



3rd Annual Amuzing Race - June 13, 2009



A Fund Raiser for the
Rochester Public Library Foundation

www.amuzingrace.org

For those who didn't know what was going on, it would have been a strange sight. It may have looked like a marathon getting ready to start with people wearing numbers on their T-shirts. That is until you noticed that there were some people wearing capes and swim goggles (yes, at the same time). Others wore old-tyme newspaper kid outfits and we can't forget the group that looked as if it came fresh from the emergency room wrapped in bandages and neck braces. No, this wasn't the start of a marathon, but it was a race: the 3rd Annual Amuzing Race fundraiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

To explain the strange dress code of this year's race, there was a costume contest that was judged by a panel of members from the three boards at the library: the Friends Board, the Library Board and the Foundation Board. And the winning team of the costume contest... The Speed Readers.

This year's race took the 38 teams all over Rochester and even into Byron. In order to earn their

clues, teams had to sing campfire songs, make s'mores, get a hole-in-one, canoe, build a 3' structure using raw spaghetti noodles and gumdrops, find the bookmobile, and find an ad in the Post-Bulletin.

At the end, team members and volunteers gathered at the Olmsted County History Center and enjoyed a picnic lunch sponsored by John Hardy's Bar-B-Q.

Over \$9,500 was raised through sponsors and team registration fees. This money will go towards the vision and mission of the Rochester Public Library Foundation. The library uses Foundation funds to augment collections, expand programs and launch pilot projects that enrich the lives of Olmsted County citizens.

We would like to thank all the team members for participating in this event, all the people who volunteered to help out in any way before, during and after the race, and to all the sponsors who donated money, services, prizes, and hosted legs of the race.

Event sponsors: Post-Bulletin, John Hardy's Bar-B-Q;

Leg sponsors: Associated Bank, Data Smart, Dunlap & Seeger, FAER (Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research), Barb & Phil Henoeh, Knutson Construction Services, Lee Wayne Promotional Products/Marv Ramsey, Olmsted Medical Center, Dolly & Harry Swedlund, Think Mutual Bank, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans;

Leg co-sponsors: Lesmeister Truck Center Inc, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Winkels Electric;

In-kind sponsors: KIMT Channel 3, Friends of Rochester Public Library, Girl Scouts of MN and WI River Valleys, History Center of Olmsted County, HyVee - Crossroads, Judy & Steve Kereakos, Kwik Trip, Links of Byron, Minnesota Twins, Kathy & Dave Olson, Party City, Rochester Fire Department, Rochester Honkers, Rochester Indoor Tennis Center, Rochester Park & Recreation Dept., Sam's Club, Silver Lake Boat & Bike Rentals, Walmart Supercenter North. 



First Place Winners - The Fatties and the Daddies



The Speed Readers

From the Director's Desk...



Audrey Betcher

The Rochester Public Library provides tutors to any student in the library's service area both with community volunteers at the library and on-line. The on-line service began in September, 2009 and significantly increased the library's reach in providing homework help. The service is offered online through the library's web page (www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/tutor) and connects students to tutors in their specific subject area of need.

This on-line service was funded through the Rochester Public Library Foundation, Rochester Rotary Clubs, and Charles and Barbara Withers. Without your generous support, the Library could not have provided this innovative and effective service.

3,671 tutoring sessions were offered this past school year. Some of the many comments from students include "The tutors here are amazing... This has made me so confident about my work!" "I'm so glad you offer this. My mom and dad can help me with my homework except for math. No more feelings that I can't do math"

"This tutoring thing really helps. Now I can ask a question I would have been embarrassed to ask in class!"

Transportation was identified as a barrier for students to get homework assistance at the library and from other programs in the community. The online tutors helped address this barrier as tutors can be accessed from home or any location with an internet connection.

The online tutoring program will continue for the 2009-2010 school year, again funded entirely with private dollars.

The Library's in-house homework assistance program saw the number of students served, compared to the previous year, more than double. Community volunteers provide homework help three evenings per week during the school year. During the 2008-2009 school year, they served over 1,000 students.

Thank you for supporting the Rochester Public Library Foundation. You make a difference in the lives of the young people we serve at the Rochester Public Library.

Audrey S Betcher

Threads of our Community

Rochester Public Library would like to create a collaborative work that will recognize our diversity, celebrate the needlework and fiber art skills that reflect our different cultures and backgrounds, and promote harmony and awareness among our community. Once completed, the quilt will hang in our library as a commemoration of the skills, talent and heritage found here in our very own city.

