

Foundation Builder

Rochester Public Library Foundation, 101 2nd St SE, Rochester, MN 55904 • www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org

Wit, Wisdom and Wine @ the Library

The 11th annual Wit, Wisdom and Wine was held on Saturday, January 14, 2012. A successful fund-raiser like this doesn't happen overnight; months of planning and preparation go into it.

Beginning in June the Foundation's Events Committee started by brainstorming what kind of timely, entertaining and educational topics and speakers would be a good fit for the event. Some speakers, such as Tim Penny and Mike Cords are always asked to come back owing to popular demand. The committee also worked on finding prizes for the raffle drawing and rounded up silent auction items. Hight & Randall, Ltd., Personal Jeweler has, for the last three years, donated

the jewelry pieces for the raffle drawing. This year they generously donated three jewelry pieces.

The committee also arranged for catering for the event. The last 11 years Daube's Cakes and Bakery have risen to the occasion, surprising us each year with new and exciting delicacies to enjoy during the evening.

In November, the invitations were designed and sent to Davies Printing, who printed, stuffed the envelopes and mailed them out. They also kindly paid for half the printing. During this time period, the Wit, Wisdom and Wine web page was updated and, new this year, there was an option to register for the event online.

Weeks before the event, the administration office on the second-floor of the library became full of silent auction items. Each one was cata-



Top: John's office in disarray right before Wit, Wisdom and Wine.

Right: A train of carts loaded with silent auction items waiting to get put on display for the big event.



Willie and Nicole, the performers of Light: a Play



Dr. Amit Sood



Heather Eng and John Cruz

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logged and arranged on every space available where they waited for the event.

The day of Wit, Wisdom and Wine, all the silent auction items were placed on carts and lined up in the office waiting for the library to close for the evening so preparations for the event could begin. Registration packets were created, signs printed, and volunteers rounded up to help for the big night. As soon as the library was closed for the evening there was a mere hour to get everything prepared. The silent auction items were displayed, the wine brought out, the food delivered and set up, signs hung, furniture moved, chairs arranged, and then the mad dash to get changed from jeans and t-shirts to elegant gala attire.

To help keep the attendees busy while things were getting prepared in the library, the Friends Bookstore extended their evening hours for anyone who wanted to browse the shelves while they waited for the event to begin.

The raffle drawing produced three winners for the evening. The winner of the Contemporary Collection was Renee Berg. She was so excited to win she posted on the library's facebook page: "I WON I WON I WON I WON! It's not nice to brag but I WON! Jewelry from Wit, Wisdom & Wine. I didn't think I could love RPL more than I did before today. And then today I loved it more after going in to pick up my jewelry from the esteemed John Hunziker, whose chair I sat in. Life looks good from that chair. And healthy -- he allegedly snacks on raisins. THANKS RPL! I WON!"

The winner of the Vintage collection was Betty Shimek who chose the key necklace. She stated that she has volunteered at Wit, Wisdom & Wine for many years and purchased raffle tickets every year. She was very excited to win.

The winner of the Sajen collection was Steve Mosing who chose the necklace pendant for his lucky wife.

All the time and effort spent on this year's fund-raising event wasn't wasted. The evening brought in just over \$25,000 for the Rochester Public Library Foundation and will be used to support the library. This wouldn't have been possible without all the support from our sponsors, the silent auction donors, the attendees and of course the Foundation Events Committee and volunteers.

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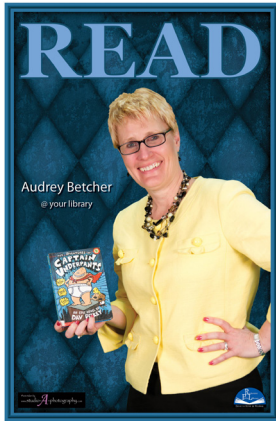
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More photos of the event can be found on our flickr page: www.flickr.com/photos/rochpublibrary



From the Director's Desk...

Changes for the new year



Audrey Betcher

In 2011 the library experienced a time of unprecedented change. We had three members of the management team retire and several other long-time staff members leave as well. As we were scrambling to get work done, we also took the opportunity to re-evaluate open positions against the Library's strategic plan.

We continue to meet the needs of the entire community: create lifelong learners, stimulate imagination, connect people to the online world, encourage young readers, and so much more. We see areas of opportunity, but we live in a time of tight budgets. We know we can't just add more staff to solve problems and do more; we need to deploy existing staff differently.

