



### Donor Corner



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## Wit Wisdom & Wine 2009

As soon as the Rochester Public Library closed on Saturday, January 10, 2009, staff and volunteers began setting the stage for the 8th annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine gala event. A mere hour later, the

main lobby was transformed into a dance hall, the wine was chilled and ready to pour, and attendees were browsing the 90+ silent auction items.

Over 250 people attended their choices of ten different presentations. Tim Penny talked about the historic relevance of the presidential election. Ed Fischer had his audience laughing and posing for caricatures. Denny Stotz discussed the plan to transform the gravel mining area along Cascade Creek into a park area. Yuko Taniguchi demonstrated the Argentine Tango. Olive oils were the topic of discussion by Justin Schoville, from Sontes. Proprietor/winemaker Dustin Ebert introduced cold-hardy grapes and the Minnesota wine industry. Victor Vieth enlightened his audience with his proposal to end child abuse within three generations. Balancing attendance area student populations by race and socioeconomic status was discussed by Phil Wheeler. Economist Paul Anton offered some insight about today's economy. Mascuud Xaaji shared some highlights of his Somali culture including language, geography, religious beliefs, gender roles, etc....

Following the presentations, attendees browsed the silent auction

items and enjoyed refreshments provided by Daube's Bakery, including such delicacies as smoked goose, salmon, cranberry chicken skewers, cheeses, white asparagus with prosciutto, opera cakes, and lemon tarts. Andy's Liquor provided many varieties of wine for tasting.

At 10:00 pm the silent auction closed and the winning raffle ticket was drawn. Congratulations go to John Brockman, winner of the Romantic Evening package which included a two-night's stay at the Kahler Grand Hotel, a \$50.00 gift certificate for Flowers by Jerry, two Waterford Crystal champagne flutes, a bottle of champagne, a Waterford Crystal vase, and chocolates from Chocolaterie Stam.

Thank you to our sponsors, attendees, volunteers, and everyone who donated items for the silent auction and raffle. Your generous support helped us raise over \$21,000. Together we are helping to provide high-quality library service now and in the future. "This event really makes a difference in our ability to serve the community," says Audrey Betcher, Library Director.

Many thanks to the co-sponsors of the event: Bridgestreet Worldwide and Home Federal Savings Bank. In-kind donations: Davies Printing, Jaspers Alsation Bistro & Wine Bar, The Kahler Grand Hotel, KTTC. Speaker sponsors: Andy's Liquor, Associated Bank, Edina Realty - Dave and Lois Marris, Goonies Comedy Club, HGA, Lasker Jewelers, Nigon Woodworks, Windsor Financial - David Koch, Winona State University - Rochester Center, US Bank. 📖

## From the Director's Desk...



**Audrey Betcher**

As a supporter of the library, we appreciate all you do to help the Rochester Public Library improve lives for the people in Rochester and Olmsted County. Especially in tough times, people turn to the library, and you are a part of how we support the entire community.

So as you talk to your friends and neighbors, here are a few things to think about. Libraries are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically. During tough economic times, people turn to libraries for their incredible array of free resources, from computers to books, DVDs and CDs, for help with a job hunt, for learning computer skills, for finding all kinds of information, or to participate in the activities of local and community organizations.

- Circulation was up 18% in December 2008 compared to December 2007 at RPL.

Libraries help level the playing field for those in the community who can't afford to pay for information or access to technology. (Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work.) In a world where knowledge is power, libraries make everyone more powerful. Libraries offer free access to all; they bring opportunity to all. Examples:

- Some businesses only take online applications. Many come to the library to apply for jobs using our free high speed internet computers. (Only 44 percent of the top 100 U.S. retailers accepted in-store paper applications in 2006.)
- Many come to read classified ads in our newspapers.
- Many come to check out materials when in the past they may have bought them.
- Some type resumes on our word processing computers and print their resumes on our laser printers.

