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Corresponding Secretary

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Book sale

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President

President's Letter



Dear Friends,

I have been President for a few months now, but this is my first letter to the membership. I hope that my stewardship of this wonderful organization continues to be as exciting as it has been so far.

It has been an interesting time to be involved in the libraries of Providence. Our annual meeting was held this year in September, rather than the traditional month of June because of the uncertainty of our future in June, with the lease on our building expiring July 1st. I am pleased to say that the extension of that lease to December, and continuing into 2012 at this point, will hopefully be resolved once and for all in the coming weeks. There has been an arbitrated discussion going on between PPL and PCL (and its partner the City of Providence), which is nearing resolution. Perhaps it will even be settled before you are reading this. All I know is that the more I learn about PPL, the less I understand it.

On a sad note, one of our members who was a friend to me and many in our community, Blossom Kirschenbaum, passed away this fall. She will be missed.

In other news, the Friends board has voted to help out the library in several ways: providing a new rug or carpet for the story area in the Children's library, funding a Read and Rap program at the Smith Hill library (one of the three libraries in the Rochambeau region that our organization helps to support), and providing holiday gifts to the staff of the Rochambeau Library. These gifts are in addition to our ongoing support for programs at the library including sponsoring arts programming, subscriptions to periodicals for our patrons, and memberships to museums that can be borrowed for free or reduced entry.

A special program has been gracing our library this fall, part of our support of the arts at Rochambeau. Titled "A Fine Romance," it is an exhibit from the American Library Association (ALA) that honors Jewish composers during the years 1910 to 1965. In conjunction with this exhibit, our library has hosted a musical film series, as well as three musical concerts featuring the music of that time.

All of these wonderful contributions to our library would not be possible without you! Thank you to those of you who have volunteered in the library itself, assisting with shelving and other services; to those of you who helped out at our semi-annual book sale and with the sorting and other jobs needed to prepare for it; and to those of you who contribute by joining our organization. It is our members who keep us going and demonstrate the importance of a library to the community. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership, or help us out with an additional gift before the end of the year. A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience.

Happy New Year to all of you! May this coming year be a wonderful one for our community, and our community library, Rochambeau.

Pamela Vogel
President of the Friends of Rochambeau

Library Staff Top 5 Book Selections

Children's Books

- **Bink & Gollie**
by Kate DiCamillo
- **Pop!: The Invention of Bubblegum**
by Meghan McCarthy
- **Junkyard Wonders**
by Patricia Polacco
- **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda**
by Tom Angleberger
- **Masters of Disaster**
by Gary Paulsen

Teen Books

- **Across the Universe**
by Beth Revis
- **Between the Shades of Grey**
by Ruta Sepetys
- **Daughter of Smoke and Bone**
by Laini Taylor
- **Girl of Fire and Thorns**
by Rae Carson
- **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children**
by Ransom Riggs

Adult Fiction

- **Night Circus**
by Erin Morgenstern
- **Swamplandia**
by Karen Russell
- **IQ84**
by Haruki Murakami
- **The Buddha in the Attic**
by Julie Otsuka
- **Open City**
by Teju Cole

Adult Non-Fiction

- **Steve Jobs**
by Walter Isaacson
- **Ecstasy of Influence**
by Jonathan Lethem
- **In the Garden of Beasts**
by Erik Larson
- **Bossypants**
by Tina Fey
- **A History of the World in 100 Objects**
by Neil MacGregor

Fall 2011 Book Sale Report

The Fall book sale opened with the largest collection of high quality donated books that we have ever received, while the efforts of the sorters and handlers during the previous six months had represented an exceptional level of fine judgment and dedicated labor.

As a result of the foregoing we were able to achieve our minimum goal of a net of \$5,000. If we hadn't lost two of the six days of our sale (Thurs.

and Sat.) to torrential downpours, the bottom line might well have been a record figure.

The ongoing sales from our lobby carts during the same period were extremely gratifying, averaging \$500 per month. Again, it was the constant attention of our book sale personnel that made this possible.

Rochambeau branch dropped its entire collection of VHS movies from circulation in August

and we were able to sell off the collection for \$.50 apiece.

As we were left with a considerable residue of unsold high quality books we were able to donate 60 boxes of books to Knight Memorial Library for their own use.

Respectfully submitted,
Gil Mason
(for the book sale committee)

Book Sale Thank You note

THANK YOU!

To all of you who helped create another successful "Friends of Rochambeau" book sale.

Without our most generous DONORS, we would have nothing to sell. Small groups of SORTERS are in the library every weekday taking carts full of donated books to the basement, sorting them according to 50 categories, packing them in boxes when the shelves are full, then unpacking them for the bi-annual sales. A number of friends come in as HELPERS for setting up more than 25,000 books in the conference room. A larger group of faithful "Friends" and newcomers to the enterprise are great HELPERS during the actual sales, at the cash register, on the floor restoring a semblance of order, helping wherever help is needed. And then there are after-sale HELPERS who miraculously restore the place to its former tidy order. The LIBRARIANS are cheerful and tolerant during the whirlwind days; custodian FRANK is indispensable for the whole operation! But what would we do without you, the BUYERS? Thank you!

