

Friends of Rochambeau Newsletter

January/February 2010

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*** THE ROCHAMBEAU LIBRARY HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER!

401.272.3780

ON THE WEB:

Visit us at

www.friendsofrochambeau.org

Friends of Rochambeau

708 Hope Street

Providence, RI 02906

friend@friendsofrochambeau.org

Letter from the President

By Chris Suchmann

This year we have seen a lot of change. Change in the economy, change in government and change in our library system.

The Providence Community Libraries have a new Director and a new mission. To their credit, you may not have noticed that anything is different. Service has remained excellent. The most important feature of the new Providence Community Libraries is that they are all remaining open! Thank you Ellen, Linda, Marcus, Patricia et al. !

We invited PCL director Ann Robinson to our December board meeting to give us a sense of her vision for the new "community libraries". Her hope is that each library will reflect the character of the surrounding neighborhoods and become a community center where people can congregate, and among other things, share knowledge, stories, music and their different cultural traditions.

At Rochambeau, we are very fortunate to have this "community" already! Our hope and our mission is to continue to support Tom, his staff and all of the great programs at our beloved library. We also plan to support the larger mission of the PCL and reach a hand out to our other Community Libraries to develop a thriving citywide library system.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. June Tow introduces our new and exciting board members, and Gil Mason brings us up to speed with

our extremely successful semi-annual book sale.

All this and some exciting upcoming events! So read on.....

Oh yes, and don't forget to remember us during 2010. All contributions to the Friends of Rochambeau are much appreciated and tax deductible.

Sincerely,

Chris Suchmann
(Doyle Ave.)■

Fall Book Sale a Resounding Success

By Gil Mason

Fall Book Sale Report : In spite of the terrible economic conditions, in spite of the loss of half of our book dealers through business failures, the fall book sale was a success.

A net result of more than \$6,000 was made possible through the magnificent efforts of a dedicated team of sorters, cashiers, handlers, publicists, set-up crews, and others too numerous to list. also, the great cooperation of Librarian Tom and his Rochambeau people was invaluable.

The sale ran for a full week early in October. The first night was dealers night. the second was "Friends" night. The final four days were open to the public, with two at regular prices (\$1.00 for books and audio-visuals and \$.50 for all children's materiel) and the last two at \$5.00 per grocery bag full.

More than forty volunteers participated in the sale. (Continued on Page 2)

BOOK SALE (CONTINUED)

We are now looking forward to the spring sale in April 2010, when with the help of our terrific team and the support of all the "Friends" we expect another winner for our library. ■



DVD DRIVE UNDER WAY!

The Friends of Rochambeau Library are seeking donations of gently used DVDs to add to the library collection. This is an opportunity to help the library, other patrons and yourself. By donating your DVDs to the library, others will have a chance to enjoy them and you will continue to have access to them as well. Until we have drop boxes in place, please leave them at the circulation desk. ■

Library Hours

*Monday & Thursday
1:00 pm - 9:00 pm*

*Tuesday & Wednesday
9:30 am - 6:00 pm*

*Friday & Saturday
12:00 - 6:00 pm*

CHECK THIS OUT!

Read an original vignette from local long-time Friend **Mark Binder**. Go to www.friendsofrochambeau.org!

Save a Tree!

If you'd like to receive your Friends newsletters via email, sign up at www.friendsofrochambeau.org!

Brother Can You Spare A Book?

By Chris Suchmann

Last December **Whole Foods Market** sponsored an event called "Holiday of Giving" They collected food donations for the **Whole Kids Food Bank**, warm clothing for **Amos House**, spare change for the **RI Good Neighbor Energy Fund** and books for the **Rochambeau Library**.

We were asked to come down to the store and speak with people about Rochambeau Community Library, the great work that it does in our community and how the book donations help support our effort. We enjoyed many conversations, made some new Friends and received several boxes of books, which I assured them would be put to good use.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

by June Tow, 2009 Nominating Chair

The Friends of Rochambeau Library welcome six new board members (David Berman, Jenny Fierro, Neeltje Henneman, Hildburg Herbst, Douglas Itkin and Steven Lagasse) to an already dynamic group.

David Berman is a retired professor of mathematics at the University of New Orleans. He graduated from Dartmouth and received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. David volunteers at the Miriam Hospital and enjoys his photography class at CCRI.

Jenny Fierro is a librarian at Hope High School who previously worked at Brown. Jenny received her degree from the University of Puerto Rico and her M.S in Library Science from the University of Illinois. As a mother of three, Jenny is hopeful "that the young adults will use the resources of the Rochambeau Library"

A graduate of Amherst College, **Neeltje Henneman** hails from Lexington, Kentucky. She is in her second year as the head of the Upper School at Wheeler School. Neeltje was Dean of the Faculty at the St. Ann's School in Brooklyn, NY. With what little spare time she has, she enjoys reading, knitting, quilting and bicycling.

