



## Murder Mystery at the New Library

On Saturday, November 5th over 150 people of all ages participated in the library's Murder Mystery event, "Murder Mystery @ the New Library".

Set in 1995, the event centered on the fictitious murder of author Tiffany Trueheart. The author was at the library giving a reading of her latest book, *Love and Frappuccino*, and she keeled over dead after taking a sip of Snapple! Who could have poisoned her? Was it her beleaguered husband? Or maybe it was librarian Marian Murky? After all, she used to work as a chemist before becoming a librarian. What about Lily Leery, Tiffany's agent? Rumor is, Tiffany was going to fire her.

Participants wore their best 1995 looks and covered the whole library looking for clues and interviewing suspects. In the end, many successful sleuths solved their cases and justice prevailed! Special thanks to the Rochester Downtown Alliance, who provided funding as part of their Event Start-Up Grant Program and the Friends of the Rochester Public Library who provided prizes to the successful sleuths.

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## RPL Board takes a stance on the freedom to read

During its October monthly meeting, the Rochester Public Library Board adopted a resolution on the freedom to read.

“The library board is proud to enthusiastically affirm the Rochester Public Library’s commitment to intellectual freedom,” says Library Board President Antinea Ascione, adding, “We are happy to offer a rich and diverse collection of materials that supports our mission, and fosters intellectual curiosity within our community.”

The resolution supports the library’s mission: welcoming all to connect and learn. With a rise in book challenges seen across the nation, the board confirmed that it condemns censorship and book banning in all forms and upholds the library’s values including the “respect for intellectual freedom.”



“We’re really fortunate to have a library board that is so committed to ensuring our community’s freedom to read,” says RPL Director Karen Lemke. “This resolution reinforces that commitment and demonstrates a willingness to protect individual rights to accessing information.”

The full resolution can be read at [www.rplmn.org/rpl-board-freedom](http://www.rplmn.org/rpl-board-freedom)



## Bring your grown-ups for fun at RPL

If you are in the mood for some indoor family fun this winter, Rochester Public Library has you covered! Visit Youth Services any time the library is open to create art in the Art Room. The room is always stocked with paper, markers, scissors, glue, tape, and interesting surprises so you can draw, collage, fold, or sculpt your next great work of art.

Preschoolers and their grown-ups will enjoy the science-themed activities available on the Discovery Cart, as well as playing with dinosaurs, or boats, or ducks in the doll-sized play and tree houses. The Play Spot is back open with access to a Post Office, Farmers Market, Garden, and Canoe. Visit to enjoy some imaginative play and build early literacy skills while having a blast!

Some fantastic programming will launch in January including Family Storytime on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings at 6PM and family tabletop activities all weekend long! We will also launch special family events on select Saturdays and Sundays; watch

the events calendar for details: [www.rplmn.org/events](http://www.rplmn.org/events)





## Update from the Director

### December 2022

In the first month of 2023, the Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees will share in a unique study session with the Rochester City Council. This joint session, scheduled for January 30, 2023, is an opportunity for the City Council and Library Board to review the space concerns at RPL.

The library's current location was designed in the late 1980s, decades before Rochester became the medical destination that it is today. In December of 1988, consultant Robert Rohlf's preliminary planning report was presented to the library board. Key recommendations included:

- A collection size of 548,400 titles, to maintain a 4-titles-per-resident ratio
- 480 seats throughout the building for use in open areas, study spaces, and meeting rooms
- 130,560 gross square feet of total space for library operations

The recommendations were adjusted over the years leading up to the construction of the building to meet budgetary limits. Over the course of drawing designs for the new library, the building started at three floors, but was cut back to two floors due to a lack of funding. When the building opened to the public in October 1995, then-director Judith Taylor alluded to plans for a later expansion to the building, saying, "the new two-story library will be sturdy enough to hold a partial third floor someday, increasing space by 25 percent."



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Over the course of three decades, library board members and staff have examined space needs and modified spaces to continue serving the public. The library board brought forth a proposal for a library expansion in 2016, but the proposal lacked adequate funding. Throughout the past several decades, community members have also asked about the lack of branch facilities in Rochester. The 2016 proposal did not include branches, as community members were not in favor of financially supporting the additional, ongoing operational costs.

In January of 2020, with a new strategic plan and an updated library building program, the library board reiterated their commitment to addressing space needs, with consensus around two ideas:

The Library has outgrown its current space and must continue planning for the future.

The Library must maintain a downtown presence.