Sharing Your Story - course

Everyone loves to hear a good story. Everyone loves telling their own stories. But beyond just entertainment, it is through personal stories that we learn about ourselves and each other. Our stories are our own adventures and myths; how we act in them reveals our character. This course is based on the popular, award-winning show **Live Bait: True Stories from Real People**, in

which anyone can get up on stage and tell his/her true, personal stories (no acting, no script, no notes: it's just like telling your friends). Everyone will get a chance to talk about themselves uninterrupted (six-minute time limit), and learn how to shape and tell an effective, entertaining story. Sharing Your Story is open to anyone 18+ and especially welcome to Seniors. The

workshop consists of 3 hour-and-a-half classes, followed by a public performance of stories for friends, families and anyone else who'd like to listen.

Instructor: Phil Goldman
Classes on Saturdays - January 28, February 4 and February 11 2:00pm to 3:30pm (sign-up at Reference Desk)
Performance on Thursday, February 14 @ 7:00 pm

Saving Discs

Last Spring the Friends purchased a Venmill 3500 disc re-surfacer. During the interval between then and now we have cleaned, re-surfaced and repaired approximately 3,400 discs (over 3000 DVDs, 100 audio books and numerous CDs) from the collections of the nine libraries in the Providence Community Library system.

We have about a 97% save rate for DVDs and about a 65% save rate for audio books (if one disc is irreparable we lose the

entire book some of the longer of which contain 24+ CDs). We need to alert patrons to this risk and encourage them to take better care of these resources (for example, not removing them from the car CD player and tossing them onto the dashboard, car seat or even floor).

Many thousands of dollars have been saved by re-surfacing and not having to replace everything, even at a discounted library rate. We have also been responsible for the

maintenance of the machine, which must be disassembled and cleaned every 250 discs and the buffing wheels replaced every 2500 discs. Roger Seitz has been instrumental in this effort. In sum, we feel this process has made a significant contribution to the Rochambeau Library in particular and to the Providence Community Library system in general.



An Unconsidered Trifle

By Norm DePlume

Perambulating about the neighborhood is one of my favorite pastimes. Recently, during one of these excursions (down Wayland Avenue in the East Side of Providence as it happens) I came to an intersection and, while waiting for a car to pass through, I looked down at the pavement in

front of my feet and noticed that some wag had carefully stenciled the words 'you are here.' This arrested my attention to the point of temporarily forgetting my purpose and caused me to consider the phrase for some considerable time. It occurred to me (certainly abstruse esoteric philosophical precepts and

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle notwithstanding) that indeed I had come across an obvious yet often taken for granted and perhaps even unnoticed truth. Frankly, I must confess that it made my day, for as William Shakespeare so succinctly put it: in *Twelfth Night* "better a witty fool than a foolish wit."

Occupy our Libraries

On Thursday November 3rd, members of Occupy Providence teamed up with community library supporters and marched from Burnside Park to the Providence Public Library. To read more about this and an awesome poem by one of the protestors, visit our website: www.FriendsOfRochambeau.org



Library Extremists Occupy Burnside Park

Rochambeau Library Staff

Tim McGinn
Circulation Supervisor

Ayesha Thompson
Circulation

Edilberta Trejo
Circulation

Nella Rokicki
Circulation

Bonnie Weisman
Circulation

Ivy Brunelle
On-call Reference
Librarian

MaryEllen Munroe
Young Adult Librarian

Judanne Hamidzada
Children's Librarian

Tom O'Donnell
Regional Librarian

Frank Grinchell
maintenance/Facilities

Library Card Campaign

Coming soon...
Thurs. February 23rd
at Rochambeau

Rochambeau Library Info

708 Hope Street
Providence, RI 02906
www.ProvComLib.org
401-272-3780

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

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

Friday & Saturday
12:00 - 6:00 pm

New Programs in the New Year

1/9 - Author Talk
with Cris Pfeil

1/23 - Author Talk
with Dan Pearlman

1/28, 2/4, 2/11, & 2/16
workshops and
performance of *Sharing
Your Story* with Ron
Goldman

1/28 through 3/31 - JUMP!!
Providence's premiere
youth dance company,
enrollment is limited!

2/9 - Author Talk
with Peter Johnson

3/1 - Living Literature -
Louisa May Alcott

3/15 Annual Limerick
Contest and Blarney Bash
with musical guests - Phil
Edmonds, Mary King &
Hughie Purcell

Friends of Rochambeau Membership & Donations

YES, I want to join the Friends of the Rochambeau,
Providence Community Library!
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Today's Date _____
Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____
Phone _____

Yes, I am also interested in Volunteering!

I'd like to help with: Book sales____ Events____ Other____

I have a special skill or passion that I could share with the library:

I am interested in being on the Friends Board _____

I enclose my tax-deductible ANNUAL membership fee in the amount of (check one):

\$10 Supporter____ \$25 Friend____ \$50 Sponsor____
\$100 Patron____ \$250 Benefactor____ \$500 Angel____
\$____ Other____

____ My employer [_____] will match my gift.

Please make checks payable to *Friends of Rochambeau* and drop off with this form
at the Rochambeau circulation desk, or mail with this form to:

Friends of Rochambeau 708 Hope Street Providence, RI 02906

Friends of Rochambeau
708 Hope Street
Providence, RI, 02906

Return Service Requested

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