Pick up an instruction packet from the Administration office (2nd floor) during office hours. For questions contact: Gail Harris, 507-328-2341, gharris@rochester.lib.mn.us or Purna Gurung, 507-328-2320, pgurung@rochester.lib.mn.us

For consideration, completed quilt blocks and application form must be returned to the library by December 1. A panel of judges will select representative samples. This Quilt will be a community art project that shows there is a place for all in the fabric of society.


Sponsored by Rochester Quiler's Sew-ciety. 

Social Networking

Last year a number of the library staff completed a self-directed course on social networking tools. As a result of this course, the library now has a larger presence in the web 2.0 world.

We already had a Flickr account (rplmninfo) where we posted some photos from the Amazing Race. The winning film contest winners have been posted to our YouTube account (rplmninfo). In March of this year we set up Myspace, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

To follow us on Twitter, our user name is @rochpublibrary. Facebook and Myspace both have user names of Rochester Public Library.

Everyone is welcome to be our friend, fan or follower and take part in the next generation of communication. 

Follow us on
twitter
@rochpublibrary

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 **myspace.com**
a place for friends
Rochester Public Library

What's @ the Library?

The Digital Zone

"You are traveling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind." Those are the famous words heard on the TV series, *The Twilight Zone*. Sorry kids, this isn't a love story about Edward and Bella. I'm talking about "a dimension as vast as space and as timeless as infinity," the Digital Zone.

Like *The Twilight Zone*, our Digital Zone contains mind-bending stories of the supernatural, white-knuckle suspense, science fiction and horror. Good show, Rod Sterling, but, we don't stop there! Our Digital Zone also contains heart-warming dramas, classic literature, self-improvement titles, biographies, history, and yes,

even vampire love stories (All 4 of the *Twilight Saga*, to be exact).

The Digital Zone doesn't have only books; you can also find head-banging rock and roll, toe-tapping jazz, soothing ambient music and sing-a-long campfire songs. And videos! Classic films, children's films and documentaries are also available.

You're probably wondering, "Where is the Digital Zone and how do I get there?"

Here's the thing. If you have a computer and a library card, you have access to the Digital Zone. Even if you don't have a computer, you can come to the library and use our download station located next to the Fiction, Movies & Music desk on

first floor. You still need a library card in order to check out items. The way to Rochester Public Library's Digital Zone is: <http://digital.rochesterpubliclibrary.org>.

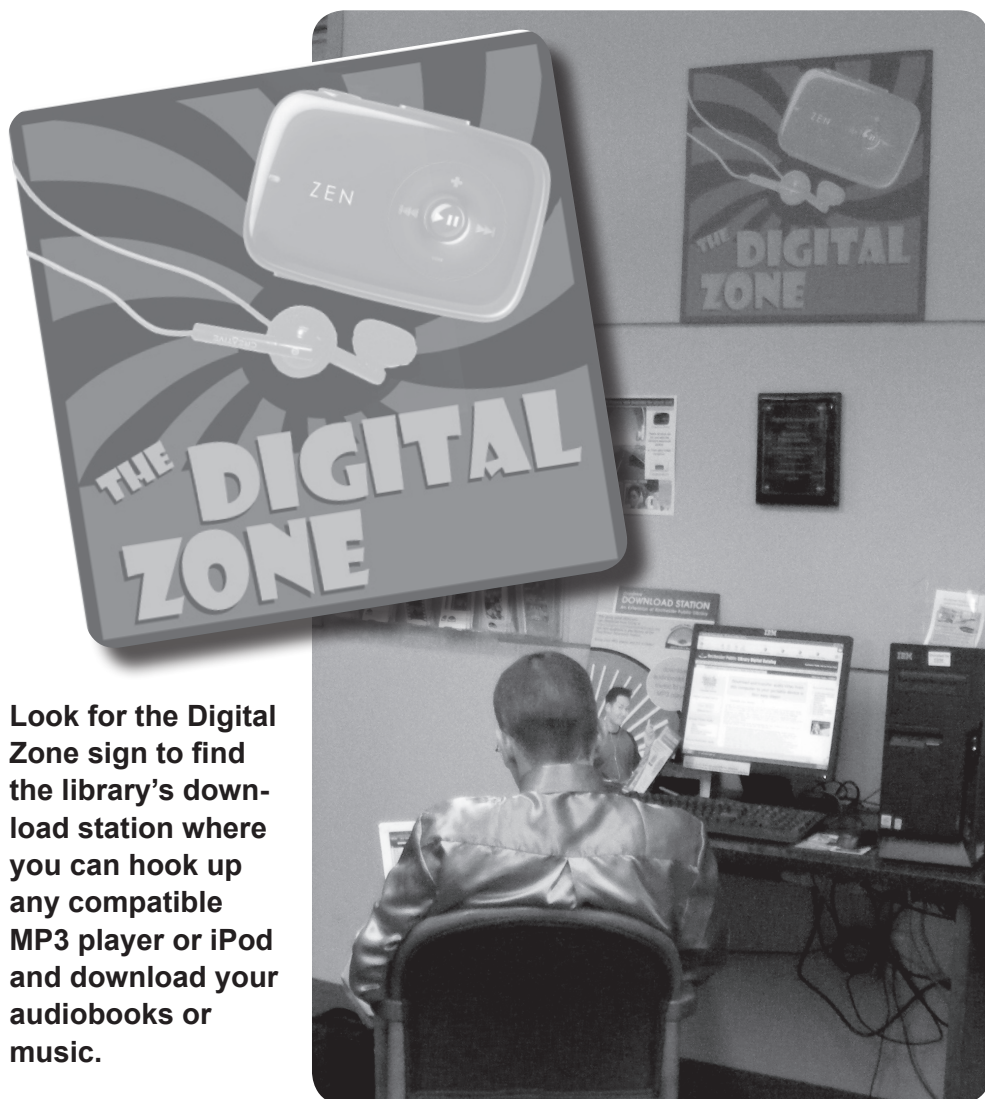
From there you can browse the collection and check out items. There is a piece of software that you will need to download to your computer before you can download any of the audiobooks, music or videos. If you need help, you can click on the "guided tour" or you can call us and we'll try to help you over the phone: 328-2305.

