


Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the *Friends of the Rochester Public Library* will be held on Thursday, January 29th at 2 pm in the Auditorium.


Come and hear about all we've done during the past year and plans for next. Renew friendships over coffee and treats.

Bill and Adrienne McConahey will give a very short program on what was going on over here while he was over there -- during D-Day etc. 



Openings on the Board

Would you be willing to serve on the Board if we changed our meeting time? We now meet at 10 am on the second Monday of most months.

If your answer is "yes" please let Al Dollerschell know that you would be willing to serve and what meeting time you would prefer at 282-5025 or aldoller@aol.com. 

Holiday Sale

The December 7th *Friends First Annual Holiday Sale*, featuring gift quality used books from the bookstore, was a great success!

Customers browsed the gaily decorated auditorium and munched on home-baked goodies while selecting gently used holiday, non-fiction and fiction books gleaned from the many books which have been donated by the community since June. A bake sale was also held during the sale. A few other gift items were also offered, including bookmarks and gift baskets created and donated by members of the bookstore committee. More than 20 volunteers, including some young people from the Seventh Day Adventist Church, worked on this project which made \$850.

Theresa Coleman won a gift basket holding items appropriate for a teacher's gift which was raffled off during the event.

Funds collected will be used by the Friends to fund ongoing projects sponsored by the group, such as children's library programming, Read With Me, and support of the Rochester Reads program.

Karen Krueger

Letter from Bob Greene

I'm so pleased that Rochester has chosen "Once Upon a Town" for its Rochester Reads celebration this year-- because I can think of few places or events more worth celebrating than the North Platte Canteen, and what went on there during the years of World War II.

The selflessness and love of country shown by the people of North Platte, Nebraska, during the war was as inspiring a story as I have ever encountered. I think the reason that readers have responded so wonderfully to "Once Upon a Town" is that it is, in essence, a love story-- a love story between a country and its sons. The six million servicemen greeted by that little town of 12,000 people every day and every night of the war have never forgotten the kindness they were shown. What happened at that little train station on the Nebraska plains shows us what Americans can do to help each other during the toughest times.

I'm very proud that the people of Rochester, all these years later, are honoring the story of the North Platte Canteen and what it stood for-- and I know that the people of North Platte today, and the soldiers who once passed through there, will be thrilled that Rochester is doing this. I very much look forward to visiting Rochester as you read and talk about "Once Upon a Town"-- and I hope you will be as moved in reading about the North Platte Canteen as I was reporting and writing about it. Thanks so much.

Bob Greene

From the Director

New On Line Catalog a big hit

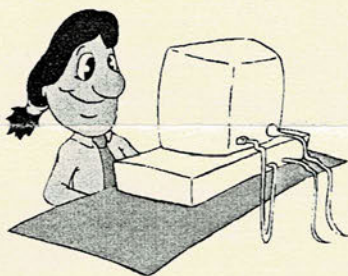
"They like it, they really like it!!"

The new Sirsi Unicorn Integrated Library System (ILS) was up and running on November 20, 2003. As many of you are aware, this is the first major change in our ILS software and hardware in twenty years. That's a very long time in the automation world.



Many of the improvements were behind the scenes and transparent to our patrons. One of our objectives was that the transition to the new system was to be seamless to our patrons. The thinking was that if the patrons didn't notice any changes, it would be considered a success. Well, we were wrong. Our patrons did notice the changes and they

let us know. Comments have come in from patrons about the new online catalog. Our first positive comment came less than one hour after the new catalog was put out for the public. While not



everybody was happy, many patrons used phrases like:

"much more efficient"

"makes the overall process much easier"

"I just love the look of your catalog. The information available is incredible and the format is so very easy to read"

"I just logged onto the new library catalog/information system. VERY NICE, Thanks"


One new feature the patrons like is the courtesy e-mail. When an item is within two days of being due an e-mail automatically goes out with a reminder message. The old system was unable to send out these notices and some patrons believed the library could send out reminders but didn't because we wanted the revenue from overdue fines.

We still have some work to do and our patrons have been very forthcoming in giving suggestions. The important thing is...we listen.

Audrey Betcher



3 Books Chosen for "Rochester Reads"

The books are: For adult readers, Once Upon a Town by Bob Greene; For younger readers, Don't you know there's a war on? by Avi; and for the youngest readers, Just Like New by Ainslie Manson. All three are interesting reading and are available in the Friends' Bookstore. 

Friends' Bookstore News

Does this happen to you? Every January, or slightly before, I get the unbearable urge to start fresh - renew - begin again. Without fail, this is a yearly occurrence. Good in and of itself, but sometimes annoying to family members. The intention goes house-wide. Usually it starts in the kitchen - with a surplus of Christmas-related new appliances. This year it was a rice-steamer, counter top roaster and new, lovely wine glasses. All are in competition for permanent placement. I keep going to my office area. There is a



fresh new address book just waiting to accept addresses with no cross outs or scribbles. Recipes are recklessly tossed from the side of the fridge as well as the depths of the recipe file. Magazines are ruthlessly piled for a trip to the Rochester Public Library— on it goes. In writing this, it's hard to believe that I see myself as a basically organized human. Maybe the urges to clean are intensified by too many Christmas cookies - now there is an area that could benefit from a New Years' resolution. Anyway, as I ponder my book shelves and cull my own collection, I wish everyone health, happiness and good order in the New Year. Peace to all! *Michalene Mangan, Asst. Manager*

Classes at the Library

Class sizes are limited. Call 285-8002 for more information and/or to pre-register. Classes are 1 hour unless otherwise noted and are held in Meeting Room B.

