



WHAT WE'RE READING: ANTI-RACISM BOOKS



Communities across the country are responding to the tragic murder of George Floyd through protests, conversations, and renewed calls for change. Rochester Public Library has curated a list of titles to provide a starting point for understanding racism and for learning how to be an antiracist.

One title, "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota" has been selected as Rochester's latest Community Reads title. Additional copies of the book, in both digital and physical formats, are available at rplmn.org.

Community members are invited to participate by reading the book and joining in an online discussion in August. More information about the Community Reads book and other titles on race can be found at: rplmn.org/antiracism.

About "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota"

Edited by Sun Yung Shin, this book explores race through the eyes of sixteen Minnesota authors. Each writer shares their own experiences of living in the state as a person of color.



IN THIS ISSUE



Library Services During COVID-19
Page 2



Fine Free RPL
Page 3



Friends' Scholarship Winner, Crystal Stoppel
Page 6

LIBRARY SERVICES DURING COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to change the way community members are accessing information and entertainment resources.

Services offered by Rochester Public Library have transformed into a new way of delivery since the initial closure of the building in mid-March.

“We’ve learned there are new ways of doing things,” says Library Director Audrey Betcher. “The pandemic has highlighted our dedication to responding to community needs.”

When the initial closure went into April, May, and even into June, Betcher says library staff looked for new ways to offer vital resources.

At the end of April, library staff added the popular Curbside Pickup service, allowing patrons to place items on hold and pick them up along 1st Ave SE. RPL staff started the service after creating a safety operations plan, with several protocols in place to help both curbside staff and patrons stay safe.

By June 1, the library also added Internet Service, instituting an appointment-only system to help maintain social distancing guidelines.

As summer continues, services continue to change, including those on the Bookmobile.



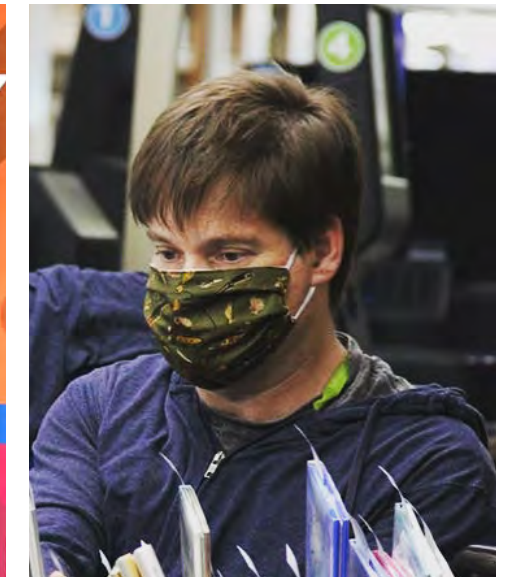
According to the library’s Head of Readers Services, Kim Edson, working around safety protocols proved to be challenging for the Bookmobile. “We have such a small space, so we knew traditional services were not a possibility for this summer.”

Instead of hosting patrons inside the Bookmobile’s small interior, Edson says the best option is replicating services at the main library, including a curbside pickup option and providing internet access. “With the Bookmobile, we found that providing Wi-Fi access is our safest option for both visitors and staff.”



Services continue to be evaluated as the COVID-19 health crisis lingers, according to Betcher. “When the outbreak began, we changed how we operated. Initially, we were only able to focus on digital services, but as we developed strong plans, we expanded our work to curbside and internet. While we know it will be a long time before we’re back at full capacity, we are committed to providing as much of our services as we can in a safe and thoughtful manner.”

For all the latest on RPL service updates, visit: rplmn.org/covid.



FINE FREE @ RPL

After years of discussion, and following similar decisions by libraries across the nation, the Rochester Public Library Board voted to stop charging fines on overdue materials.

In addition to going fine-free, the board also voted to erase any past overdue charges and also provide a one-time forgiveness on fees associated with lost or damaged items.

“This gives everyone a fresh start to have access to library resources at such a critical time,”

says Library Board President Erin Pagel.

Historically, in times of economic struggle, community members turn to libraries for both information and entertainment. From applying for jobs to learning new skills, or for borrowing DVDs and books for an escape, libraries offer resources for individuals and families facing hardships.

For more information about the library’s Fine Free program, visit rplmn.org/finefree.



Board President Erin Pagel says the decision to go Fine Free started over the last few years, as the board works to improve equity in the community.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The past few months have been challenging and difficult for many. We are so grateful that even during these trying times, you continue to support our Library and Rochester Public Library Foundation.

