

Holiday Book & Bake Sale Big Success!

And a good time was had by all - volunteers, customers and hungry visitors alike! Was it a party? No, better yet, it was the 2nd annual Friends' Book and Bake Sale!

Sunday, December 5 marked another successful, and fun, event for the Friends. We opened at 1:30 to a waiting crowd, some of whom spent some profitable time in the Bookstore - opened early courtesy of Pat Stephenson.

Books, gift baskets, bookmarks, necklaces and baked goods sold at a furious pace. Music was provided by pianist John Hulsizer, who garnered a tidy sum in tip money. Cocoa was sipped, cookies were eaten, and at the end of the event, \$1,704.75 was raised.

We would like to extend thanks to the 25 volunteers who put in almost 200 hours doing assorted tasks. These ranged from sorting and pricing the books, to making the gift baskets, to baking the hundreds of cookies, to cross stitching 24 very clever bookmarks, to wrapping a record number of gifts, to helping the customers. You made the event not only a financial success, but a really enjoyable one.

So, choose a job for this year! We hope to do it all again on Sunday, December 4. And you wouldn't want to miss it!

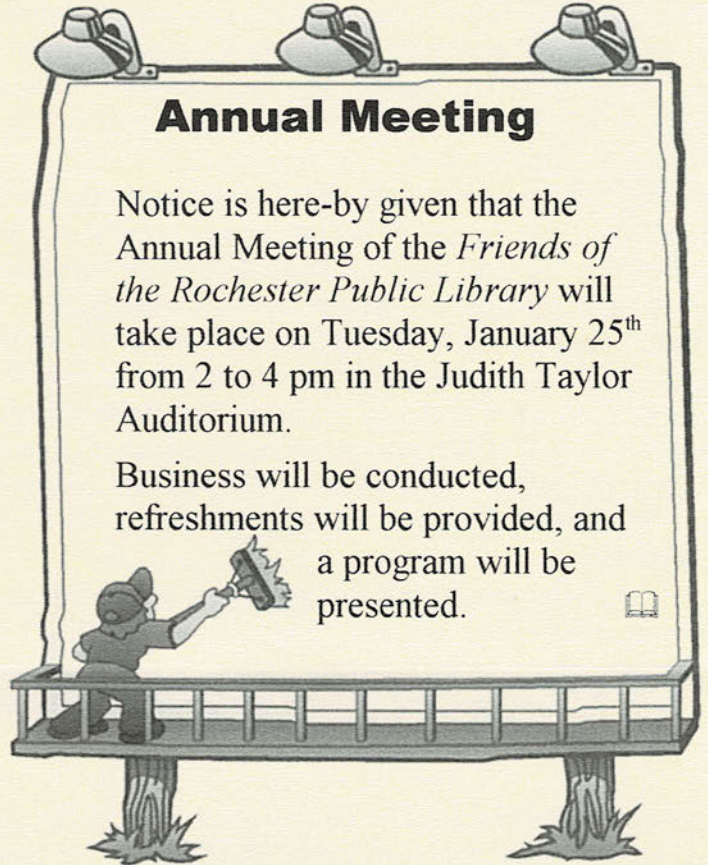
Theresa Friedhoff



Annual Meeting

Notice is here-by given that the Annual Meeting of the *Friends of the Rochester Public Library* will take place on Tuesday, January 25th from 2 to 4 pm in the Judith Taylor Auditorium.

Business will be conducted, refreshments will be provided, and a program will be presented.



RSVP is Back!

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) is again offering those of you aged 55 or older mileage reimbursement for your volunteer activities at the library. This national program designed to encourage service in the community, is now being administered locally by Catholic Charities.

To benefit, you enroll in the program by completing an application form. These are available at the *Friends' Bookstore* or on my desk (administration office, 2nd floor). When completed, I will send them off. On my desk or in the bookstore you will find a mileage expense sheet for you to record your journeys. I submit these on a monthly basis and the payment is then mailed to you. Mileage is reimbursed at 14¢ per mile to a maximum of \$10.80 per person per month.

The program also offers: supplemental accident and liability insurance coverage while volunteering, quarterly newsletters and appreciation events. Questions? Please feel free to call me at 287-2627 or stop by and pick up a form.