Once you have your computer set up and your audio book downloaded, you can listen to it on your computer or you can sync it to your MP3 player. Some titles are compatible with iPods and burnable on CD, too! Each item's description shows the format it's compatible with. Not all the formats are audio. There is a collection of eBooks that you can download and read from your computer.

When browsing for your favorites, it's helpful to know right away if the items are available or not. If the item is available, there will be link to add it to your eCart. If it isn't, there will be a link to eReserve it. When you eReserve it, an email will be sent to you letting you know when it becomes available for you to download.

The lending period for books, music and videos is 14 days - this means that if you have one checked out, no one else may check out that particular item for 14 days. You do not need to "return" it in 14 days, though. They automatically "return" themselves to the catalog after the lending period. You know what that means? All those books, movies and music with no overdue fees!

Visit the Digital Zone, any time, and from anywhere you have access to the Internet. 📖



Look for the Digital Zone sign to find the library's download station where you can hook up any compatible MP3 player or iPod and download your audiobooks or music.

Donors from February 23 - August 6, 2009

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Thank you for your tax-deductible support of the Rochester Public Library Foundation.



The Bird is the Word

by Leisa Luis-Grill

I grew up in the ancient period of time before the concept of the personal computer was a twinkle in Bill Gates' eye. Unlike the subsequent generations of Web-surfers that can hang ten on a wave of technology, I wasn't even in the Kiddie Pool. The acquisition of knowledge was entirely a physical, practical process. I went to the library, sought out a book, and turned the pages with my own two hands. I waited eagerly each week as the teacher opened the door on that room full of new possibilities—scientific wonders, artistic treasures, tales of adventure, square little bundles of wit and wisdom I could take home with me. Books have sparked my imagination in ways I'm still discovering.

This became especially apparent when I started working on the "Goose is Loose" project.

While even I have gotten used to the easy access of our byte-ridden existence, I'm still nostalgic for the time I've spent amidst tall shelves of collected literature, printed and bound with care, lined up like a selection of exotic mind-fruit that's just ripe for the plucking. When I was a kid I loved libraries. I loved the sheen of the long wooden tables, I loved the odd lines of color that the book collections make, and I loved sorting through card-catalogues with a sleuth-like

zeal worthy of Nancy Drew, the weight of the book in my hands, the smell of the pages. I loved turning them slowly, with relish. I loved the touch of the pages themselves, running my fingers down the neat rows of type in a sort of intellectual caress. The act of reading a book, I mean an actual physical book, has a sort of sacred intimacy about it. It's like the difference between the impersonal expediency of pasting clip-art on the computer to the feel of a brush, the texture of paint, the weight in the canvas as it springs back under your stroke. One is efficient, the other produces a gratification both sensual and spiritual that is difficult to equal.

I remember my step-father giving me his copy of *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* when I was a teenager. It was small and leather-bound with pages that seemed thin as tissue paper. Replete with verse, it resembled a Bible more than the Bard. As the years passed and I began to study theatre seriously I noted with some irony that it had, indeed, become a bible of sorts. Those stories became an inseparable part of me. I love them still. The same way I still love libraries.

