

Rochester Public Library Foundation



Libraries change lives for all ages, all cultures, all people

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Spring Newsletter

Libraries Change Lives



Wit, Wisdom & Wine

Wine in the Children's area? Whisky in the Young Adult area? People dancing in the lobby?

Normally library staff would frown at this type of behavior but on one day a year it's actually okay to do these things in the library.

From the Directors Desk



Awaiting Legislative Action

The support of the Foundation and the Friends are instrumental in allowing the library to continue to innovate and serve our community better.

What's @ the Library?



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9th
annual

Wit, Wisdom & Wine

9th Annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine Fundraiser for Rochester Public Library Foundation

Wine in the Children's area?

Whisky in the Young Adult area?

People dancing in the lobby?

Normally library staff would frown at this type of behavior but on one day a year it's actually okay to do these things in the library.

At 5:30 pm Saturday, January 16, 2010, an announcement came via the overhead speaker system, "The library is now closed..." and then it was a flurry of activity as staff and volunteers prepared for the 9th Annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine fund-raising event.

This fund-raiser isn't just a "to see and be seen" event; it's a socially intellectual event. The attendees have a choice of two speakers, socialize over wine (provided by Andy's Liquor) and light refreshments, (provided by Jasper's Alsatian Bistro and wine bar) and outwit/outbid each other in the silent auction.

Speakers

This year the attendees had their choice of dancing in the lobby with April and Gary Dahl, getting informed about health reform by Tim Penny, and listening to Dr. James Levine as he described his experience in India and his book *The Blue Notebook*. Attendees were laughing with Father Nick, finding the perfect ingredient with LeeAnn Zubay, sipping the perfect wine with Michelle Repinski, and understanding the role of the community newspaper with Randy Chapman. Kenny Salwey had his audience enthralled with tales from the river while Gil Gutknecht inspired his group with his talk about political art. Helen and Bryan McIver enlightened

their guests with whisky and wisdom about Scottish traditions for making whisky. Robert Garfinkle talked of the RACE exhibit that will be coming to the library in May. More details about that will be coming as the time nears.

Raffle

There was a raffle, again, this year. This time the prize was a piece of jewelry generously donated by Hight & Randall Ltd. P.G. Arnold was the lucky winner and had the hard task of choosing from three pieces: he chose the ring.



Silent Auction

The silent auction offered something for everyone. There was a basket full of Star Trek items, another full of children's games. Wine, gift certificates, Waterford crystal champagne flutes, gardening supplies, culinary utensils, hand-made jewelry, purses made out of books, tea sets, and of course stacks of books were some of the other items available for bid.

Thank you

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped with this event. Whether with physical labor or financially, it was all greatly appreciated.

Attendee registrations, event sponsors, other sponsors, in-kind donations, silent auction donations, and silent auction and raffle ticket sales brought in over \$24,000. Our library is a resource for everyone in our community. By supporting the Rochester Public Library Foundation, you make a profound impact on the lives of those you care about as well as the quality of life in our community.

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Windsor Financial Group/David Koch*

More event photos available on [Flickr](#).





Audrey Betcher

Rochester Public Library Awaits Legislative Action

Even though 2010 is a bonding year at the state capitol, the Legislature is required to submit a balanced budget. Since the State forecast put the State in a deficit position, the Legislature must take action to balance the operating budget set last year for the biennium.

The Rochester Public Library (RPL) receives no State funding directly. RPL is primarily funded through the City of Rochester and by Olmsted County via a contract relationship. So the staff and Library Board closely watch how the State decisions affect the City of Rochester and Olmsted County.

The Governor has submitted his budget proposal which would reduce Rochester's 2010 Local Government Aid (LGA) by another \$4,342,837 on top of the \$3,857,584 reduction contained in the adopted 2010 budget. If enacted into law, this would result in the Governor reducing Rochester's 2010 original LGA appropriation by 91.4%.

If this proposal is adopted, the entire City, including the library, will be facing difficult decisions to make the necessary cuts. The library staff and Library Board will ensure that the library will stay on mission and provide core services.

The support of the Foundation and the Friends are instrumental in allowing the library to continue to innovate and serve our community better.

Express Check-out machines

This is a self-check machine, or an express check-out. Whatever you want to call it, it is great for those who are in a hurry and don't want to stand in line to check out books. It's also great for those who aren't in a hurry and just want to check out their own books.

It's very user-friendly and the screen on top will show you what to do every step of the way. All you need to do is place your library card - barcode up - on top of the picture of a barcode on the left side of the machine's shelf. You should see a red light shining across the barcode of your card. This means you have it in the right spot. Your card needs to stay there until you have scanned your items. Give the machine a few seconds to read your card and then it will tell you that it's ready to begin scanning the bar codes of your books. Scan the books one at a time and the machine will tell you when it's ready for the next one. After all your items are scanned, just remove your library card and the machine will print a receipt for the items you just checked out.

