

FRIENDLY CONNECTIONS

Winter 2008

The newsletter of
The Friends of the
Saint Paul Public Library

325 Cedar Street, Suite 555
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1055

www.thefriends.org

THE FRIENDS RECEIVES COVETED 4-STAR REVIEW FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Less than a quarter of the charities evaluated have received this highest rating, indicating that The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library outperforms the majority of nonprofits in America with respect to fiscal responsibility.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the work of efficient charities such as The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

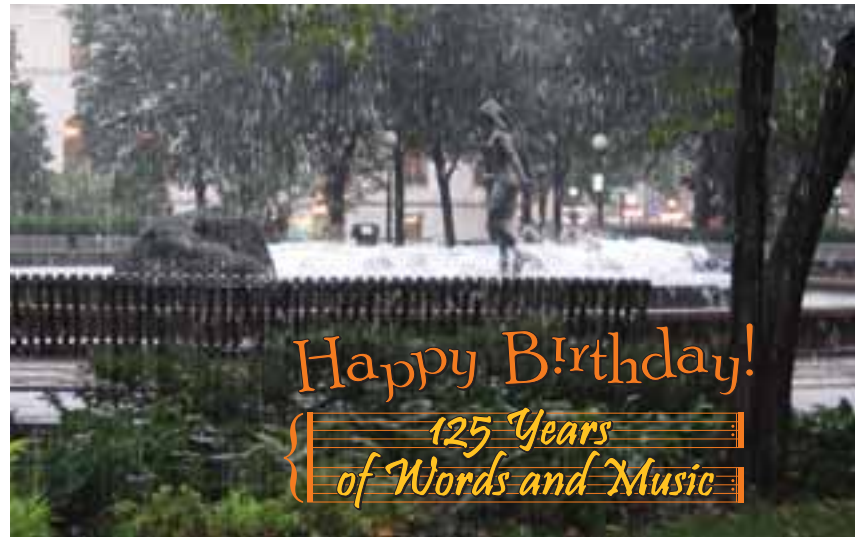
Based on the most recent financial information available, Charity Navigator has calculated a 4-star rating for The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Fewer than 25% of the charities evaluated receive this "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator, a classification that



differentiates The Friends from its peers, and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

For additional information on The Friends or its 4-Star rating by Charity Navigator, visit www.thefriends.org. There you will find a direct link to the review and ratings page about The Friends on the Charity Navigator website. 🌟

A SOGGY CELEBRATION



The figure in the Rice Park fountain, The Source, by artist Alonzo Hauser, seemed to be one of the few souls enjoying the rain on Sunday, September 30, as the Saint Paul Public Library and The Schubert Club jointly celebrated their 125th anniversaries. Others merely braved the weather, running back and forth between the Landmark Center and Central Library to enjoy the myriad festivities. See photo story on page 3.

Library's Threshold Program Calendar Getting a Makeover

The *Threshold* program calendar, which lists events and classes at Library branches, is getting a brand new look and name. Due to an ever-expanding array of educational and cultural programs, the old format just wasn't working. Look for an expanded, full-color, 16-page **Events and Classes** booklet to arrive in your mailbox bi-monthly, beginning in early 2008. It will also be available at the Library. 🌟

Minnesota Book Awards Nominees Wait With Bated Breath for Announcement

Nominations are now closed for the 20th Annual Minnesota Book Awards. In all, The Friends received 240 titles that qualified and were accepted. It is now up to the first round judges to read all the books in their assigned categories and select the finalists which will be announced on Sunday, January 27, 2008. Then begins the final round judging and Readers' Choice polling. Winners will be announced at the Book Awards Gala on April 12, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Visit www.thefriends.org for details. 🌟

tutor.com

Tutor.com Users Report:

“On9 Hmwrk Hlp S D Gr8st!”

(Online Homework Help is the Greatest!)