Gail Harris, Volunteer Coordinator

From the Director



The third annual Rochester Reads is underway. Rochester Reads Partners include: the Rochester Public Library, the Post Bulletin, the Adult and Family Literacy Program, Olmsted County History Center, Rochester Public Schools, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Rochester Community and Technical College, and the Diversity Council. Rochester Reads sponsors include; *The Friends of the Rochester Public Library*, The Rochester Public School Foundation, Yaggy Colby Associates, Post-Bulletin Company, and the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

The community voted on four titles during the general election season this fall. The titles were Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, The Giver by Lois Lowry, The Land by Mildred Taylor and White Lilacs by Carolyn Meyer. Approximately 1000 votes were cast. The vote was promoted by advertisements in the Post-Bulletin, by radio & TV interviews and displays. Community members could vote online at www.RochesterReads.org, by phone (Post-Bulletin cityline) and by ballot. Ballot boxes were displayed at the Library, the high schools, the Olmsted County History Center, Barnes and Noble Apache, University Center Rochester and the Post Bulletin.

And the winning title is... The Giver! I think this book is an excellent choice. I found the book very powerful. It is well written and it won the Newbery Award. It is accessible to many different ages, and I think it will generate a great deal of discussion.

Children's Librarians and school media center specialists chose children's titles that reflected the themes of The Giver. The young reader selection Among the Hidden by Margaret Haddix is geared for readers in grades 4-7. The picture book Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox was chosen for pre-readers. We are very grateful to the *Friends* for purchasing an extra 50 copies of The Giver and extra copies of the children's titles too. The Rochester Public School Foundation purchased over 250 extra books for the school media centers around town too.

The title was announced by Mayor Ardel Brede on December 7th at a press conference in the city hall atrium. The public is invited to read the books and join in events and discussions during the month of February. I am delighted to announce that the author Lois Lowry has accepted our invitation to visit Rochester. She will speak at the John Marshall auditorium on May 6th at 7 pm. We are grateful to Yaggy Colby Associates for sponsoring her visit.

I am very much looking forward to the events and Lois Lowry's visit to Rochester. In fact, I am already scheduling my daughter, nieces, and nephews for the May author event. I hope you join us.

Audrey Betcher

Friends' Bookstore

News



There is a lot of good news at the Friends' Bookstore! First, I am happy to announce that Bev Reid has agreed to co-manage the store this year. Those of you who know Bev will be pleased; she is certain to do an outstanding job. We welcome her ideas and fresh point of view.

Also, in October of this year the Bookstore will mark its tenth anniversary, a major milestone. And what a success these first ten years have been! The Friends continue to bring in more donations, more new customers and, consequently, more dollars for the library each year. 2004 closed with a healthy balance in our bank account. Once again, we were able to present a check in the amount of \$40,000 to the Rochester Public Library.

Perhaps even more important than sales in the store were the donated items the library was able to add or use to replace damaged items in its collection. The estimated value of those items was \$140,992 in 2004. These included books, audio, and video items donated by members of the community. Our sorters go through these materials, identify what might possibly be useful to the library, then route them to the appropriate library staff for consideration. It is a big effort on the part of our sorters, but very rewarding.

I want to thank all of you who contribute so much of your energy to this project: store cashiers, pricers, stockers, committee members. I especially thank our many dedicated and rarely seen but truly appreciated sorters, who often come in at short notice and at all hours to dig through the unending stream of boxes of donated books in our forever overcrowded sorting area. Congratulations to all for what you have been able to accomplish!

To those of you who generously donate your lovely books, as well as those of you who come regularly into our store to buy them— thank you for making us a success!

Sue McMillan, Bookstore Manager

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.

Tue Jan 25: Internet Basic class for the beginner.

Practice time is included. Registration required. 3 pm

Thu Feb 3: Online Catalog: Learn to search for titles, authors, subjects, and how to renew and reserve library items online. 2 pm


Wed Feb 9: Intermediate Internet: A reference librarian will provide search tips and cover various Internet search engines. Previous Internet & computer mouse experience is helpful. Practice time included. 4 - 5:30 pm

Wed Feb 16: 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. 10 am

Online Catalog for kids & parents 4 pm mtg rm A

Wed Feb 23: New!! Infopass class Infopass is an Internet-based system that enables the public to go online to schedule appointments with immigration information officers at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offices. Class participants will be assisted with computers and the Internet to go to this site and make appointments at the Twin City location. This is a bi-lingual class - instructors speak English & Spanish. 7 pm

Thu Feb 24: Internet Geared to the beginner, a reference librarian will cover the basics. Practice time is included. 2 - 3:30 pm 

Barnes & Noble Christmas Gift Wrap


Thank you to all those who gift wrapped this year. We made \$64.60. Sales were down due to a snowstorm, but we appreciate all that we receive.