This is the gift I wanted to pass on when I did "Bird as Bard". Perhaps a fiberglass, giant goose isn't timeless but the thing it represents is. I

hope it inspires you to be curious, to read, to find a copy of Shakespeare or anything else that sparks your interest. The library is full of wonderful stories that are better than anything you'll ever see on TV or Google. Get yourself out of your chair and seek them out.

Go to the library, grab a book and savor it. Use all of your senses.

The experience is not to be missed. 📖



The Bird as Bard was made possible by donations by Barbara and Phil Hensch and the Judy and Jim Sloan Foundation.

Rochester Public Library Foundation now accepts online donations

The Rochester Public Library (RPL) is dedicated to providing the community with access to information, literature and ideas. The RPL Foundation supports these efforts by securing key funds to advance the library's mission. These funds represent the "margin of excellence" that allows the library to go the extra mile in providing advanced and innovative services which support the many needs of our community.

Online donations are now being accepted by clicking on "Electronic Donation Form" on the Foundation Web page: www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org.

The Rochester Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your tax-deductible donation will help continue our history of excellent library service now and into the future. For more information, call 507-328-2343. 📖

Libraries Change Lives

by Pauline Walle



1949. Research Engineer, Michael P. Walle and daughter Pauline at the Lands & Minerals office in Hibbing, Minnesota.

The *New York Times* touts the growing role of libraries in this period of recession. In Rochester, friends are doing job searches and checking out books for “comfort food.” They flock to programs like Cathy Wurzer’s on Highway 61 and the Titanic exhibit at our downtown library.

My father introduced me to the joys of reading at the classic Carnegie Library in North Hibbing. There I checked out as many children’s books as I could find on Native Americans and presidents’ wives. A recent Hibbing Tribune story reveals that a sailor heading West lived in Hibbing long enough to serve as a railroad crossing guard and spearhead a \$25,000 campaign to build that 1907 library. Grateful children collected money to buy Capt. William McCormick a gold watch before he traveled on.

In a few years the Hull Rust Mahoning Mine -- called the “Grand Canyon of Minnesota” -- encroached on the library and my dad’s Minnesota Division of Lands & Minerals office. They were demolished and North Hibbing moved south. Paintings from the library walls now hang in three downtown buildings.

My next special library was at Villa Maria Academy in Old Frontenac. Stained glass windows and tables made from square grand pianos furnished this former chapel in the old tower building. When tornadic winds took out the tower glass and electricity, we “Villains” got to eat ice cream bars from the freezer. A more devastating blow came in 1969 when lightning struck and the building was lost. Villa Maria now serves as a retreat and conference center in other buildings.

Small radios sometimes pressed to the ear claimed the attention of teens before sending us back to libraries in high school and college. I recall the formidable stacks at the University of Minnesota’s Minneapolis campus.

When I came to work at the Post-Bulletin Rochester in 1962, I knew only one couple and a pastor. On Sunday afternoons I’d gravitate to the cozy nooks and window seats of the Harold Crawford Library, now a Mayo student center. The lovely Plummer Building libraries also held fascination.

As a retiree I’ve gotten hung up on news and nature magazines and my morning fix of C-Span. But friends intervene and get me back to books. Bob Birch, former Rochester Civic Theatre director, suggested “The Balkan Trilogy.” Tony Sertich, executive director of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale, turned me on to “The Shadow of the Wind,” a wonderful translation from Spanish. It’s a book about books with wonderful characters.

I “met” Chicago Tribune columnists while visiting Rochester transplants Pat and Joe Davis. I enjoy these writers again at Rochester’s light-filled, river-view library downtown.

Meanwhile RPL’s Director Audrey Betcher and staff provide book clubs, computer lessons, children’s activities and Sunday afternoon programs with the History Center of Olmsted County. Communications Director John Hunziker makes them well known. We citizens can express our thanks at the annual library benefit with its tango lessons and community issues, buffets and prizes.

In my dreams I walk the cork floors of that North Hibbing library again, adding yet one more book to an armful. And the fascination has come full circle. My dad would be pleased. 📖



Rochester Public
Library Foundation

*for all ages, all cultures,
all people*

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Save the Date!
January 16, 2010

9th Annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine

A fund-raiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation

Help promote your business while supporting the library.

Please donate items for our silent auction. Items or services of value, i.e. gift certificates, gift baskets, collector's items, art pieces, books, etc... Along with your donation, include business cards or brochures available for attendees to read and to take home with them. For more information call 328-2343 or visit www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org.

"This event really makes a difference in our ability to serve the community," Audrey Betcher, Library Director.