Public libraries are there to support learners at every age. As schools cut their budgets, students look for support in other places. Examples at the Rochester Public Library:

- Homework assistance is available for free from the Rochester Public Library. Whether the student comes in to work with community volunteers three nights a week or uses the online tutoring program, Live Homework from Tutor.com, from a computer, the student receives help.
- Practice ACT, SAT, etc. tests and study guides.
- General resources to help in student research.
- Early literacy support from infant to preschooler through materials and storytime kits for parents and daycare providers.

Your ability to get information shouldn't depend on your ability to pay for it.

Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer more than 7.2 million questions weekly.

There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the U.S.—a total of 16,549, including branches.

The national average annual cost to the taxpayer for access to this wide range of resources is about \$31, the cost of one hardcover book. Libraries are among the most effective of all public services, serving more than 2/3 of the public with less than 2 percent of all tax dollars.

Americans spend more than twice as much on salty snacks as they do on public libraries.

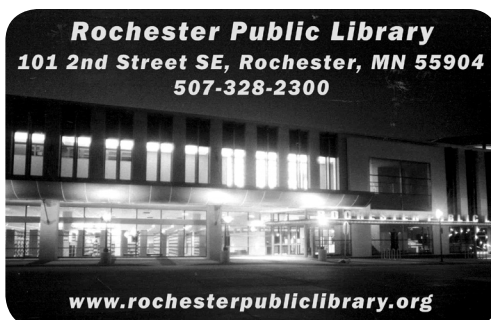
Thank you so much for your ongoing support. You make Rochester and Olmsted County a better place to be, especially in financial hard times. 📖

## What's @ the Library?

What's @ the Library is a series of articles that will run in the newsletter highlighting different library resources that are here for the public to use.

### Library Cards

- You can get a library card by filling out a short form available online at: <http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/apps/circ/onlineregistration.cfm> or by applying in person at the Rochester Public Library or Bookmobile.
- You must provide a photo ID and current address verification to pick up the card at the Public Service desk.
- There is no fee for obtaining your library card. A \$2.00 replacement fee is charged if your card is lost or stolen.
- Your library card may be used at any public library in Minnesota.
- You must have your card with you when checking out materials, picking up reserved materials, or using the Internet.
- Your library card is updated every 3 years free of charge at the Library or Bookmobile. 📖



### Printing from the Hotspot!

Laptop users, if you are connected to the Rochester Public Library Hotspot (wireless) on your laptop, you can print documents using the color printer on the second floor of the library. In order to do so, you must first install a printer driver on your laptop. Instructions will display when you log on to the Hotspot.

The default setting for this printer is to print in color; however, that can be changed. The cost to print in color is 25¢/page and grayscale is 10¢/page. This printer has been tested with both Windows XP and the newer Vista operating systems. Unfortunately, Mac users will not be able to use this printing service. 📖

### Bookgroups

The library has a variety of monthly book discussion groups that you can join. **Armchair Travelers** (books that take you to a different time or place, held on the first Tuesday), **Literature Into Film** (books made into movies, held on the last Tuesday), **Night Owl Book Group** (books you just can't put down, held on the third Tuesday), and **Plain Readers** (books set in the Midwest or by Midwestern authors, also held on the third Tuesday). Sign up at the Fiction, Movies and Music desk at the Library, or call 328-2305 for details.

Even if you are already in a book group of your own, the library has resources such as Book-group-in-a-bag to help your group get copies of the books you choose. To see a list of available titles, stop at the Fiction, Movies & Music desk or visit: [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/) click on the Fiction Movies & Music tab, then click on Book Group in a bag on the bottom left of the page. 📖

### Fact or Fluff?

Don't you just hate it when you ask a librarian for a certain book and the first question he or she asks you is "Is it fiction or non-fiction?" Instead of giving the librarian a blank stare as you wrack your brain trying to remember which is which, you can give a very quick answer if you exchange the word Fiction with the word Fluff...

Ok, bear with me, I'm not saying that fiction works are "Fluff" - personally, I love fiction; this is just a method to help keep the two terms apart.