Thank you for the notes of encouragement and the donations we've received which will help absorb the costs of going fine free and will allow us to obtain the resources we need to help hurting community members. We are fortunate to be surrounded by caring people. If you are able to pitch in, please go to: rplmn.org/donate.



Brenda Kardock
Rochester Public Library
Foundation, Executive Director

ROCHESTER AREA FOUNDATION, LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT FINE FREE EFFORTS

Rochester Area Foundation has awarded Rochester Public Library Foundation a TOGETHER: Greater Rochester Area COVID-19 Community Support Grant to help absorb the costs of going Fine Free to remove access barriers to ALL in our community. Local businesses: Bowlocity, Custom Alarm, and Sterling State Bank are on board as well!

We are moving toward our goal of \$50,000 - please join us and pitch in what you are able.



Rochester Area
Foundation



THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER PLAYLIST SPONSORS!



KRAUS-ANDERSON



DONORS FROM JANUARY 1 - APRIL 30, 2020

David & Susan Ahlquist	Hy-Vee	David & Doris Nasby	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
De & Trish Bendtsen	IBM	Ryan Nett	Sterling State Bank
Bernice Krug Donor Designated Fund	Phyllis Jacobs	Mr. Frank A. Nichols	Mark & Julie Stevens
Audrey Betcher	Dr. & Mrs. Frank A. Jost III	William & Sharon Nichols	John & Patty Trnka
Aleta Borrud & Jim Findlay	Louise Judd	William & Heidi Oehler	Dr. & Mrs. Richard G. Van Dellen
Bowlocity	David Kemp	Irvin & Maureen Plitzuweit	Barbara Westmoreland
Bremer Bank	Kraus-Anderson Construction	Vincent Pugnier	Autry & Elizabeth Williams
Ron & Sally Bymers	Larry Laber	Rochester International Film Group	John & Irene Wiltsie
Richard Cayward Jr.	Dotty & Doug Leimer	Ron & Louise Rossi	Paul & Jean Wittmer
Ms. Chris Cross	Sabrina Liu	Rev. & Mrs. Robert Schroeder	J. Herman & Marilyn Yates
Custom Communications, Inc.	Mrs. Marjorie Mehring	Ms. Diane Sedivy	Paul Zellweger & Elizabeth Stewart
Carol & Titus Evans	Joe & Arleeta Messick	Michael & Susan Shepard	
Stephen & Monica Frytak	Robert & Ruth Ann Miles	Joan Smith	
Bruce & Lois Fure	Thomas & Janet Munger		
Carol Geerdes			
Tom & Anne Marie Griffin			
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hall			

IN APPRECIATION

Heidi Huser
in appreciation of Brenda Kardock

IN HONOR

Moses & Emily Margritt Rodriguez
in honor of grandchildren, Soren, Henry, Nora, Leo, Liva & future

Colleen Worisek
Josie Worisek and Madden & Easton Olson

IN MEMORY

Louise Bastron <i>in memory of Alice Olson</i>	Carl & Rosemary Most <i>in memory of Frieda Most</i>	Ms. Elva L. McFarlin <i>in memory of Lois Gardner & Barb Moulton</i>
Anonymous <i>in memory of Cassie Wilson</i>	Kerri Kennedy <i>in memory of Gordon Greene</i>	Kevin Praska <i>in memory of Alice Praska</i>
Park & Maple Zheng <i>in memory of Cassie Wilson</i>	Ed Creagan & Peggy Menzel <i>in memory of Helen Menzel</i>	Paulette & Mike Zenner <i>in memory of Amanda S. Carlson</i>
Damon & Jaclyn Houghton <i>in memory of Cassie Wilson</i>	Crystal Olson <i>in memory of Joan Sween</i>	Carl & Rosemary Most <i>in memory of Frieda Most</i>
Karry Reicks & Liam Amundson <i>in memory of Cassie Wilson</i>	Myrna Strand <i>in memory of Keri Ostby's Mom</i>	Monica Van Kirk <i>in memory of Jeffrey Paul Van Kirk</i>
Allison Whalen <i>in memory of Cassie Wilson</i>	Kirk & Lisa Rodysill <i>in memory of Noreen & Leonard Benson</i>	Phyllis & Sherwin Goldman <i>in memory of Julius Mangon</i>
Beth M. Nienow <i>in memory of Dr. Alan Sessler</i>	Amber Bridgeman <i>in memory of Randy Geyerman</i>	David Kemp <i>in memory of Lillian McChesney Kemp</i>
Audrey Betcher <i>in memory of Dr. Alan Sessler</i>	Steven & Susan Thalacker <i>in memory of Ray Johnson</i>	Lois Hruska <i>in memory of Paul J. Hruska</i>
Justin & Emily Davis <i>in memory of Dr. Alan Sessler</i>	Mary Aronin <i>in memory of Richard A. Bedard</i>	Ms. Terri Dugan <i>in memory of Van Heston Schwartz</i>
Sheila Rainey & Rick Chapman <i>in memory of Dr. Alan Sessler</i>	Ms. Lisa A Lundquist <i>in memory of Robert McFarlin</i>	Sandra Atkinson <i>in memory of Walter Atkinson</i>
Ms. Holly Greiner <i>in memory of Ethel Herrick</i>		