So what are we doing differently? We are in the process of consolidating the Circulation Division. Right now a person can register for a library card, check out materials, and pay fines in either the Children's

Division or in the Circulation Division. After the transition is complete, all transactions with check outs, fines, holds, registrations, etc. will take place in the Circulation Division.

The Children's Division staff will have more time to focus on reference, reader's advisory, and programming for the children in our community. That is not to say that we don't value the highly important transactions that happen in the Circulation Division. It all has to work together to create a great customer experience.

A team of staff members is working on the implementation plan, and we expect the change to happen before June of this year. We sincerely appreciate the support of the Foundation and Friends on this project. Some funds will be used to change the desk in the Children's area. We no longer need such a large desk, and we want to create an approachable environment.

What you do makes a difference for our entire community.

Thank You!

Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library Director

Audrey S Betcher

Impact Survey Results

We're the place to get connected

We recently participated in the IMPACT Survey, the first large-scale investigation of the ways U.S. library patrons use computers and the Internet at public libraries, why they use it, and how it affects their lives. The survey was made available to all public libraries with generous support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

In 2010, the threshold of the Rochester Public Library was crossed nearly 585,000 times. During these visits, just over 68,000 sessions on public access Internet

terminals were completed.

Library patrons were busy searching for job opportunities and submitting employment applications (30%), accessing educational help (26%), engaging with the community (36%), getting answers to health-related questions (33%), and applying for government services (25%).

Rochester Public Library began offering public access computers in 1995 and currently has 26 Internet stations available and a wireless network that library patrons with their own laptops can use to access the Internet. The

library also provides an array of computer instruction and classes. 53% of survey respondents indicated receiving one-on-one technology help from library staff or volunteers.

Half of the respondents reported that public computing resources are very important to themselves personally and 85% felt that they are very important to have available for others in the community. This finding reinforces the significance of the Rochester Public Library as the place in our community to get connected.

New Web Site Coming Soon!

We are almost finished polishing up our new look and plan on launching a whole new website in April. You can take a sneak peak at what we're working on right now by following this link: <http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/2010site/index.html>.

Not only does it have a new look, it has a shiny new catalog with lots of bells and whistles. The old software we had for our catalog is no longer developed or supported so we had to start looking for a replacement. From the catalog software we researched, we chose to use Endecca as the search engine for our new catalog. Endecca allows us to customize and incorporate new technologies and works more like Amazon or Ebay, which is well-known for its keyword oriented search. It has been a long process to implement because there are so many complexities of a library database to work with and we found a lot of errors that needed to be cleaned up such as

The screenshot shows the Rochester Public Library website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for Home, Books, Movies, Music, Research, eBooks, Kids, Teens, Bookmobile, Support Us, and Events. A search bar is prominently displayed with a 'Search' button. Below the navigation, there are several content blocks: 'Quick Browse' with links to New Books, Music CDs, Movies, and TV Shows; 'Using the Library' with links to Hours & Directions, Library Card, Computers, Internet & WiFi, Assistive Technology, Outreach Services, Meeting Rooms, Scanners, Copiers & Microfilm, and Contact Us; 'Checking Out Materials' with links to Due Dates, Fees/Fines, Renewing, Reserving, Returning, and Suggest a Purchase. The main content area features 'What's new at the Library?' with a 'New Library Catalog Search & Website Design' announcement, 'Upcoming Events' including 'Stories for Toddlers and Twos' and 'Homework Assistance Study Table', and 'Library Hours'. A sidebar on the right contains social media links, a 'Site Search' box, an 'Events Calendar' for March 2012, and 'Library Hours' for the Rochester Public Library.

item types, and yes, even misspellings.

Searching the new catalog is more streamlined because the use of limiters is a lot easier now than it used to be. Now the limiters are listed in the left column and are clickable during your search. Before, you would have to use the Advance search features to narrow things down and who ever remembered to use

that feature anyway? Some of the limiters allow you to search for genre specific items, limit to format type, language, age level, and even to see only what's available on the shelves at that point and time.

The website itself has changed quite a bit as well. Instead of being arranged into departments like our physical building is, it is now arranged by format type. For example, instead of going to the Fiction, Movies and Music tab of our old site to search for books, ebooks, movies, etc. We have given each format its own tab on the top navigation bar. Now you can search for ebooks with just one click. On the homepage we have our library events in the middle column as well as in the calendar format that you're used to. Don't forget to check out the library's social media sites while you're exploring the new sites.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know. You can click on the big yellow "Give us Feedback" button on any page of the new web site.