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Tutor.com is a Friends-supported service offering live homework help from real tutors via the Internet. The service is available every day from 3 to 10 p.m. at the Saint Paul Public Library, or remotely from any computer with a library card. Your contributions help us bring this valuable resource to grateful students citywide. The usage statistics at right are from just one month (September 2007).

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	AVERAGE SESSION LENGTH IN MINUTES
988	17:54
GRADE LEVEL	CONNECTED SESSIONS
4th	49
5th	39
6th	56
7th	99
8th	171
9th	171
10th	119
11th	110
12th	52
College Intro	121

SUBJECT	CONNECTED SESSIONS
En Español Math	3
En Español Science	1
English	134
Math - Algebra	289
Math - Calculus	45
Math - Elementary	88
Math - Geometry	70
Math - Middle School	50
Math - Trigonometry	8
Science - Biology	24
Science - Chemistry	33
Science - Earth Science	43
Science - Elementary	58
Science - Physics	72
Social Studies	73

PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE RESPONSES

Are you glad your library offers this service?

87.44%

Would you recommend this service to a friend?

87.85%

Is Live Homework Help helping you be more confident about your school work?

85.24%

COMMENTS:

“Lisa helped me with a problem and now I like doing it cause I have a whole worksheet on it. I will be happy when I do it instead of being mad at myself for not getting how to do it.”

“It was wonderful! My tutor helped and guided me on my Math problem! I understood it after a few examples! It made everything easier!!”

“If it wasn’t for this homework center I would be failing school.”

“Thank you! I enjoy this website a lot n the tutors r terrific!”

“I want to thank Katie H. who helped me on my algebra homework... I really appreciated that there’s a system that helps students do their homework online.... thank you so much!! I hope to work with you again. :-)”

“I love all my tutors! Thank you very much for this program; sometimes I even wish that these tutors were my math teacher! :D”

“I love this website; please keep this program going and stay open longer.”

“i had an excellent tutor. i was kind of afraid that she was going to think i was dumb because i was clueless on a lot of things but she was very patient with me and helped to make everything clear. i am totally going to come back if i ever need help again.”

“The tutors are very kind and welcoming. They go through your assignments with you in a comfortable way.”

“I love this website to death. I would be lost in life without it.” 🌟



SCENES FROM THE 125TH BIRTHDAY PARTY



Dick Hensold quietly “wowed the crowd” with his Northumbrian smallpipes in the Landmark Center Cortile.



Jane Lanctot and Thoeun Moen, members of Light From Heaven, presented classical Cambodian music and the unique, beautiful instruments that bring it to life.



Joker and jester extraordinaire, Bill the Juggler never fails to enthrall kids of all ages, “pulling legs” as he tosses objects with remarkable aplomb.



Tou Ger Xiong, Hmong rapper, comedian and storyteller, asked the perennial big questions about life in America, such as, “got rice?”



Storyteller Danielle Daniel kept the kids spellbound in Central Library’s Youth Services Area.



The Raptor Center held the audience in rapt attention as they presented birds of prey in all sizes ranging from American kestrels to eagles.



Local treasures and Latina poetry super-group, Palabristas! showed the human side of being an immigrant in Minnesota.



It seemed something like heaven must sound when the Kantorei Chamber Choir filled the upper level of Nicholson Commons. The 40-member choral ensemble performed work focusing on 19th and 20th-century European music.



Mixed vocal ensemble, Deviated Septet, sang in amazing 7-part harmony, despite having their tongues planted firmly in cheek, at Central Library’s Zelda Coffee.



Guests selected a free book of their choice, donated by the Timberwolves, Barnes @ Noble Booksellers, and The Friends.



The Teddy Bear Band’s littlest fans danced.

NEW BOARD CHAIR

The Friends is pleased to announce that George Latimer has been elected Chair of the Board of Trustees. He replaces Dr. Wilson Bradshaw, past president of Metropolitan State University, who left Minnesota in September for a position as President of Florida Gulf Coast University, in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Latimer was the mayor of Saint Paul from 1976 until 1990. A labor lawyer by profession, he was known for his redevelopment of Saint Paul’s downtown core, serving as mayor during a period when the urban population was declining as some residents moved to the suburbs while the city’s ethnic diversity increased.