Wed Jan 21: Online Catalog Learn to use the library's catalog to search for your favorite authors, titles and subjects plus other features of the catalog. 12 noon.

Thu Jan 22: Internet This is a basic Internet class for the beginner. Reference librarians use the internet every day in their jobs and will pass along skills to get you surfing! Practice time is included. 2 pm - 3:30 pm.

Mon Jan 26: Intermediate Internet Spending a lot of time on the internet and still not finding what you want? A reference librarian will provide search tips and cover various internet search engines. Previous Internet and computer mouse experience is helpful. 12 noon to 1:30 pm.


Mon Feb 2: Magazine & Newspapers on the Computer How to find full-text articles from hundreds of magazines and newspapers available online through Rochester Public Library. Learn how to search at the library or from your home or office. 12 noon.

Tue Feb 3: Online Catalog 3 pm.

Mon Feb 9: Internet 9:30 am - 11 am

Wed Feb 11: Internet for Seniors 9:30 - 11 am

Thu Feb 19: Online Catalog 9:30 am

Tue Feb 24: Intermediate Internet 9:30 - 11 am 

News from Friends

Friends of The Rochester Public Library

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

Thank you



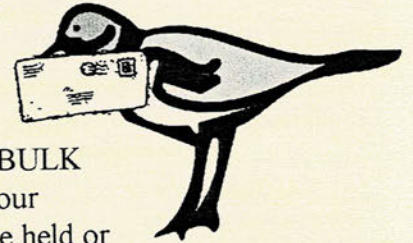
Thank you

Thank you

The Barnes & Noble Fundraiser was a success! The *Friends* collected \$242.63 in donations. Volunteers wrapped gifts, visited, drank latte's and had a fun time. Watch for the sign up next November – so you can volunteer! *Joyce Wenz*

Snowbirds:

Please let us know if you will be out of town this winter. Because of BULK MAIL restrictions your newsletter can not be held or forwarded. Please contact Nan Frie at edfrie@charter.net or 507-289-1863 to temporarily stop your newsletter. We'll be happy to restart it when you return. Thank you. *Nan Frie*



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Rochester, MN 55904-3776

All members receive a 10% discount at the *Friends' Bookstore*.

Winter Calendar - 2004



Thu Jan 15: Spanish Storytime: Come and celebrate with stories and films. For young children and their parents. 6 pm in the Auditorium.

Sat Jan 17: Family FunFest: Celebrate 2 famous Americans; film Martin's Big Words about Martin Luther King Jr, and film Ben and Me about Benjamin Franklin. 10:30 in the Auditorium.

Sat Jan 17: Wit, Wisdom and Wine: Silent Auction, speakers, etc. \$50 each. 7:00 pm in the Auditorium.

Tue Jan 20: Bedtime Stories Winter Wonderland 7 pm in the Auditorium

Thu Jan 22: Spanish Storytime: 6 pm in the Auditorium

Sat Jan 24: Family FunFest: Classical Musical Tales
Film: Sorcerer's Apprentice, Film: Peter and the Wolf. 10:30 in the Auditorium

Tue Jan 27: Bedtime Stories Stories with Sneezes 7 pm in the Auditorium

Thu Jan 29: Friends of the Rochester Public Library Annual Meeting, 2 pm in the Auditorium

Thu Jan 29: Spanish Storytime 6 pm in the Auditorium.

Sat Jan 31: Family FunFest: Film: Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Tue Feb 3: Bedtime Stories: Fun with Minnesota Authors. 7 pm in the Auditorium

Thu Feb 5: Spanish Storytime: 6 pm in the Auditorium

Sat Feb 7: Family FunFest, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Sun Feb 8: Movie @ Your Library My Dog Skip 2 pm in the Auditorium

Mon Feb 9: Panel of community members share experiences from the 1940s. 7 pm in the Auditorium

Tue Feb 10: Bedtime Stories: Hooray for Valentine's Day. 7 pm in the Auditorium

Wed Feb 11: iFilms The Homefront 6 pm in the Auditorium

Thu Feb 12: Spanish Storytime: 6 pm in the Auditorium

Sat Feb 14: Family FunFest, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Wed Feb 18: Reception for Author Bob Greene. 7 pm in the Auditorium

Thu Feb 19: Spanish Storytime: 6 pm in the Auditorium

Sat Feb 21: Family FunFest, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Sat Feb 28: Family FunFest, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Sat Mar 6: Family FunFest, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Sat Mar 13: Family FunFest, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Sat Mar 20: Family FunFest, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Sat Mar 27: Family FunFest, 10:30 in the Auditorium

Mon Mar 29: Articles for Spring issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* due.

Tue Apr 6: Spring issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* in the mail!



**Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library**

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Rochester, Minnesota 55904-3776

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