteers) is to be commended for the excellent work they've done this past year. Keeping the Bookstore running can seem an overwhelming task at times, but the positive comments from both customers and volunteers help motivate us immensely.

The Bookstore has been asked to sponsor many events, including door prizes at the Friends' Annual meeting, several Library outreach activities for veterans and the homeless, as well as Friends' activities such as Poets at the Plummer House. The Bookstore donates baskets of books, gift certificates for use in the store, tote bags and t-shirts. Many of the Friends' Volunteers do double-duty by working as cashiers or sorters in the store, as well as helping out at auditorium book sales or events such as the History Hullabaloo. In fact, in 2012, the combined volunteer hours of the Friends was equal to eight full-time positions for the Library!

The Bookstore is in the process of getting a make-over. The Stewardship group now has a bookcase to display their collectible books to best advantage, and the store has been painted a cheery yellow. Soon the store will boast new signs to direct patrons to their favorite sections more easily. Other changes include new pricing on our books. After some experimentation, all mass-market fiction will be priced at either \$1 or \$2, based on copyright. We have also reviewed the pricing on non-fiction and changed our pricing strategy there. The Bookstore sells music CDs for \$1 each, and we generally have a wide

selection. If you have not visited the Bookstore lately, please drop by and look around.

The book store also offers gift certificates, t-shirts, and tote bags for sale if you need a gift (even if it is for yourself!).



New tote bags available



New T-Shirts in the bookstore

Celebrate Poets and Poetry

By Harriet Hodgson

Maybe it's the weather, maybe it's the scenery, maybe it's the spirit. Whatever the reason, Minnesota is packed with poets. There are many organizations for poets as well, including the League of Minnesota Poets and Southern Minnesota Poets Society. Our state has its own Poet Laureate, Joyce Sutphen, yet many don't realize there are poets among us.

On Wednesday, March 13th, from noon until 2:30 p.m., the Friends of the Rochester Public Library will host a special poetry event, *Poets at the Plummer House*. The celebration and fundraiser will include a message from *Post-Bulletin* Managing Editor Jay Furst, readings by prize-winning poets, and light refreshments. A special collection of poetry books will be available for purchase at this event.

Tickets are \$10 each and you can make your reservation by calling 507-328-2341. This is your chance to meet personally with poets - something that doesn't happen very often. Plan to attend as we celebrate local poets, poetry, and the music of words.

Great Deals and New Preview for WinterFest Shoppers

By Bruce Witts



Shoppers attending the recent WinterFest Book Sale found excellent deals and were spotted leaving with bags and boxes of excellent reading material. New this year was a Preview Sale, allowing Friends of the Library members to enter one day early to get the best deals. This new offering was a great success and generated 14 new Friends' Memberships.



An extra three tables were added this year, allowing the overflow of fiction books to be moved along the south wall, allowing for a better visual appeal and easier shopping for customers. Putting in the extra row of tables even made the aisles look & feel bigger!

More than 32 volunteers put in more than 180 hours over the course of this 4-day event, which raised \$3,911 for the library. My thanks goes to all the volunteers and library staff for their great contributions in making this a fun and profitable event enjoyed by everyone. The Friends and the library received a great deal of positive feedback from many happy shoppers.



2nd Saturday Sales!

If you missed our WinterFest Book Sale, don't despair! You can still catch some wonderful deals by joining us on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for our 2nd Saturday Sale in the Friends' Bookstore. Each month we feature a different genre of book at specially discounted prices!

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.

Friends' Memberships!

All paid memberships expired on December 31, 2012. If you haven't done so, please renew by mail, in the bookstore, or through the Library website. If you have questions, email them to nanlibrary@charter.net. Thank you.

From the Director

Audrey Betcher, Library Director



The Library's Strategic Plan is complete and has been approved by the library board.

We had thirty community members tell us their vision for the community and what were the most important roles the library should take in order to make that vision a reality.