Fiction is a make-believe story, fluff. While non-fiction is based on true facts, non-fluff. You can also use the words fantasy, fable, or fib with the same results. 📖

### A new Widget @ the Library

What is a widget? It's another way to get a hold of a librarian if you need to ask a question. If you search the catalog and get absolutely no search results, you'll see a screen pop up that you can type your question in and get an answer shortly (during library hours). If you do so on the weekends or during a particularly busy time, it may take a few moments, but we're trying to respond to your questions as quickly as we can. 📖



You can teach yourself Spanish, Greek, Russian, Italian, German, French, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese or Brazilian Portuguese with our new Mango Language program. Learning English for Polish, Spanish, and Brazilian Portuguese speakers is also offered. Hear the words being pronounced and see them on your computer screen either in the library or at home. Look for "Mango" on our list of Alphabetical list of online databases. [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/) 📖

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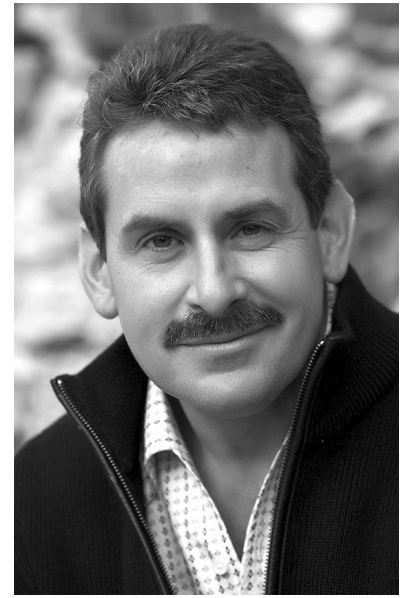
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## Libraries Change Lives

*Stories from real people about how the library is an important part of their lives.*

In this issue, Elissa Elliott, author of *Eve*, Mitch Anthony, author of *Cash in the Hat*, Laura Lenz, college student, and Jevon Hanenberger, high-school student share their stories.



**Elissa Elliott - Give me a library, and I'd say you've given me the best gift ever.**

Definitely, I would choose it over chocolates (that's saying a lot) or clothes or handy-dandy gadgets. Libraries have always been enchanting places for me, a kind of mind-body travel that doesn't require much budgeting or planning.

Wherever I've lived, before finding out where the nearest grocery stores are, or where the most convenient gas station is, I have to find out where the library is. It's my lifeline.

I suppose it would come as no surprise then that the Rochester Public Library has played the same role for me, except more recently, it's become a necessity while doing research for my novels. When I first began to do research for *Eve*, in the spring of 2006, I spent one whole day up in Minneapolis and St. Paul going from one seminary library to another, one college library to another, thinking this was the only way I was going to acquire all the volumes on Adam and Eve that had ever been written. It was on this trip I learned about the library's interlibrary loan feature, and chagrined, I returned home to request all those books from my home computer. And voilà! Several days later, there they were, waiting for me at the library. Now I had all the libraries at my fingertips. I was in heaven.

Since we've adopted a 2 ½-year-old girl, the library has become a resource for simple board books that can entertain and teach her English. She's enamored with more than the books, of course—the fish tank, the ceiling hangings, the Christmas tree, the trails of wet slush going through the door—but in time, I think the library will become her special place, too. She'll be able to curl up in a chair and lose an afternoon, transported to some other place, some other time. It's the best way to learn about different cultures, various time periods, short of hands-on travel. To give my daughter a love of books is the best gift I could ever give her—even though she does know the word 'chocolate' now. 📖

**Mitch Anthony - a million worlds are at the disposal of the person who is curious enough to turn the page.**

When I was 10 years old and growing up in Mason City, Iowa, we moved two doors down from the Mason City Public Library.

Like most ten-year-olds I was magnetized to the television and did little reading. One day my father came home from work (he was a television personality), turned off the power on the TV and said, "Get your \*^\*\*#\$ rear end down to the library before you fry your \$&%\* brain."

I wandered into the sports biography section and started with the Bob Pettit story. I was greatly inspired by it. I moved on to the Satchel Paige autobiography and just kept going all summer. I hid for hours in that reading room absorbing stories of legendary athletes. I then moved on to the Dick Gregory story and how he kept his sense of humor through the violence and hatred of the civil rights struggle, and realized that there were heroes outside the realm of sports.

