

# Rochester Public Library Foundation



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

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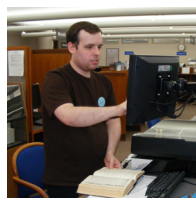
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## Fall 2011 Newsletter



### Why we do what we do

Judy and Jim Sloan, "In short, we give because we can, and we think that if you can, you should." [more](#)



### Preserving History at the Library

Thanks to a generous donation from the Rochester Public Library Foundation (RPLF) and an enthusiastic volunteer, these volumes are not only being saved from further wear and tear, but are also being made available digitally to historians. [more](#)



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Rochester Public Library Foundation, 101 2nd ST SE, Rochester, MN 55904

Phone: 507-328-2300 • [www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org)

## Why we do what we do

~Jim Sloan



After I retired from IBM, I started a software company that has done well. My wife and I were able to start the Judy and Jim Sloan Foundation to help make donations to various organizations. We have no specific focus for our Foundation, but generally support the arts, education, and people in need.

Having a Foundation has been an eye-opening experience to the number and quality of the organizations that need help. The list is endless and we only wish we had more to give. It has been our privilege to know many of the people who run these organizations and we are always impressed with their dedication and sincerity.

The Rochester Library is a favorite of ours in that they can and do assist people who have a passion for learning. Learning should be a life-long goal and the more you know, the more you can know. In addition, the library is an outstanding resource for people that enjoy the opportunity to read for pleasure, listen to CDs, watch videos, etc.

We have been very fortunate in life to have received many blessings and have had a chance to help many organizations. It is both gratifying and humbling to be able to do so.

In short, we give because we can, and we think that if you can, you should.

### ***Items that have been bought with funds donated by the Judy and Jim Sloan Foundation include:***



- A new globe in the second-floor reference area
- A 42" plasma flat panel display that has been installed above the book drop next to the public service desk. This display is used to announce our library events and other information.
- The Bard Goose (shown on the front page) and the Amazing Bench, both of which were street art projects lead by the AARTS Council.



- Library materials such as Storytime Kits, books and DVDs



# Preserving History at the Library



*Bryan Graves scanning a copy of one of the County Histories and City Directories*

The Rochester Public Library's archival collection of County Histories and City Directories (similar to phone books, but with more information) are ideal resources for helping researchers find answers to their historical questions about Rochester and Olmsted County. These directories can trace home ownership, school or organization history, and even where the name "Kutzky" came from.

Unfortunately, the Library's original copies of these irreplaceable, sometimes hundred-year-old plus documents have deteriorated from use through the years. Very few copies of them are in existence anywhere. Thanks to a generous donation from the Rochester Public Library Foundation (RPLF) and an enthusiastic volunteer, these volumes are not only being saved from further wear and tear, but are also being made available digitally to historians (and the merely curious) via the Library's website.

A digital book scanner was purchased in 2011 with RPLF funds. This machine allows us to scan book pages very easily, without harming the book's spine. Images can be saved in a variety of quality levels and formats (such as .pdf, .jpg, or .tif). Once scanned, these images can then be run through an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program to convert the image to text and become a searchable document that can be read online. This scanner is available for public use and is located on the second floor of the library—a flash drive is needed to save the scans.

City directories from 1873 to 1929 are available from the public library website as well as some histories of Olmsted County from 1866 and 1910. Plans are to add additional directories when copyright permits it as well as various other historical Rochester and library related documents. Search and view this digital history collection at <http://cdm16080.contentdm.oclc.org>

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*An example of the condition of a 1910 History of Olmsted County.*

## READ Posters

The library has been working on a series of READ posters featuring local celebrities along with their favorite book. Each of the local celebrities is an advocate of literacy and volunteered to have their photo taken for our poster series. Each poster will be featured on the first floor of the library on a rotating schedule. They will also be featured individually on the library's blog (<http://rochpublibrary.wordpress.com>).

I'd like to thank Amanda from Studio-A-Photography for taking the photos for the posters. She graciously brought in her lighting equipment, a green screen and her camera to the library for two days in order to capture all the photos we needed.

As we highlight the READ posters and celebrate local readers, I thought I would share some of my favorite reads with you.

*Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. I learned a great deal from this book: history, politics, and leadership. I found the presidential nomination process of the day fascinating. Lincoln's ability to work through incredibly difficult political situations was inspiring. Even though I knew how the book would turn out, I began to understand why he is the great man so beloved by many. I listened to this one on CD, and after I was done, I missed Abraham Lincoln on my commute to work.

*The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins (*The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay*) This is the story of a futuristic North America where 12 districts are ruled by "The Capitol." The Capitol rules with an iron fist and maintains its power with an annual death match that pits two teens drawn by lottery from each of the districts in a fight to the death. All of the novels have strong characters and a compelling story.

*The Spellman Files* by Lisa Lutz (Also *The Revenge of the Spellmans*, *Curse of the Spellmans*, and *The Spellmans Strike Again*) This is a laugh out loud series about a dysfunctional, but loveable, family of private investigators who spend more time investigating each other than doing business.

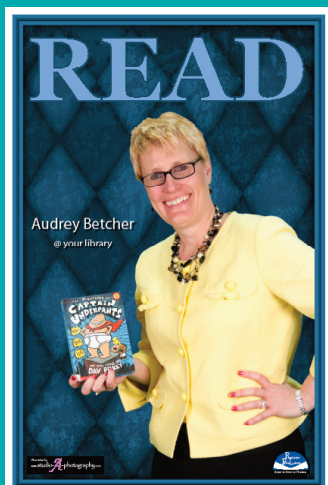
The Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling. I read this series to my daughter, and now I am reading it to my son. I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed the books because it has been fun for all of us (even the second time around). As I recently sat next to my daughter at the midnight premier of *Deathly Hallows part 2*, I was excited to share the experience with her. She reread *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* in the week before the premier. We have these wonderful conversations that compare the books to the movies. At 3:00 am we stood in the kitchen and reread the last chapter together and discussed it. Anything that gets kids that excited about reading is fantastic in my eyes.

Whether you read for information, for fun, to create experiences with your children, it doesn't matter ... READ!

Audrey S Betcher



Audrey Betcher

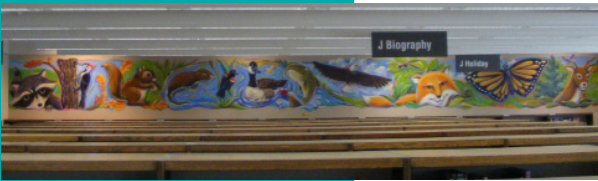




# Murals at the Library



**Greg Preslicka working on the mural in the Children's area of the library.**



It was almost two years ago that we received a phone call from a library requesting to have a mural for their children's section. This would be our first library job, and we were thrilled. After creating murals in several day cares, dentist offices, activity centers, and homes, Greg was ready for the creativity and challenge that a library mural would offer.

My name is Heidi Preslicka; my husband is Greg Preslicka, a Minnesota artist. He creates large-scale wall murals that grace almost 50 rooms throughout Minnesota. We work together to run our small business.

Murals can transform a space – whether it is an office, library, daycare, school, fitness studio, a bedroom, or a child's play room. Murals bring a little bit more fun to a place that is already fun. Recently, Greg completed a large mural in the skyway connecting the Rochester Public Library and the parking ramp.

Greg enjoys painting murals in libraries. Not only is he a huge fan of reading, but his job also requires him to keep his imagination flowing and reading helps this process.

A library is the perfect place for a mural; a place where you can enjoy a vast variety of information, learn a new hobby, and read stories. It is a place where your imagination can flow, a place to escape and enjoy. Libraries offer a chance to learn about almost anything in the world - all in one place. The decor in a library should reflect what a library has to offer, this being: history, culture, imagination, relaxation, beauty or a combination of these. Libraries have a similar look with the rows of shelving, but murals are a way to break up the monotony and provide a unique look, making it a more exciting place to venture into. Children love libraries; and adding murals makes it even more special for children and adults. Greg's murals give you a sense of being in another place. Libraries can take you away to another world with all they have to offer through reading. Greg's murals do the same and add to this wonderment, whether the mural is of outer space, a tropical island, underwater world, a serene forest, or in the case of the Rochester Skyway mural – a view of the vast diversity within the town of Rochester.

We hope you've been able to see the mural both in the skyway and in the children's section of the Rochester Public Library.

## **Rochester Public Library recognized for exemplary workplace practices**

Rochester Public Library has been honored with the 2011 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility for its use of flexibility as an effective workplace strategy to increase business and employee success.