With that information, a planning committee made up of four library board members, a Foundation board member, a Friends' board member, three community members, and three staff members wrote the plan with the incredible support of a facilitator. The commitment of the community members and the planning committee was truly extraordinary. Elizabeth Ritman was the Friends' representative and she was a valuable member of the team.

The new Vision Statement for the library is "Where aspirations, ideas and knowledge converge."

The new Mission Statement for the library is "We strengthen community and enrich lives by sparking imagination, creativity, engagement and learning."

We have only three goals in the plan: 1) Grow literacy and the Ability to use Library and Information Resources 2) Engage the Community 3) Build Infrastructure to Meet Community Needs

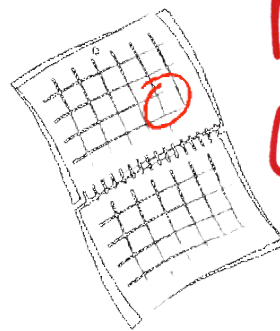
So what does that really mean for the library? Under goal one it means that we will expand our work helping families prepare children for school, we'll expand our work with teen and adult literacy, we'll continue our work helping students with homework, and we'll work to improve how we provide

information and instruction for everyone at their point of need.

Under goal two we'll engage the community through programming, partnerships, creativity and innovation, by finding ways to connect people who share the same passions, and by increasing civil engagement.

For goal three we will explore ways to use our current space to better fulfill the mission as well as planning for the space needs of the future. We will build the technical infrastructure needs to connect citizens to the online world. We will also work to tell our story better so that more people understand the benefits of the public library.

We continue our quest to be the most relevant and esteemed community resource we can be. We value your partnership on that journey.



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Rochesterfest 2013!

Rochesterfest 2013 is coming soon! As in past years, the Friends of the Library will join the city-wide festivities with a 4-day book sale on June 24-27 in the Library Auditorium, this year with a one-day-early Preview Sale for Friends' Members!

Mark your calendar now and look for more information on our website, blog, and in our bookstore. This is an annual sale you won't want to miss!

President's Column

Elizabeth Ritman, Past President



2012 was a very rewarding year for the Friends with both ongoing and new activities.

Our Rochester community continues to donate thousands of items which are sorted and then sold or donated. From these items the library was able to add or replace 8,240 books in its collection with an estimated value of \$172,596.

Books, tapes, DVDs and more are sold in the bookstore, online, at four auditorium sales and at other sales. From these proceeds, membership and other sources, amounts given by the Friends to the library in 2012 include:

- \$50,000 in undesignated funds from the bookstore.
- \$54,296 to fulfill specific library requests for programs, databases and software, equipment and more.
- \$8,031 in virtual credit from online sales which allows the library to buy directly from certain sources.
- \$7,265 for the *Read With Me* Program which distributed packets to the 3,360 newborns at the two Rochester hospitals.

As well as these proceeds, the Friends continue to support the library in many varied ways, including:

- Assisted staff with the *Author Reads* in selling books and helping at the events.
- Assisted staff at two *History Hullabaloo*s with registration and by providing treats.

- Hosted a staff appreciation breakfast.
- Raised \$370 at a *Book Talk with Friends* fundraiser at the Plummer House.
- Held the *1st Annual Celebration of Rochester Authors*.
- Participated in the community event *ArtiGras* at Mayo Park.
- Provided and served cake and coffee at the celebration for the new bookmobile.
- Published four newsletters available for members by mail and online.
- Increased visibility and provided information with the Friends' website, Facebook and the Friends' blog.
- Paid for one parking space for Friends volunteering at the library.
- Continued the sales of special books and the stocking of the display case in the lobby by the Unusual and Special Book Stewardship Team.

The Friends donated books and non-print materials to schools, non-profit agencies, businesses and families. Some of these places include Channel One Food Shelf, Community Food Response, Olmsted County Detention Center and Jail, mailings to the military for Operation Hometown, Rochester Public Schools, and many more.

As you can see it has been a busy year. The Rochester Public Library and our community greatly benefit by the contributions of all the Friends who so willingly volunteer.

A big Thank You to everyone – You made it happen.



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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)



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)