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[Library](#)

[Events](#)

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Spring Newsletter



Wit, Wisdom & Wine

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Celtic Evening

On November 30th, we joined the world in celebrating St. Andrew's Day with our own Celtic Evening fund-raiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation



From the Directors Desk

Library Expansion - Will it Happen?

If the state legislature approves the referendum, then the citizens of Rochester will vote on whether they want to extend the sales tax.

[Adaptive Workstation](#)

[Downloadable eBooks and more!](#)

[RPL wins diversity award for hosting RACE](#)

[Donors from August 1, 2010 - March 21 2011](#)

10th Annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine *Fundraiser for Rochester Public Library Foundation*



The Rochester Public Library Foundation held its 10th Annual Wit, Wisdom and Wine gala fundraising event on Saturday, January 15, 2011. This unique event, which raised about \$25,000 had a record number of 250 attendees. Throughout the evening, each

attendee had a chance to listen to their choice of two speakers, socialize over wine and light refreshments, and outwit/outbid each other in the silent auction.

This year's speakers had topics for everyone ranging from Economics, Politics, Pirates, Art, Music, and of course, Wine. The silent auction offered great items that were all donated by local library enthusiasts. There were piles of books, lots of wine, art prints, airplane rides, tickets to Minnesota Wild, and even a wing-backed chair up for bid. Gift certificates for CounterPoint, Great Harvest, zPizza, and even a psychic reading were also on the auction.

The raffle winner of a piece of jewelry donated by Hight & Randall, Ltd. was Bruce Snyder. His wife, Vicki, chose the ring as her prize. Congratulations to both of you!

If you missed it this year, mark your calendar now for the 11th Annual Wit, Wisdom and Wine event which will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2012.

This event wouldn't be as successful as it is without the volunteers who help the night of the event, the donors who supply us with silent auction and raffle items, the attendees who come to the event and those who bid on the silent auction items and purchase raffle tickets, and of course our sponsors:

BridgeStreet World Wide and Think Mutual Bank were the main co-sponsors of the event.

Other sponsors included:

Andy's Liquor, Associated Bank, David and Lois Maris of Keller Williams Realty, Davies Printing, DoubleTree Hotel, Daube's Cakes and Bakery, Hight & Randall, Ltd., Barbara and Phil Hensch, Lasker Jewelers, Nigon Woodworks, Inc., US Bank, Windsor Financial, Paustis Wine Company, Finca Flichman, and Anakena Chile.

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

A Celtic Evening



On November 30th, we joined the world in celebrating St. Andrew's Day with our own Celtic Evening fund-raiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation at the DoubleTree Hotel.

One hundred and thirty guests enjoyed the bagpipe music while browsing the silent auction and bucket raffle items. The Laird and Lady of Lochaber hosted the evening with an educational presentation about the history of whisky and then paired the spirits with such traditional Scottish fares as poachers prize, roastit gruntie, and campit tatties: that's smoked salmon, roast pork and mashed potatoes.

This wasn't just a sit-down-and-watch-a-presentation type of affair; the reading of limericks, men in kilts contest and the best ladies dress contest encouraged audience participation.

This event raised just under \$6,000. Proceeds will be used for Storytime Kits and furnishings in the Children's Division.

Thank you to our sponsors: Andy's Liquor, DoubleTree Hotel, William Grant Supplier and Wirtz Beverages.

Thank you to those who donated items for the silent auction, the bucket raffle, and to those who bought tickets to the event.

A special thank you goes to the Laird and Lady of Lochaber for planning and hosting the evening.



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



Library Expansion - Will it Happen?



Audrey Betcher

The library expansion was included in the list of projects slated for the sales tax extension. The list of projects was approved by the Rochester City Council in December. We are very excited to be included! Before library expansion can take place, the sales tax extension needs to get approval from two more entities: the state legislature and the voters of Rochester. Rochester has had a local sales tax since 1983. It has been of great value to Rochester, Olmsted County, and the State of Minnesota. Past projects included: flood control, local costs for Highway 52 and for other major City and County Arterial Road projects, and funding for Higher Education Facilities at RCTC and the University of Minnesota – Rochester. In 2010 the City had an extensive public process to identify projects for the sales tax extension. The library presentation was one of many that the citizen committee heard. The City is asking the state legislature to allow the Rochester citizens to have a referendum to extend the current half cent sales tax.

If the state legislature approves the referendum, then the citizens of Rochester will vote on whether they want to extend the sales tax. Only if both are approved will the library expansion take place. If the expansion takes place, here are our preliminary expectations:

- The third floor of the library would be completed and a fourth floor would be added above the rectangular portion of the library. The total addition on both floors would be approximately 30,000 square feet. (The current building is 85,470 square feet.)
- The entire amount the library requested was not approved. We don't know yet exactly what that means for the library expansion, but we expect some of the space to be shelled in to be completed at a later date.

I know nothing is certain as the sales tax extension moves forward through its processes, but I am very jazzed to think about the possibilities of how we can better serve the public through a better space.

Audrey S Betcher

Adaptive Workstation



An adaptive workstation at the library empowers visually impaired people to access the internet and printed material. It is equipped with Access Mobile, software that can be used by someone who doesn't know a lot about computers and doesn't want to learn a lot of keystrokes. By using the menus and the up and down arrow keys, persons with a visual disability can find what they want, press enter and listen to an Internet site being read.

Dale Heltzer, a library patron, uses the adaptive workstation to access all kinds of things; the PB [Post Bulletin] is one example. Dale likes to listen to the opinion columns, local news, obituaries and "just what's happening in the community." Dale utilizes the library's adaptive workstation to learn and also to surf the Internet.

The adaptive workstation is equipped with a keyboard with large print letters and Braille on the keys. A connected scanner is available for scanning book pages or other documents that can be read aloud to the patron or translated into Braille and printed on the Braille printer. The adaptive workstation is available for patron use any time during regular library hours. Please check in at the second-floor reference desk for assistance getting started.

The adaptive workstation was made possible by financial support from the Lions Clubs of Rochester and by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.

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Rochester Wins Diversity Award for Hosting RACE exhibit

Remember when the library hosted the RACE exhibit last summer?

Four cities were honored on March 14, 2011, for implementing quality and innovative programs in communities to enhance and promote cultural diversity. Each year, the City Cultural Diversity Awards recognize city programs which encourage citizen involvement and show an appreciation of cultural diversity. The awards are sponsored by the National Black Caucus of Local Elected officials (NBC LEO), a constituency group of the National League of Cities (NLC).

Cities honored for 2011 are: Southfield, MI, (first place, population category 25,001 – 100,000); Fargo, ND (runner-up, population category 25,001 – 100,000); Hollywood, FL, (first place, population category 100,001 – 400,000); and Rochester, MN, (runner-up population category 100,001 – 400,000).

In 2010, Rochester hosted the RACE: Are We So Different? exhibit, which examined race and racism by showcasing scientific, historical and cultural perspectives on race. Through a collaboration of more than 53 organizations, businesses and school systems, including the Mayo Clinic's Allied Health Diversity Committee, more than 37,000 people visited the exhibit, which created a community dialogue on issues of race in the community.



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