Please note, these machines work only for books. CD's or movies, need to be checked out from the check-out desk.

New kid's stuff - endcap games

The Children's section of the library has recently seen some changes. Two generous donors, who wish to remain anonymous, have given us some money specifically to spiff up the Children's area. Children's staff had almost as much fun shopping for the new toys and games as do the children who play with them, now. These new games are attached to the ends of the shelves in the Picture Book area - each end is a different game. There are also some free-standing toys to play with. The photos below show only a small sample of what's there.

Here's a tip on the table in the photograph below: use the magnets on the underside of the table. This way you can control the cars better. If you use the magnets on top, they repel each other and go any which direction.

More photos of our new games can be found on [Flickr](#).



RACE: Are We So Different?



The RACE exhibit is, in a word, HUGE. It is a great undertaking getting everything in. Construction for this project begins on April 5. Walls will be constructed, some doors will be widened, and since the RACE exhibit will take the entire rotunda area on second-floor, there will be massive rearranging.

Meeting Room B on second floor will house the foreign language collection. The Non-fiction collection 101 - 301 will move to the stacks in front of the Administration Office. The VHS tapes that are currently there will be moving into staff areas. These items will be available for check-out but you will not have the ability to browse them. You can reserve these items and also ask at the Reference Desk for them. The oversized books will move to the top of the vertical file cabinets behind the internet stations. Current magazines and newspapers will move to the reading area to the left of the stairs. Circulating magazines and cassette tapes will move to the magazine room. You can check them out, but you will need to ask at the window for them. CDs and CDROMs will move to where the holiday books are currently displayed and the holiday books will be in the stacks.

The library will not rent out the Auditorium or Meeting Room A from May 17 - September 4 owing to the many programs that have been scheduled around the RACE exhibit and the library's need for room for its own meetings. We apologize for any inconvenience caused. We will be able to take room reservations again in July for reservations after September 4.

This arrangement will be temporary, but we believe that having the RACE exhibit in the library will greatly compensate for the inconvenience. We are proud to host this exhibit and hope the citizens of Rochester and the surrounding communities enjoy this powerful and educational experience.

Make a Difference - be part of RACE

Volunteers needed!

We are looking for volunteers to lead facilitated discussions, or to serve as Lead Docents/Exhibit Assistants and Docents/Exhibit Greeters for the RACE exhibit. Training will be provided for all volunteers. Your help is needed to make the exhibit a success!

If you are interested in applying, or for more information, go [online](#) or call Gail Harris, Library Volunteer Coordinator, at 328-2341.

Rochester Public Library Foundation hosts fundraiser at Goonies Comedy Club on March 24, 2010.



Nate Hall



John Bush



Michael Callahan

LOL 4 RPL (Laugh Out Loud for Rochester Public Library) a fundraiser, will be held at [Goonies Comedy Club](#) on the evening of Wednesday, March 24.

Early bird registration: \$40.00 • After March 17, registration: \$50.00

Register [online](#) or by calling John Hunziker, 328-2343.

Our newest fundraising event will start with a buffet dinner and a bucket raffle, and will end with a comedy show that will have you ROTFL. (Rolling On The Floor Laughing). A cash bar will also be available.

Nathan Hall will be the Master of Ceremonies. Hall works at the library's public service desk and leads the Young Adult writers' group that meets every fourth Tuesday at the library. He also hosts Too Much Information Trivia Night every Wednesday evening at McGoon's (downstairs from Goonies).

The evening's entertainment will headline John Bush: John's rock-solid comedy show covers it all. From his childhood relocation from Hawaii to Minnesota to his UFO sighting in New York City, this thrill ride is filled with rich characters, spot-on impressions and even a disgruntled squirrel; also Michael Callahan: Michael delivers up-tempo humor mined from his very typical life. He finds veins of comedy hidden in plain sight and shares a world populated with the young, the old, the single and the married.

All proceeds will support the mission and vision of the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

A fundraiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation

LOL4RPL

Wednesday
March 24

Doors open: 5:30
Buffet served: 6:00
Show starts: 7:00

Earlybird registration: \$40 per person
After March 17: \$50 per person
Register online: www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org/lo4rpl
or by calling 507-328-2343

Headliner: John Bush

Host: Nathan Hall

Featuring Michael Callahan

GOONIE'S
THIS PLACE IS A JOKE!
Goonies Comedy Club
7 Second St. SW, Rochester, MN

Proceeds will be used to support the mission and vision of the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

Donors from August 3, 2009 - February 23, 2010

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