We are excited to take this next step in the conversation and look forward to addressing the current and future needs of the library. To learn more about the library's space needs, including a review of the 1988 Rohlf Report, visit: [www.rplmn.org/space-needs](http://www.rplmn.org/space-needs)

*Karen Lemke*

Karen Lemke  
Rochester Public Library,  
Director





ROCHESTER  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION



A new twist on a  
21-year classic.

Saturday, January 28th  
Rochester Public Library

To order your tickets or find more  
information go to:

[rplmn.org/wit](http://rplmn.org/wit)



## Letter from the Foundation Director

Wit, Wisdom & Wine has been the Foundation's annual library fundraiser for more than two decades, but as Executive Director, January 28, 2023 will be my 4th WIT - and only my second in-person event!! As we plan to get together again in the

library to celebrate RPL's amazing accomplishments and raise funds to help ensure the future, we are looking to streamline the evening, so we can enjoy more of a shared experience. We invite you to join us to get an inside look at multilingual learning with Teacher of the Year recipient, Natalia Benjamin, and discover Rochester's roots and hidden stories with Fulbright Scholar, Virginia Wright-Peterson. The name for the

new format will simply be WIT. Wisdom and wine (along with culinary treats) will still be served, but you need not remember in which order they go!

Our goal for the event and 2023 is to raise funds for high priority items outside of the library's budget, including new books for the collection, access to library materials for those experiencing barriers, supporting the Rochester Reading Champions tutoring program, and bridging the social worker pilot at RPL. Addressing these vital needs will give so many in our community a chance to thrive. If you feel strongly, as our Foundation Board does, please join us in making a gift at [www.rplmn.org/donate](http://www.rplmn.org/donate).

I look forward to seeing you and supporting the phenomenal work of the Rochester Public Library!

**Brenda Kardock**  
Rochester Public Library Foundation,  
Executive Director

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Beth & Niel Wiegand  
Dennis & Lynn Wong  
J. Herman & Marilyn Yates

## In Memory

Sandra Weissler  
*in memory of Arnold M. Weissler MD*  
Megan Magnuson  
*in memory of Charlene Pomerleau*  
Ann Hoven  
*in memory of Duane Hoven*  
Doug Sween  
*in memory of Joan Sween*  
Tonya Koskovich  
*in memory of Maria Mungo*  
Megan Kelly Hubbell  
*in memory of Maria Mungo, beloved aunt & reader*  
Stephanie Podulke & Jim Frost  
*in memory of Mike Podulke*  
Sandy Tschida  
*in memory of Tony Tschida, Sr.*  
Sandra Atkinson  
*in memory of Walter & Joan Atkinson*

## In Memory of Alex Puggle

Dick & Joanne Rosener  
Beth M. Nienow  
Kimberly Edson & Angela Joyce  
Samantha Rother  
Malea & Chad Schroeder  
Ryan & Kerri Kroeze  
Brenda Kardock  
Puggle Community

## In Memory of Doralee Dubin

Larry & Betty Ann Danielson  
Wayne Servais & Kathleen Muthart  
David & Renee Fellman  
Herb & Marie Espinda  
Sarah Keller

## In Memory of Elaine Ream

Brenda Kardock  
Chantal Margottin  
Marcia Rodriguez  
Becky Cross & Lars Kristiansen  
Sigal Ben-Ari Gold  
Robert O'Neill  
Margaret Kassan  
Rita & Ed Hernandez

## In Memory of Mary Diekmann

Friends of Mary Diekmann  
Kimberly Edson & Angela Joyce  
RPL Staff  
Brenda Kardock

## In Memory of May Jesseph

Lynn & Chuck Pentek  
Beth M. Nienow  
Diane & Dean Pollock  
RPL Staff  
Marie A. Wilson  
Ann Beresford  
Cynthia Wright-Dellanave  
Jane Beresford

## In Honor

Christ United Methodist Church  
*in honor of Allison Carpenter & Brian Lind for presenting RPL Social Worker Program*  
Gwen Riggan  
*in honor of Bonnie Kinion*  
Angela Allers & Doug Zars  
*in honor of DeLona & Stefano's Anniversary*  
Kendall Salter & Kayleen Asmjus  
*in honor of Emma K.*  
Gwen Riggan  
*in honor of Judy Kereakos*  
Kimberly Edson & Angela Joyce  
*in honor of Susan Hansen & her retirement*

## In Appreciation

J. Herman & Marilyn Yates  
*in appreciation of all the benefits at RPL*  
Leon & Linda Gregg  
*in appreciation of bookmobile staff*  
Jim & Marian Dyck  
*in appreciation of The RPL Staff*



# FRIENDS OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Friends' Book Store Hours

Monday - Thursday  
11AM-6PM

Friday & Saturday  
11AM-2PM

### New inventory daily!

Watch our Facebook page for pop-up sales and other great deals!

