

Donor Corner

Two community women leave major bequests to the library

Two area women, Karen Moxness and Ruth Polzin, left significant bequests to the Rochester Public Library. The gifts will be invested in the Rochester Public Library Foundation's Endowment Fund where they will grow and bear interest. Annual proceeds will be used to fund special library projects and to augment collections.

Karen Moxness, a long time member of the Friends of the Rochester Public Library, a Library volunteer, and an avid reader, left a bequest to the Library in excess of \$550,000. "This is the largest gift that the Foundation has received since its inception in 1996," said library spokesperson, Carrie Farrow. Karen Moxness was the former director of the dietary department at Saint Marys Hospital and later was director of clinical nutrition at Mayo Medical Center. Karen will be remembered by library colleagues as generous and dedicated. "She shared her time and talent with us during her life and her treasure with us upon her death. She will always be very special to us and she is greatly missed," commented Farrow.

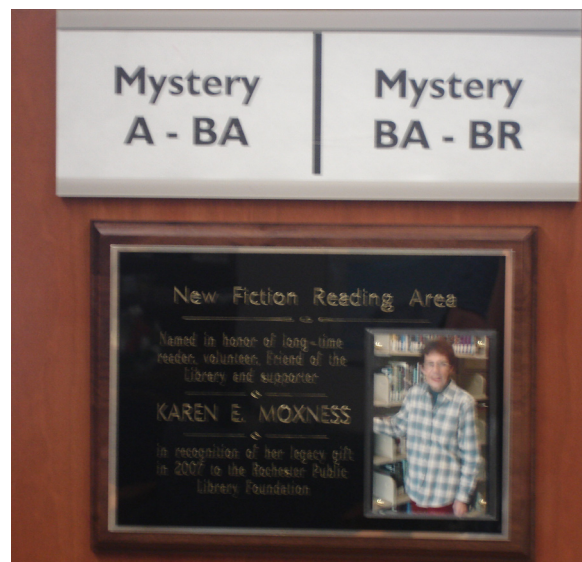
Ruth Polzin, wife of the late Harvey Polzin bequeathed over \$60,000 to the library. Ruth Polzin was a retired executive secretary/supervisor in the purchasing division of the Kahler Corporation. She was a lifelong member of Peace United Church of Christ and its Lois Circle; belonged to the Rochester Senior Citizens and AARP; and enjoyed reading and collecting small horses, and Hummels.

Both legacy gifts were celebrated and acknowledged at a Donor Recognition and Dedication Ceremony at the Rochester Public Library on Friday, September 21. Also acknowledged at the ceremony was the final year of the Mayo pledge. In 2002 Mayo Clinic gave a transformative gift of \$250,000 to the endowment and set up a matching program to leverage additional donations. The library's Teen area was named in honor of the Mayo Foundation in acknowledgement of their gift. An additional \$50,000 per year was pledged by Mayo for the next five years if the Foundation could raise a matching \$50,000 per year. Thanks to many individual donors, the Foundation met that challenge and 2007 is the year that Mayo will complete its pledge with a total cumulative gift of \$500,000.



Above: Audrey Nelson and Gail Harris unveiling the Karen Moxness New Fiction Reading Area plaque.

Below: The New Fiction Reading Area Plaque now hangs on the end of the Mystery Books in the Karen Moxness New Fiction Reading Area





Audrey Betcher

From the Director's Desk...

The gifts to the Rochester Public Library Foundation allow us to transform our services, programs, collections, and building to better serve the public. This year Foundation dollars were instrumental in making the library and its collections more accessible for everyone. We have had numerous positive comments from the public, and the collections are being used more. I think the before and after pictures show the transformation – certainly better than I could ever do in words. Thank you for your gifts that made this possible.

Before



New fiction books are now displayed on the wall behind the self-check machines. They are displayed in plexiglass holders on slatwall for easier browsing.

After



New non-fiction books are now displayed on the wall next to the rotunda area on the second floor.



Magazines and newspapers have been moved to the rotunda area on the second floor. Space saving magazine racks hold all the current issues while back issues are located on shelves nearby. The new seating area takes advantage of the best view overlooking the river.