Tumblebooks now available on iPad!

Tumblebooks are e-books for kids that are free and can be found from the Children's page on the library's website.

Click on the Tumblebooks logo and you'll go through the library portal onto the Tumblebooks home page. From there you have access to eStorybooks, puzzles, games, read-a-longs, etc.

These are all available to anyone with a computer with internet access, but now, they have Tumblebooks that are compatible with the iPad! Right now only some are compatible but in the coming months the entire Tumblebooks collection will be.

The screenshot shows the Tumblebooks iPad app interface. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation tabs for Home, Index, My Favorites, My Playlist, Help, and Contact Us. Below the navigation, there's a 'Pad Books' section with a list of books. The first book is '50 Below Zero (iPad)' by Robert Munsch, with a description: 'Late one night, Jason puts water up and discovers that his house is going CRAAZZY! Jason's cat walks in the snow, and Jason finds him in the most unlikely places! What do you do when you find your father sleeping on top of the refrigerator? Or sleeping in the bathtub? Read on, and find out what Jason does! 50 Below Zero is a classic Robert Munsch story, and a favorite with children everywhere!'. The second book is 'ABC Letters in the Library (iPad)' by James Beese, with a description: 'This lovingly written, playfully illustrated book introduces children to both the alphabet and the library, through wonderfully descriptive, alliterative language. ABC Letters in the Library puts a fresh new spin on the traditional ABC lesson, and is an ideal tool for teachers & librarians. It's ABC's for Bookworms-to-Be.'. The third book is 'Ace LaCewing: Bug Detective (iPad)' by Elizabeth Beese, with a description: 'When Queenie Bess goes missing, Ace LaCewing is hot on the honey trail. With his trusty sidekick, Sergeant Zito the Mosquito, Ace combats Mootham City for stunts. But the suspects are piling up, including Mootham enemy number one, As the Drone. Will Ace find Queenie Bess before it's too late? Moody illustrations capture the feel of film noir.'. Each book entry includes the author, publisher, reading time, reading level, and accelerated reader information.

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

All Hail the Queen!

Rochester Public Library Foundation Hosts an English Evening

What do you get when you mix Shakespeare, English Ales and a traditional English meal?

A bloody good way to support the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

This is the second event in the Rochester Public Library Foundation's Cultural Event Series. On Thursday, April 26, at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown

Rochester, the Rochester Public Library Foundation's English Evening will celebrate all things English—from its ales to its entertainment. Highlights of the evening include:

- The Compleat Works of Shakespeare's "Greatest Hits." Local thespians Greg Miller, Nick Mezacapa, and Jerry Casper will perform thir-

ty minutes of highlights from their acclaimed and laugh-out-loud funny stage show centered around Shakespeare's plays (even the bad ones).

- A five-course traditional English meal (tasting portions) includes pot roast, roasted potatoes, and a few surprises.
- An English ale tasting. What's an English event without a few ales? Taste a variety of ales courtesy of Andy's Liquor.
- English toasts between each course, led by emcee—and local Brit—John Steer.
- Silent auction and bucket raffle. Items range from wine to themed book collections.

"Just as last year's Celtic evening celebrated Celtic culture, our English Evening brings you everything English: food, ale, music, art, history, Shakespearean entertainment and a true Englishman emcee," says Lois Marris, co-chair of the event. "The Highland Kilts worn last year were such a huge hit that we are encouraging everyone to wear their favorite Renaissance Era piece—from full costume to a simple mask."

Cost is \$50.00 per person; registration is available online at: www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org/English.

For more information contact Jennifer Koski at 507.251.3887 or email: jenniferkoski@gmail.com.

Proceeds go to the Rochester Public Library Foundation to support programming and equipment at the Rochester Public Library.

An English Evening

A Rochester Public Library
Foundation Fundraising Event

DoubleTree Hotel, Rochester, MN

\$50 Per Person/\$400 Per Table



- The Compleat Works of Shakespeare's "Greatest Hits."
- Emcee-Englishman C. John Steer
- Traditional English Foods
- English Ale Tasting
- English music, culture and history
- Renaissance Costume Encouraged

April 26, 2012
5:30pm

Register at: 507-328-2343 or
www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org/English.html



Visit the library blog for more stories about library news, services, and events.

<http://rochpublibrary.wordpress.com>