I absorbed story, humor, justice, leadership and purpose from those books. I also began to think that I wanted to be a writer myself. I have been lucky enough to build a career as a speaker and consultant around the 12 books I have written.

I'm a believer in the written word and have told millions of young people in my talks over the past 25 years that, "leaders are readers" and that a million worlds are at the disposal of the person who is curious enough to turn the page. 📖




Laura, her husband Todd Rowekamp, her son Sam, and her daughter, Abby,

Laura Lenz is taking online classes to complete parts of her master's. This is where the interlibrary loan service works so well. She is able to find the books she needs in the numerous Twin Cities college libraries, request them, reserve them if needed and have them delivered to Rochester. Between the telephone and computers she saves a lot of time.

She and some friends formed a book club and have found the library's Book-Group-in-a-Bag to be a fun resource. Laura's family also enjoys the

Hooray for Saturday programs. Laura sent this very complimentary e-mail to the Reference Desk staff.

*"This is just a compliment. The Rochester Public Library has really been a lifeline since my family moved here two years ago. We came from Minneapolis, but I am so impressed with the services and programs you offer at the library. Your staff is so incredibly knowledgeable, professional, friendly, and helpful. Thanks so much for all your hard work."* 



**Jevon Hanenberger, high-school student at John Marshall**, has been struggling with math. "He is in a large class and one-on-one help is seldom available owing to class size and time constraints. After-school help is not an option because of the bus schedule," says his step-father. The family had been looking at a local program that offered one-on-one help but the cost would have had some serious financial implications to the family budget. They were mulling over how to make the numbers work


as getting Jevon proficient in math was a priority.

Jevon's step-father is one of the library's evening security guards. As he was doing his rounds of the library he noticed that a couple of days a week he saw young people and adults talking and doing what looked like school work.

He stopped by the reference desk on the 2nd floor and learned about the Homework Assistance Program. He had not been aware of this free program offered by the library, using volunteers from the community at large. Students can come to the library any Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m., walk into Meeting Room B, and get help with any homework subject. He could not quite believe that the help for Jevon he believed he'd have to pay

for was offered for free in the building where he worked.

Since that evening Jevon has been coming to the library on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and working on his math. While his parents realize that Jevon can only catch up so much in the short time he has been coming to the library, "he's starting to get it," his step-father says. His grades have moved from failing to a strong C. The library volunteers take the time to explain why a math problem is the way it is and work with Jevon to figure out the answer. They are patient. He is looking forward to what he will learn next.

The Homework Assistance Program has changed Jevon's whole attitude. Jevon says, "It's hard wanting to understand and not being able to." Now he does. 

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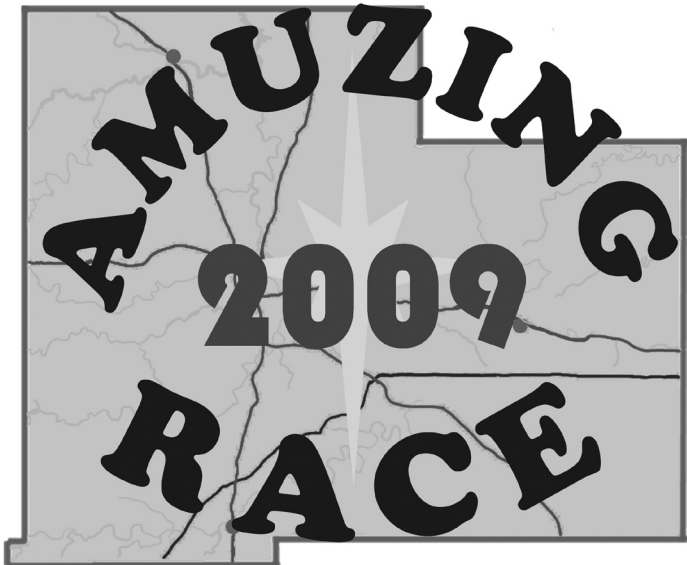




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**Save the Date!**  
**3rd Annual Amazing Race**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2009**

For more information visit:  
[www.amazingrace.org](http://www.amazingrace.org)  
Deadline to register your team:  
**May 23, 2009.**