One Book 2008

ONE COMMUNITY

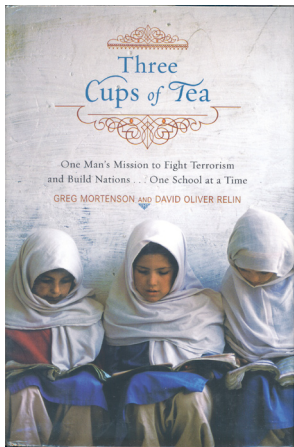
ROCHESTER READS

www.RochesterReads.org

Library receives Community Site Enhancement award

On November 6, 2007, Rochester's Committee on Urban Design & Environment (CUDE) recognized the Rochester Public Library skyway murals for aesthetic enhancement within the city of Rochester. These skyway murals were painted last year by Joy Horsley.

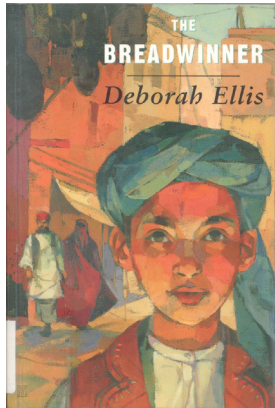
Adult Selection The winning Rochester Reads title has been announced.



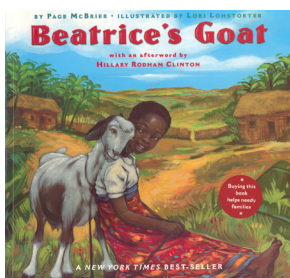
And the winner is... *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. *Three Cups of Tea* is a true story about how Greg Mortenson realized his life's dream of building schools for children, especially girls, in Pakistan. Greg Mortenson will be visiting Rochester on February 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in John Marshall High School Auditorium.

The Rochester Reads committee chose two companion books for young adults and children. *The Breadwinner*, by Deborah Ellis takes us to Afghanistan shortly after the Taliban have taken over and ruled that women could no longer hold jobs or even be seen outside of their homes without being accompanied by a man or had permission from a man to be out. Girls could no longer attend school. Parvana, an eleven-year-old girl, is forced to cut her hair, dress like a boy, and provide for her mother, older sister and younger siblings after her father is arrested for no other reason than having a foreign education. This book tells of her and her family's struggles to survive under such a harsh regime. *Beatrice's Goat* by Page McBrier tells about Beatrice, a little girl who's family is so poor that they can't afford to buy the necessities to send her to school. One day, they receive the gift of a goat and through the sale of the goat's milk and offspring, Beatrice is able to go to school.

Junior Selection



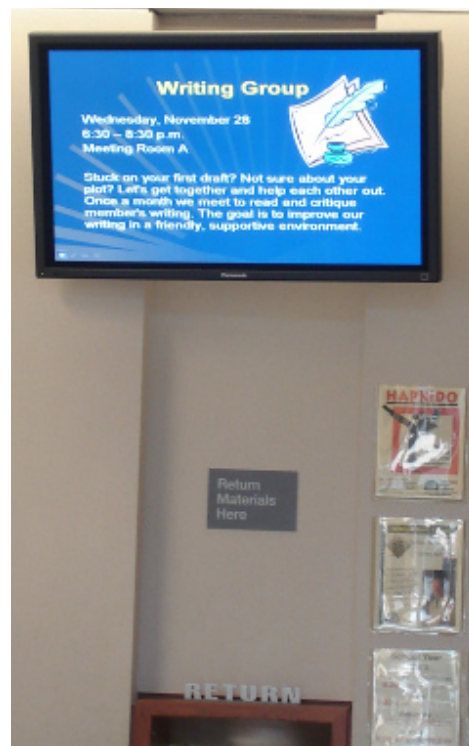
Picture Book Selection



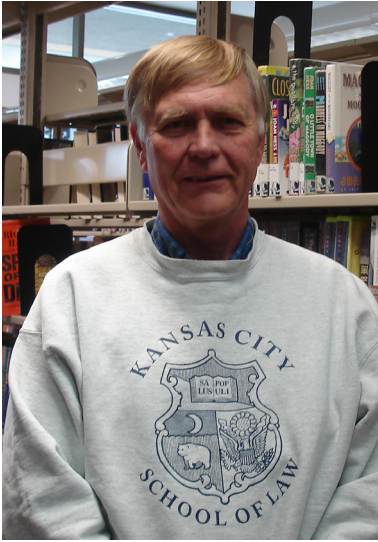
Rochester Reads seeks to encourage community discussion, family reading, literacy, understanding, and cross-community interaction by promoting the reading of one book. Everyone is invited to participate by reading and discussing the books and attending related events in February 2008. For more details, go to www.rochesterreads.org.

New @ the library!