Thank you.

Joyce Wenz

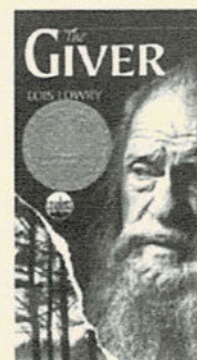
Wit, Wisdom, and Wine 2005



On Saturday, January 15th, 2005, the Rochester Public Library Foundation presented the 4th Annual Wit, Wisdom, and Wine event. We will have a full report on it in our next issue. 

Rochester Reads 2005

Complete schedule at www.RochesterReads.org. *The Giver* is about an orderly community with no sickness, no war and no hunger. What did the community have to give up to achieve this level of harmony? Read the book & join the discussion!



Thu Feb 3: Happiness, Freedom, Memories, Comfort, Security: What are you willing to give up? Coleen Rowley, Time Magazine's "Woman of the Year" & FBI Whistle Blower, will reflect on themes from *The Giver*. 7 pm
Library Auditorium

Mon Feb 7: The Giver Dialogue Circle: Are Truth & Peace Mutually Exclusive? The Diversity Council will lead a Dialogue Circle about central issues in *The Giver*. To RSVP, please call the Diversity Council at 507-282-9951. 7 pm
Library Auditorium


Thu Feb 10: Keeping Family Memories: Learn how to preserve your own family's memories by attending a Genealogy resources class taught by librarian Greg Sauve. 7 pm
Library Auditorium

Fri Feb 11: Book discussion 1:30 pm Senior Center

Sat Feb 12: Dystopia Film Festival *The Truman Show* (1998) 12 noon
Library Auditorium
Fahrenheit 451 (1966) 2 pm
Library Auditorium

Sun Feb 13: Cystopia Film Festival *Metropolis* (1927) 2 pm
Library Auditorium

Fri & Sat Feb 18 & 19 *The Giver*: A play in one act. 7 pm
Hill Theatre at UCR campus

Mon Feb 28 Post-Bulletin Dialogues 7 pm RPL
Auditorium 

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.

Winter Calendar - 2005



Sat Jan 22 Family Funfest two films: Martin's Big Words about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ben and Me about Benjamin Franklin. 10:30 am in the Auditorium.

Sun Jan 23 Yaggy Colby History Lecture. Kathryn Koutsky author of Minnesota Eats Out: An Illustrated History 2:30 pm in the auditorium

Tue Jan 25 Annual meeting of the *Friends of the Rochester Public Library* - program - refreshments 2-4 pm in the auditorium

Tue Jan 25 Bedtime Stories - I Spy In the Sky 6:30 pm in the Auditorium.

Sat Jan 29 Family Funfest two films: Snow about a boy & his dog's enjoyment of winter, and Snowflake Bentley about a boy who studies snowflakes. 10:30 am in the Auditorium.

Sun Jan 30 Young Adult Author Program Caroline Stevermer, author of The Grand Tour 2:30 pm in the auditorium

Tue Feb 1 Bedtime Stories - Winter Wonderland 6:30 pm in the auditorium

Sat Feb 5 Family Funfest Film-Three Tales For a Winter Day 10:30 am in the auditorium

Sun Feb 6 Coffee House Author Program - Shannon Olson reading from Children of God Go Bowling 2 pm in the auditorium

Tue Feb 8 Bedtime Stories - Hooray for Valentine's Day! 6:30 pm in the Auditorium

Wed Feb 9 iFilm Viva Laldjerie (Drama- France/Algeria) 6 pm in the auditorium

Sat Feb 12 Family Funfest two films: One Zillion Valentines & Lyle, Lyle Crocodile 10:30 am in the auditorium

Tue Feb 15 Bedtime Stories - Going to Grandma's 6:30 pm in the Auditorium

Sat Feb 19 Family Funfest Spanglish Storytime 10:30 am in the auditorium

Tue Feb 22 Bedtime Stories - Spinning Our Wheels 6:30 pm in the Auditorium

Sat Feb 26 Family Funfest Celebrate the magic of reading with magician Bob Miller. 10:30 am in the library auditorium

Sun Feb 27 Yaggy Colby History Lecture Mark Dacy (from Mayo Clinic) about his book A Passion for the River, Mayo and the Mississippi 2:30 pm in the library auditorium

Mon Mar 21 Articles for Spring issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* due.

Tue Mar 29 Spring issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* in the mail!



**Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library**

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