Hildburg Herbst received her PhD from Princeton and is a professor emerita at Rutgers University where she taught German languages and literature. She describes herself as "the intrepid book sorter."

Douglas Itkin is the Website Quality Assurance team manager at American Power Conversion. He graduated from the University of Rochester. Doug is also active in the Summit Neighborhood Association. His two children are frequent Library users.

Steven Lagasse serves as Legal Counsel for American Power Conversion in West Kingston. He attended George Washington University and Roger Williams University School of Law. Steven is very well versed in local and national politics. ■

Upcoming Events at the Library:

Thursday 2/11 7pm
Darwin Day Celebration
The Galapagos Islands: 174 Years After Darwin

Thursday 2/25 7pm
Jazz @ Rochambeau
The Mike Miller Swingtet with Special Guest

Saturday 3/6 1pm – 4pm
Friends Volunteer Gala

Thursday 3/18 6pm – 9pm
Friends of Rochambeau Limerick Contest and Blarney Bash

Monday 3/8 7pm
Dr. Lynn Lazarus Serper, EdD -- Learning is a Rich and Essential Fuel for the Brain ■

Spring Book Sale Just Around the Corner!

The annual Friends of Rochambeau Spring Book Sale is coming up very soon. Mark down the dates below, and as always, please consider lending a hand! Sign-up sheets will be located at the front desk.

April 15-17: Set up
 April 19: Dealers Night
 April 20: Friends
 April 21-22: Public
 April 23-24th: \$5 a bag
 April 26th: Non-profits (free)
 April 27th: Breakdown.

To volunteer, call **Gil** at 401.447.4369 ■

Brother Can You Spare a Book?

(Continued from Page 2)

Thomas Lane was in the store hawking his mother, Helen Hudson's book, **Dinner at Six**, a collection of intimate and often heart wrenching conversations with some of the people that she met while working in a soup kitchen. Thom has been touring the country and selling the book to raise money for agencies that are helping to feed and clothe the people who are in need. He was a great conversationalist and stayed in town long enough to introduce **Eileen Hayes**, at her presentation at **Rochambeau Community Library** the following Thursday evening.

Eileen, as many of you know, has been the director of **Amos House** for nine years. Her presentation titled "**New Faces of Homelessness and Hunger in Rhode Island**" was as compelling as Ms. Hudson's book and was a gentle wake up call to us all:

"But for the grace of God, there go I"

These human beings are as much a part of our community as anyone and need our love and support. Whether it's a sympathetic shoulder, some hot soup or a free book! If you want to help you can start by buying a copy of **Helen Hudson's** book. One hundred per cent of the proceeds are being used to provide food for families in need through **Whole Foods** and the **Backpack Program at Hope High School**. Books are on sale in the library on a donation basis. You pay what you can afford. Dig deep!

The Friends of Rochambeau would like to thank Whole Foods, Chrissy, Thom, Helen, Eileen and all of the people who donated to this worthy cause. Great job!!! ■

LIMERICK CONTEST!!!

It's time for our annual limerick contest! Anyone can write a limerick! Why not give it a try?

One entry ONLY per person in each age group.

Limericks may be humorous, serious, political, or newsworthy.

Please print legibly or type your limerick on the computer **and then attach a printed copy to the entry form, which you can find at the front desk.**

Limericks with foul language will be discarded.

ALL entries must be submitted at the library by 9pm on March 10. Then join us for the Limerick Contest Party on March 18!

Helpful limerick-writing tips:

- Anyone can write a limerick!
- Good limericks tell stories
- Limericks have five lines
- Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme and are longer (usually 9 syllables)
- Lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other and are shorter (usually 5 syllables)
- A good last line is important and should have a bit of a punch

First place and runner-up prizes will be awarded to each of the following age groups: 0-9, 10-17, 18-69, and 70+ ■



Please Join the Friends of Rochambeau A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Name _____ Date _____

New Member Current Renewal
(1 month from renewal date)

Address _____

Data Update Other

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I enclose my tax-deductible ANNUAL membership
in the amount of :

Email _____ Phone _____

- \$500 Angel \$250 Benefactor
- \$100 Patron \$50 Sponsor
- \$25 BFF \$20 Family Friends
- \$10 Friends

Comments _____

I'd like to help: Book Sale
 Other _____
 I would like someone to contact me

Please make your checks payable to: *Friends of Rochambeau*
and mail to: Friends of Rochambeau Community Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence RI 02906

E-mail the Friends at friend@friendsofrochambeau.org

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