This prestigious award, part of the national When Work Works project, recognizes employers of all sizes and types in the greater Rochester area and across the country.

Workplace flexibility—such as flextime, part-time work and compressed workweeks—has been demonstrated to help businesses remain competitive while also benefiting employees, as well.

The Sloan Awards are unique for their rigorous, two-step selection process, which involves an evaluation of employers' flexibility programs and practices, and a confidential employee survey. All applicants are measured against national norms from FWI's National Study of Employers.

"As a recipient of the 2011 Sloan Award, Rochester Public Library ranks in the top 20% of employers, nationally, in terms of its programs, policies and culture for creating an effective and flexible workplace," states Galinsky. "In addition, what makes this honor so special is that their employees have corroborated this, affirming that it is indeed an effective and flexible workplace."

Rochester Public Library will be recognized as a 2011 Sloan Award recipient at the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Member Celebration on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Rochester International Event Center.

## **Foundation Donor Appreciation Breakfast**

A breakfast was held on Tuesday, September 27, in appreciation of everyone who has donated to the Rochester Public Library Foundation in the past year.

John Hunziker presented the "History of the Rochester Public Library," which touched on topics such as the

first library collection in the City of Rochester, our favorite librarian, Miss Edna, and a run down of all four public Library buildings. Memories were brought forth from all the great photos of the past libraries and bookmobiles. John also showed some of the items that were purchased from the Foundation with funds donated by you, our generous donors. Without your support, the library wouldn't be as great as it is. Thank you!





## Summer Fund-Raising events

The Foundation and Friends of the Rochester Public Library held two fund raisers in the Plummer House on August 9th.

The first event was **Cool Reads for Hot Days**, an ice cream social with a local author Elissa Elliott, who provided great discussion points with her recent book *Eve*, and her new writings.

The second event, **Brews and Clues**, was held in the evening with local author Paul Koeller talking about his family experiences in the brewing industry in Wisconsin. It was a fascinating, informative talk, and there was beer to sample! Over 40 different types, with some lovely casual foods (huge thank yous to Andy's Liquor for the Beer, Coldstone Creamery for the ice-cream, Just Rite Foods for the Cheeses, Trader Joes for the pizza) and the Friends who both provided nibbles and smoothly ran the event!



Elissa Elliott



Paul Koeller

## Public Art at the Library

You may have noticed that the library has three new colorful bike racks near the front entrance. These bike racks are a result of a new library legacy program that offered public libraries throughout Southeastern Minnesota an opportunity to install them. Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (SELCO) paid for half the cost of the racks

plus sponsored the Bike to Work program that was held at the library in June. The next time you ride your bike to the library, don't be afraid to lock it up on one of these new bike racks; they were made to be both pretty and functional.



## Honor Gifts

After a lifetime of buying presents, you know that giving great gifts is not an easy task. Many times it's because people already seem to have everything, or the hectic rush of this time of year makes holiday shopping a chore. But there are other, very positive routes for gift-giving, and they start with a reflection of what is truly dear to you and those you love.

This holiday season, consider adding "honor gifts" to your list of giving ideas. If you have a loved one that holds the library close to their heart, you could make a gift to the Rochester Public Library Foundation in that person's honor. By making an honor gift in a loved one's name, you will establish a living tribute to him or her.

Honor gifts are donations you make in recognition of someone significant in your life. These gifts are often made on traditional gift-giving occasions, but can also be used as a thoughtful way to say thanks or to congratulate a loved one for a noteworthy achievement or milestone reached.

Making an honor gift is easy. Just contact Kathy Olson at: [kathy@rochester.lib.mn.us](mailto:kathy@rochester.lib.mn.us) and she'll be happy to help you.

## The Great MN Give Together

Coming November 16 - the third annual Give to the Max Day, one day of grassroots philanthropy on a grand scale. Give to your favorite charity through the Give to the Max Day site on November 16, and you could win \$1,000 to be added to your donation. Give to the Max Day has already raised millions of dollars for Minnesota nonprofits. Jump on the bandwagon and celebrate the best side of Minnesota Nice!



# Donors from March 22 to September 30, 2011

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Friends of Rochester Public Library  
HGA Architects and Engineers  
IBM Corporation  
RPL Staff Fund  
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