

Book Group in a Bag

Katherine Stetcher, librarian in the Readers Services Division, created a new book group service. One of Katherine's colleagues had told her of a new service that other libraries were trying, called "Book Group in a Bag". Each kit includes 10 copies of the selected title, a reading guide including discussion questions, read alike book marks and tips on starting a book group. Katherine decided to create some kits for the Rochester Public Library. She started collecting multiple copies of popular titles from the donation bin. "I could never collect quite enough copies to put together entire kits", Katherine smiled. "Then Audrey Betcher suggested that I apply for a Minnesota Library Association Enhancement Grant. I wrote a grant application and several months later, received \$2000."

Katherine used the money to purchase copies of titles and attractive bags for toting around the book group kits. She decided which titles to create kits for by researching titles that other libraries had chosen and by completing the kits she had started from donations. She gave preference to titles available in paperback to stretch her budget. One of the RPL book groups, Literature into Film, donated 10 copies of the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

The "Book Group in a Bag" kits are a fantastic service for people who belong to a book group, or want to start one, because they take the hassle out of book groups. Members will no longer have to scramble to obtain a copy of the title of the month, and leaders will be equipped with study guides and suggested discussion questions.

There are currently 20 "Book Group in a Bag" kits available for check out. Titles include: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Year of Wonders*, *Angels and Demons*, *Falling Angels*, *The Red Tent*, *The House of Sand and Fog*, *The Corrections*, *Cold Mountain*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Bean Trees*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Giver*, *The Life of Pi*, *Under the Tuscan Sun*, *Angela's Ashes*, *Shadow Baby*, *The Nanny Diaries*, *Gap Creek*, *Blessings*, *The Lovely Bones*. If the kits prove popular Katherine plans to add 10 per year.

The kits can be reserved up to a year in advance and checked out for 5 weeks. To reserve a kit call the Fiction Movies and Music Desk (507) 285-8006. *Carrie Farrow*



Al Dollerschell

was elected our new president at the annual Meeting on January 25th. Al is a retired RCTC librarian who has been serving on our board for several years. Among his volunteer activities, he tutors kindergartners, works with Habitat for Humanity and serves on several Church committees. His favorite hobby is traveling.



Tom Dyer

retired from his position as Public Relations Director of the Rochester Public Library. One of his jobs was to act as liaison between the RPL and the *Friends of the RPL*. Tom was fun to work with and we will miss him.



Carrie Farrow

has replaced Tom as Communications Manager and will be our new liaison person. She has worked at the library for five years so many of us are acquainted with her. We don't expect her to play Lyle the Crocodile (that costume needs a tall man to wear it) but expect to enjoy working with her. Carrie is not married, but she has a sweet little Boston Terrier puppy named Tippy.



From the Director

If you are like me, life is incredibly busy. I often think there aren't enough hours in the day. I know that in my hectic schedule, I don't always say "thank you" enough. So now I am taking a calming breath, relaxing a little and focusing on what is important.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

You are incredible volunteers and supporters of the Rochester Public Library. You understand how critical it is for children to be good readers, you understand how important it is for all citizens to have access to good information, you understand that the library is a great return on investment for the community, and you understand the joy of a good book.

You are doing amazing things!!! Not only are you keeping critical programs going (bookstore sales – and all the hundreds of hours in all the related work, Read to Me, selecting and delivering to those who are homebound, etc.), you have undertaken new projects (redoing processes for author books sales and working with the Chamber).

I hope you can find the time to come to the Volunteer Recognition in the Auditorium starting at 4:30 pm on April 20th. I hope you can take a calming breath, relax a little, and hear how much you are appreciated.

I value you as *Friends* and as friends.

Audrey Betcher



Friends' Bookstore News



Hi, I'm Bev Reid, the new co-manager of the *Friends' Bookstore*. I have been a volunteer in the store for 4 years and this is my second year on the *Friends' board*.

Because of the great group of volunteers, sorters, pricers, cashiers, stockers and committee members, my decision to accept the responsibility was much easier. I know I will also have support and good training from Sue McMillan. I have been an active volunteer for many years, Schools, Girl Scouts, Community Food Response, and I just finished serving as the President of the women of my church. Currently, besides the bookstore, I have several volunteer duties at my church and I give educational tours at the Olmsted County History Center for second and third graders besides some of the other special programs held there. My husband, Bob and I have two daughters, a son-in-law, 4 grandchildren and a black Labrador. We are both retired, which we thoroughly enjoy. I worked for the Mayo Clinic and Bob was with IBM.

We had a very successful Midwinter Book sale, which brought in \$645.60. Thanks to Michalene Mangan who was the chairperson for this event and everyone who assisted her. Next winter's plans are to hold the sale during the week of Rochester Winter Fest, which will give us more publicity and hopefully even more sales.



Looking ahead, the bookstore will be planning for Rochesterfest and the theme this year, "Celebrate Your Library". We will be selling the Rochesterfest buttons and have our usual cart of books for giveaway to button wearers. The bookstore committee has also begun idea planning for a very special event in October, which is the 10th birthday of the store. Many volunteers, who were there when the store first opened are still active today. It is wonderful to have so many dedicated people.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

Bev Reid, Bookstore Co-Manager

Wit, Wisdom, and Wine 2005

In spite of fierce competition from an "opening" at the Rochester Art Center, a concert by British Export and Bull Riding at Mayo Civic, Wit, Wisdom and Wine exceeded previous years attendance and net revenue by a comfortable margin. Hot tickets for the evening were Tim Penny (who indicated that he would be happy to do a return engagement), followed by the usual suspects, Dr. Charles Abboud (Middle East), Mike Cords (Wine), Jim Russell (Consequences of World War I) and Father Nick (Just Keep the Change).