FOUNDATION RECEIVES RDA GRANT

Rochester Public Library Foundation (RPLF) is one of several local businesses and organizations to receive a Keep it Local, COVID-19 Innovators Grant from the Rochester Downtown Alliance (RDA) and Destination Medical Center.

The grants were designed to foster innovation and collaboration among local entities in light of challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

RPLF received a grant totaling \$1,372.67 which will fund the production and distribution of cards created by Tulip Tree Studios. Funds will also support the purchase of a much-needed printer from Data Smart Computers.

We could really use your support to help:
www.rplmn.org/donate

Please pitch in what you are able so we can fund new books, hot spots and programs due to COVID cuts.

If you would prefer a prepaid envelope mailed to you, please call us at 507.328.2387.

FRIENDS' SCHOLARSHIP WINNER, CRYSTAL STOPPEL

Like many children, Crystal Stoppel spent much of her youth visiting Rochester Public Library.

For her, however, she did not have a "normal" childhood experience. She and other members

of her family faced numerous hardships, including homelessness, poverty, addiction and incarceration.

With no place to go while her mother worked downtown, Crystal and her siblings spent hours in the library. "I needed to escape the world I was living in and in coming here, I found endless worlds in which to do that," she says.

Crystal went on to experience challenges in her own life, facing addiction and becoming a mother at a young age. Today, Crystal is sober, with a home of her own, and working at Rochester Public Library.

"The library gave me my "Me" back," she explains.

Crystal was chosen as the recipient of this year's Friends' Scholarship award. She is attending Rochester Community Technical College in the fall and hopes to eventually earn a degree in drug and alcohol treatment counseling.



“Every great dream starts with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you

the **STRENGTH**,
the **PATIENCE**,
and the **PASSION**
to **REACH**
for the **STARS**

to **CHANGE**
the **WORLD**”

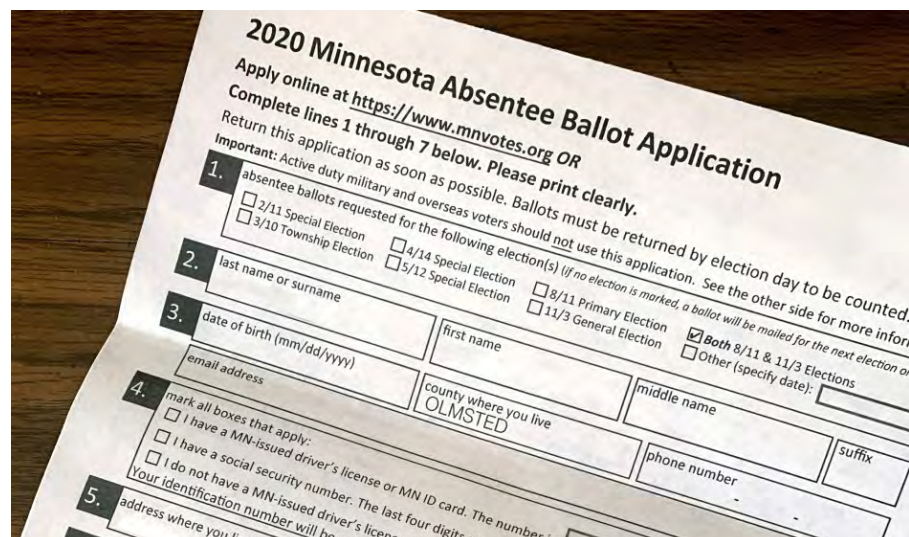
- Harriet Tubman

**Rochester
Public Library**



BOOKSALES & DONATIONS

Without the prospect of library booksales in the near future, the Friends are currently not accepting donations at this time. Updates on future sales, library Book Store plans, and donations can all be found online at rplmn.org/friends.



CANDIDATE FORUMS, VOTING AMID COVID-19

The ongoing health crisis is changing the voting process this year, with Olmsted County proactively sending out absentee ballot applications and the library hosting online candidate forums.