A 42" plasma flat panel display (otherwise known as The Marquee) has been installed above the book drop next to the public service desk. This display will be used to announce library events and other information. The new marquee is an easy way for patrons to see what's going on in the library. So, while you're standing in line at the check-out desk, watch the marquee to find out what's happening in the library. Library events are also available online and printed in our monthly newsletter. The marquee was donated by the Judy and Jim Sloan Foundation.



Libraries Change Lives

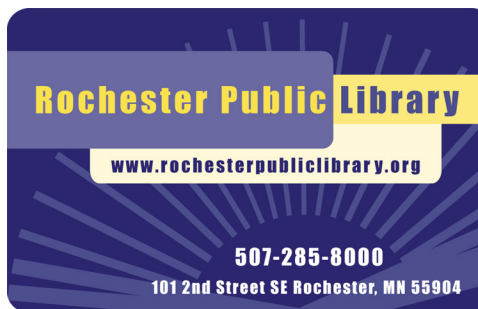


Gerald Anderson

When it comes to choosing the location where one will retire, many factors affect the decision to choose one place over others. Gerald Anderson, newly retired History Professor from North Dakota State University and his wife, Barbara, an art professor and director of the Cyrus Running Gallery at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, recently faced that decision.

Being a professor for 40 years has made academics and libraries an integral part of Gerald's life. He also has a great love of reading and in the past had a large collection of books of his own. A few years ago, when his collection of books was ruined during a flood, he came to the realization "why collect books when there are libraries that do that for you? I pay taxes for the storage of books, I may as well use them." Since then, he has been an avid library user and felt strongly that wherever he and his wife decide to retire, there has to be a library that could handle virtually any library need that they would have.

Did you know?



Your Rochester Public Library card "expires" every three years. The reason that we set cards to expire is so that we have a chance to double-check and make sure we have your most up-to-date contact information (address, phone number, e-mail) every few years. When your card "expires" it needs to be renewed before you can use it again. You can renew your card in person at the Public Services desk on the first floor or by calling 285-8005 during regular library hours.

Gerald's sister and brother-in-law live in Rochester and are very familiar with the library. One day last year, Gerald's brother-in-law took him on a tour of the Rochester Public Library. Gerald was impressed with the mystery collection and was surprised by all the other resources that the library has to offer such as books on tape, movies, and the art collection. Not only is Gerald an avid reader; he is also an author. He has written a two-volume study guide on the history of Western civilization and a monograph on civil liberties in Britain during the nineteen thirties. He has also published some fiction works. His first fiction novel *The Uffda Trial* takes place in a small fictional northern Minnesota town during the 1920's. His most recent publication is *Death Before Dinner: An Otter Tail County Mystery*. His next mystery novel will be published in March 2008 and he is currently working on a third mystery novel. He was sure that if he ever wanted to do any specialized research that he would get a really good start here in Rochester. All in all, the Rochester Public Library was more than he could have hoped for.

The library, along with other factors, helped the Anderson's decide to move to Rochester. They had been living in Rochester for only four weeks at the time of this interview and they are already established library patrons. Welcome to Rochester, Gerald and Barbara!

Internet made easy @ the Library

There are two "Express" Internet computers for adults on the second floor. If you need to use the Internet for fifteen minutes or less, especially during a busy time where there may be a long wait for a regular Internet computer, you may want to consider using an Express Internet computer instead. Often there is little or no wait for these computers. To sign up for an Express computer, choose "Express Adult Internet" when you are making your Internet reservation. If you have any questions, be sure to ask at the second-floor reference desk.

The library provides a wireless Internet hot spot so that you can bring in your laptop with a wireless modem and surf the Web. The best place to catch the connection is on the second floor near the magazine reading area. Stop at the second-floor reference desk for more details.

Homework Assistance is back for the school year!



With the return of the school year, the library's Homework Assistance program has started again. Students (generally grades 4 to 12) can stop by to receive assistance with specific questions regarding their daily homework. On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm in Meeting Room B (2nd floor), volunteer tutors are available to help students with homework

Library Hosts are Back Again

Our library host program resumed in October. Our library hosts assist staff in maintaining a helpful and friendly atmosphere during the evenings. They greet patrons as they enter the building, assist patrons with Express Reserves and self check-out machines and direct patrons to staff for further information.



*Tom Behrenbeck
on duty as a Library
Host*

Hosts are provided by such service clubs in Rochester as Kiwanis Daymakers, Kiwanis Golden K and Rotary. Last year the hosts provided 294 hours of much-appreciated volunteer help.