The excellent wine from Andy's held up but the great hors d'oeuvres from Daube's didn't last long.


We had several couples sign up at the last minute (welcome to Rochester).

One of many great items that brought some active bidding at the silent auction was a beautiful hand carved mahogany settee from the Jepara region of Indonesia. The piece was

donated to the event by the always generous Ann Haddorff of the Chateau Ste Giverny, Care Center. It sold for \$400.00. Special thanks go to Cynthia Daube and Don De Keyrel who were good enough to donate radio advertising air time from Daube's Bakery and Construction Partnership Inc. to promote our event. Cynthia also recorded the radio ad at KNXR with Roy Achter.

It seems the Library Foundation has a unique and popular format for a fund-raiser. People like the

educational/informational approach and they also have a nice evening out.

Many thanks to our sponsors. 



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Classes at the Library

Classes are free. Class sizes are limited. Call 285-8002 for more information and/or to pre-register. Classes are one hour and held in Meeting Room B unless otherwise noted.

Mon Apr 4: Online Catalog: Learn to search for titles, authors, subjects, and how to renew and reserve library items online. 12 noon

Thu Apr 7: Genealogy Resources at the Library
6 pm to 8 pm

Mon Apr 11: On-line Catalog Class for Kids and Parents pre-registration required. 6:30 pm
Meeting Room A (First Floor)


Tue Apr 12: Intermediate Internet: Practice time included. 9:30 am to 11 am

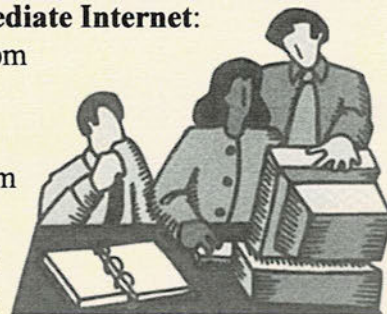
Thu Apr 21: Magazines & Newspapers Many people don't realize how much information is available to them via the library's home page: www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org. This class will cover how to find articles online. 2 pm

Wed Apr 27: Internet Geared to the beginner, a reference librarian will cover the basics. Practice time is included. 3:30 - 5 pm

Mon May 9: Intermediate Internet:
12 noon to 1:30 pm

**Wed May 18:
Magazines &
Newspapers** 4 pm

**Mon May 23:
Internet (beginning)**
9:30 - 11 am 



News from Friends

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This newsletter is published for members of the *Friends of the Rochester Public Library*. Your comments are appreciated.

Spring Calendar – 2005

(all events will take place in the library Auditorium unless otherwise noted)



Fri Apr 1 Spring Filmfest **The Dingles, Rain Babies** 10:30 am

150 years. 2:30 pm

Sat Apr 2 Film: **The Cat in the Hat** 10:30 am

Mon Apr 25: Post-Bulletin Dialogues. Free admission, refreshments available. 7 pm

Tue Apr 5 Bedtime Stories **Cuddly Cats** 6:30

Tue Apr 26: Bedtime Stories **Mother Goose Visits** 6:30 pm

Sat Apr 9: Special Presentation **The Stonecutter: A Musical Folktale** 10:30 am

Sat Apr 30: Special Program: Magician Alan Skogerbo celebrates **Dia de los niños / Day of the Child** 10:30 am

Sun Apr 10: Coffee House Author: John D. Bessler attorney, professor, author of *Legacy of Violence: Lynch Mobs and Executions in Minnesota* etc. 2 pm

Fri May 6: Lois Lowry, author of **The Giver**, will speak & answer questions. Sponsored by Yaggy Colby. 7 pm at the John Marshall Auditorium. Doors open at 6 pm.

Mon Apr 11: **On-line Catalog Class** (see page 3)

Tue Apr 12 Bedtime Stories **Just Ducky** 6:30 pm

Sat May 7: Family Funfest **Marionettes & Magic** with Jim Jayes 10:30 am

Wed Apr 13: iFilm: **Wilby Wonderful** (English Comedy) 6 pm

" **Free Comic Book Day** Bring your library card. 12 noon - 7 pm at 1611 North Broadway

Sat Apr 16: Spanglish Story Time! **Springtime Stories/Cuentos de la primavera** 10:30 am

" The Art & Writing of Comic Books & Graphic Novels presented by Graphic Novel artist Bob Lipski (Uptown Girl). 2 pm

Sat May 14: Family Funfest film: **Harry and the Lady Next Door** 10:30 am

" Young Adult Poster Contest Entry Deadline "**Oh, The Places You'll Go**" by 5:30 pm at the Fiction, Movies & Music Desk

Sat May 21: Spanglish Story Time! **On the Farm/En La granja** 10:30 am

Tue Apr 19: Bedtime Stories **Spring is Here** 6:30 pm

Sat May 28: Film: **The Mouse and the Motorcycle** 10:30 am

Wed Apr 20: Volunteer Recognition: 4:30 pm

Mon May 30 Articles for Summer issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* due.

Sat Apr 23: Film **The Lorax** 10:30 am

Tue Jun 6 Summer issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* in the mail!

Sun Apr 24: Yaggy Colby History Lecture, John Hunziker



will present Olmsted County-Celebrating

**Friends
of the
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