In June, county election officials mailed out absentee ballot applications to all registered voters for the August primary and general election in November. Polling places will still be open for both election dates, but may be different, due to COVID-19.

Ahead of the election, the library is once again collaborating with the League of Women Voters for a series of candidate forums. Details on each forum can be found at rplmn.org/vote.



Rochester Public Library

101 Second Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
www.rplmn.org

Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 62
Rochester, MN 55901



LIBRARY HOURS

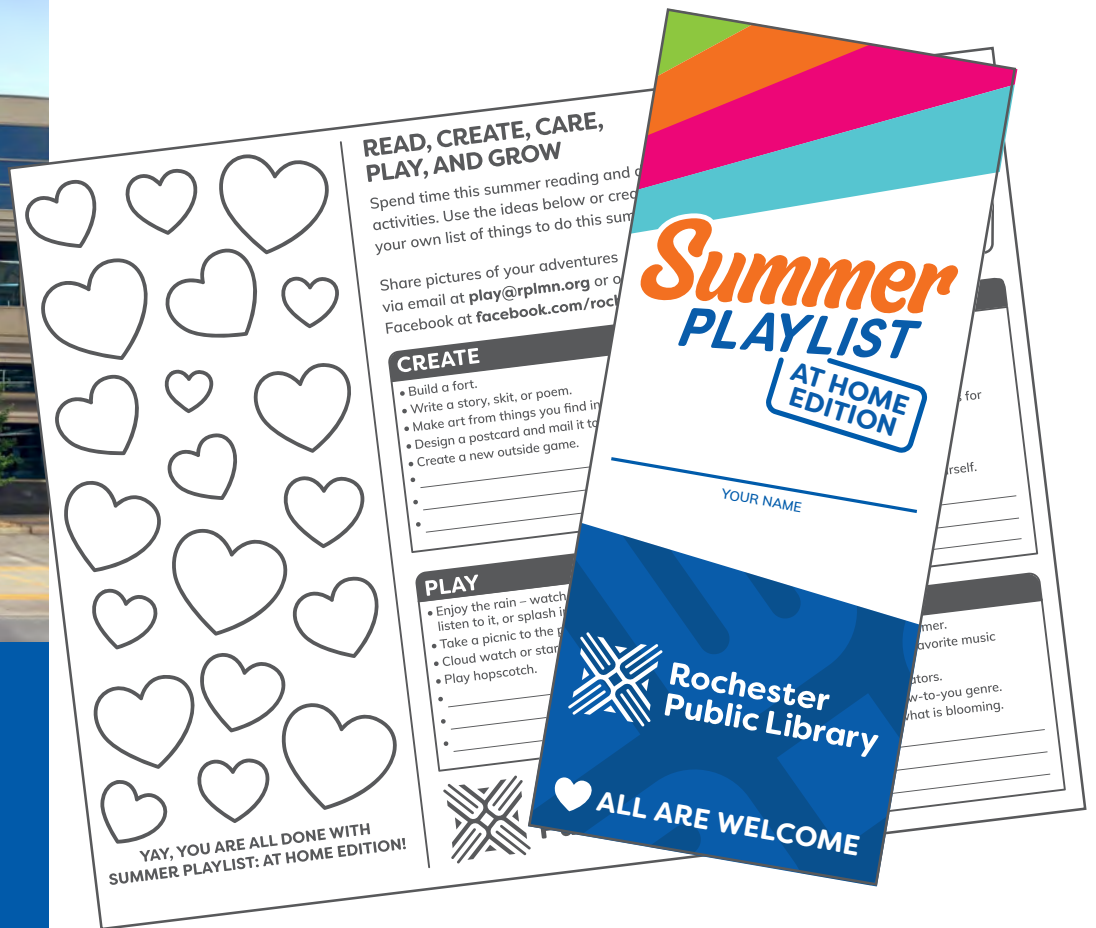
Due to COVID-19, hours continue to be modified. Please visit rplmn.org for our current hours of operation.

507.328.2300 | www.rplmn.org

Audrey Betcher, Library Director

Karen Lemke, Editor
klemke@rplmn.org

Nicole Henry, Layout/Design



SUMMER PLAYLIST: AT HOME EDITION

Summer Playlist: At Home Edition is an all ages reading and adventure program.

This year the program is simple: just stop by curbside pickup or a bookmobile stop and ask for Summer Playlist for your whole family.

Learn more at rplmn.org/playlist

STARTS JULY 1ST

FIND US ONLINE