A big thank you to all of our hosts and for your continued support!

If your service club is interested in becoming library hosts or would like to know more about the host program, contact Andy Stehr at 287-2611.

That Writing Contest Winners



*Front row left to right: Ian McMeeking, Ahna Buntrock, Michael Wang, Anne Pundt
Back row left to right: Noelle Adler, Noelle Bellows, Katie Myers, Matt Homstad, Eric Carlucci*

The winners of the 2007 That Writing Contest were announced on Saturday, October 20. The winning poems and short stories are available on the website: www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/teens.

Winners in the age 10 - 12 categories:

Anne Pundt - 1st Place Poetry
Mike Wang - 2nd Place Poetry
Ian McMeeking - 1st Place Short Story
Ahna Buntrock - 2nd Place Short Story

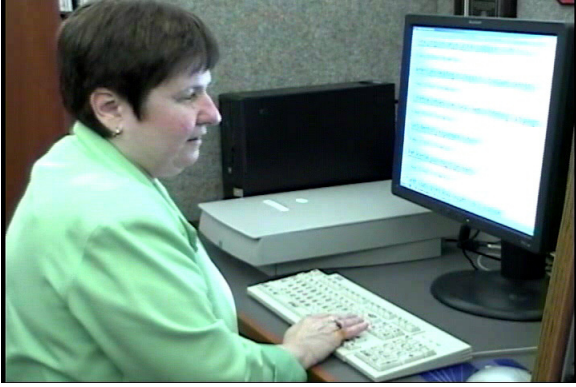
Winners in the age 13 - 15 categories:

Kellie Besch - 1st Place Poetry
Noelle Adler - 2nd Place Poetry
Eric Carlucci - 1st Place Short Story
Noelle Bellows - 2nd Place Short Story

Winners in the age 16 - 18 categories:

Mat Homstad - 1st Place Poetry
Katie Myers - 2nd Place Poetry
Kari Van Grinsven - 1st Place Short Story
Benjamin VanHavermaet - 2nd Place Short Story.

Libraries Change Lives for the Visually Impaired



An adaptive workstation at the library empowers visually impaired people to access the Internet and printed material. It is equipped with Access Mobile, a 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. Jan Bailey, the President of the National Federation of the Blind in Rochester and also a rehabilitation counselor for the State Services for the Blind, uses this software.

Library patrons using the Adaptive Workstation.

Top: Jan Bailey

Bottom: Dale Heltzer



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 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. For more information about the adaptive workstation, call 507.285.8002. 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.

I would like to give: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Rochester Public Library Foundation

___ Endowment Fund ___ Materials ___ Either

My gift will be matched by: _____

Donor listings & acknowledgments ___ My name may be included ___ Please do not include my name

Please write name(s) as you would prefer in donor listings: _____

___ \$500 for Book-A-Year Endowment

Name for bookplate: _____ in honor of/ in memory of (*circle one*)

Name for Acknowledgment (*plaques and listings*): ___ honoree's name ___ my name

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail: _____



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

Donors from July 17 - October 31, 2007

Businesses and Organizations

American Family Insurance
CineMagic Theatres
Friends of Rochester Public Library
Moen Law Firm
Oregon Neurology Associates
RPL Staff Fund

Individuals

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George & Dorothy Allen
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Lisa Lundquist
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Kathe A. Yoss
William & Judith Young
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Rochester Public
Library Foundation

for all ages, all cultures,
all people

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Rochester, MN 55904

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Return Service Requested

Plan to attend Wit, Wisdom, and Wine Saturday, January 12, 2008

Silent Auction

Dr. Edward R. Laskowski
How to Take a Hit and Still Stay Fit

Tim Penny
Campaigner in Chief

Mike Cords
Wine

John Hunziker
Local Heroes World War II

Topical Speakers

Christian Milaster
*Project Licht 'n Stein - The Success Story
of a Modern Residential Green Building*

Scott Stulen
*Contemporary Art 101: Context, Content,
and Confusion*

**For more information
please call 285-8011**

Hors d'oeuvres, Wine & Great Conversation

Dr. Ruben A. Mesa
Life Lesson From the Dying

Dr. Lehmkuhle
U of M Rochester

Chef Justin Schoville
Meats and Cheeses of Spain

Dr Celestin Musekura
Sudan - Darfur

*Cost is \$75 per person if registered by January 4.
Proceeds from this fund-raiser will go to the Rochester Public Library Foundation*