[www.facebook.com/FriendRochPubLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/FriendRochPubLibrary)

## Farewell to Outgoing Friends Board Members

We wish to recognize three of our outgoing Board members, as they complete their terms of service:

- **John Hunziker** has served on the Friends' Board for the past six years with terms as Vice-President and President. He unexpectedly got to guide us through the uncertainties of the COVID pandemic. A lasting tangible impact of John's board service are the beautiful coffee table book display racks used by the bookstore.
- **Phillip Nordquist** has served on the Board for the past nine years, in the role of Treasurer for most of that time. He has provided invaluable fiscal oversight and has put in long hours as the primary cashier for our four auditorium sales each year. Phillip continues to volunteer regularly in the bookstore and for the auditorium sales.
- **Lou Wagner** has served on the Board for the past six years, including three years as Vice-President. He also helps with boxing non-fiction in preparation for auditorium sales and helps run auditorium sales from set up to tear down.

We are grateful for the significant time and energy contributions these three gentlemen have made over the past several years. While they are stepping down from the Board, we will still see them volunteering for various Friends' activities. Please thank them for their efforts!

## Seeking Friends Board Members

Do you love our library? Show your support by joining our Friends Board!! Contact Marilyn at 507-328-2341 or [mcampbell@rplmn.org](mailto:mcampbell@rplmn.org) or any current board member. For more information, visit [www.rplmn.org/friends](http://www.rplmn.org/friends) and click on "About Us (Friends)."

## Save the Date: Friends' Annual Meeting

**Monday, January 30, 2023 11:30AM**

The annual meeting for Friends' members and library volunteers will include a light lunch and will be held in RPL's auditorium. A summary of Friends' 2022 activities will be shared and the 2023 board members will be elected. The guest speaker will be Kim Edson on Intellectual Freedom.

Invitations will be sent out in January to all Friends' members, including active library volunteers. Hope to see you there!

## Autumn Book Sale Results

The October Autumn Book Sale was a phenomenal success! The Friends of the Library made \$6500 which is enough to fund our support of the "Read with Me" book bags for babies program.

## Friends Winterfest Sale

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 | 5-7PM\*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 | 10AM-5:30PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 | 10AM-5:30PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 | 1-4PM

\*Members-only preview sale

Memberships can be renewed or purchased at the door.  
[www.rplmn.org/friends](http://www.rplmn.org/friends)



## Construction Update

It has been an exciting few months at the library as our roof repair has come to completion. We've had loads of tires on the roof, got to witness a porta potty hoisted up with a crane, and even had to shut down for the removal and install of a brand-new skylight. Merit Contracting has done amazing work to move us out of the roof phase of repair and onto the next round with Ford Metro – who are working on the façade and windows to better seal up the library.

Ford Metro has started working on the outside of the building which includes replacing sealant and caulk, new insulation, and installing other enhancements to better prevent water infiltration to the building. They will be working their way through the three outer walls including the rotunda.

This work shouldn't impact library users too much inside the library besides occasionally having areas of the library walls blocked off or occasional noise. The scaffolding and barriers outside are still required to keep everyone safe while the work moves forward, as you'll see Ford Metro utilizing different lifts to access outer walls and windows.

This phase is taking longer than expected as there isn't a definite timeline for the project. For the sealants to be installed, the surface must be dry and frost free. This becomes challenging during the winter months. There is also a safety concern with moving windows during windy days. Due to these factors – the unpredictable weather we see downtown can easily change the timeline, so we hope to continue to keep everyone posted on our website at [www.rplmn.org/roof](http://www.rplmn.org/roof)

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## Is it a book vending machine from space? No, it's a BookBox!

Things continue to move forward as RPL prepares to launch our first BookBox. Soon you'll be able to stop by and check out materials from a special collection that lives in this futuristic box—and all you'll need is your library card to get started. You'll scan your card and open the large door to find a popular collection of books and DVDs. When you pull out an item, it automatically checks it out to you and all you need to do is place it back in the box to check an item back in. We are thankful to Rochester Fire Department for partnering with us to provide library access at this location and we can't wait to share more about this project with you next year!



### Library Hours

Monday - Thursday  
10AM-8PM

Friday - Sunday  
10AM-6PM



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### Find Us Online

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