Latimer attended Columbia Law School and practiced law in Saint Paul from 1963 until he was elected mayor. After his mayoral term, he served as dean of Hamline University’s law school, and as a special advisor to Henry Cisneros, Housing and Urban Development Secretary, from 1993 until 1995. He is now a professor of Urban Studies at Macalester College. 🌿

“DEFERRED” PLANNED GIFTS: TAX DEDUCTIONS AND INCOME BENEFITS... THE ICING ON THE CAKE!

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Let's face it; even with all of our good intentions, some charitable gifts may not be completely altruistic. We all know that if we make a donation to our favorite charity today, we'll receive an income tax deduction next



Liz Boyd, Planned Giving Officer

April for the amount donated. We also receive the emotional lift of seeing our gift at work for whatever charitable cause we choose. When making a planned gift do we receive the same benefits?

If the joy of becoming a philanthropist is not enough, did you know that there are ways of making a planned gift that allow you a current charitable deduction and the ability to receive income while you are living?

Do you have a valuable asset that does not produce income but would some extra income would be helpful? Or, do you have an asset with such a minimal basis that the capital gains prevent you from selling? Making a deferred planned gift (a current, irrevocable gift that passes to The Friends at a later time) may be the icing on the cake you were looking for!

Many people want to make charitable gifts but need to do so in a way that helps meet their other personal, family, or financial needs. Some planned gifts give you options for making your charitable gifts in ways that may allow you to:

- Make a larger charitable gift than you thought possible
- Increase your current income
- Plan for the financial needs of a spouse or loved one
- Provide inheritances for your heirs at a reduced tax cost
- Reduce your income tax and/or avoid capital gains tax
- Diversify your investment portfolio
- Receive income from your personal residence or farm
- Plan for the transfer of your business

LIFE OR FIXED TERM INCOME GIFTS

A donor may make an irrevocable gift while retaining an interest for one or more lifetimes or for a fixed term of years (on some gifts). The beneficiaries of the income interest may be the donor, the donor and a spouse, other members of the donor's family, or non-related individuals. This type of gift allows the donor to increase income, save taxes and make a charitable gift. Such "split interest" gifts include: Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Pooled Income Funds.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY:

a contract with a donor where a charity promises to pay a fixed amount to one or two beneficiaries in exchange for an irrevocable gift today.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST:

the donor irrevocably transfers an asset to a trustee who holds and manages the asset for the benefit of the donor and the charity. The donor retains the right to receive the income from the trust. There may be one or more income beneficiaries. Following the required terms, the trustee will transfer the asset to the charity.

POOLED INCOME FUND: a fund maintained by the charity in which gifts, by several donors, are pooled, invested and administered. The income is distributed to the donors proportionately. Upon the death of each donor the principal (gift of the donor) is distributed to the charity. This type of gift is particularly suited for donors of more modest means.

RETAINED LIFE ESTATE

A donor may donate his/her home, vacation home, farm, etc., to a charity while retaining the right to live in it and use it for the remainder of one or more lifetimes, a fixed term of years, or a combination of the two. Such gifts provide the donor with an immediate federal income tax deduction, even though the charity will not have use of the gift, the "remainder," for a number of years. 🌿



Remember that including The Friends in your estate plan can be as simple as making a provision in your will or trust, or adding The Friends as a beneficiary on an insurance policy or retirement plan. We urge you to discuss your planned giving options with your attorney or other professional advisor. Once you decide to make a gift, you may use the following language in your will or trust:

"I give to The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, 325 Cedar Street, Suite 555, Saint Paul, MN 55101, _____ percent of my residuary estate (or, the sum of \$_____, or a description of the property, securities, etc.) for its endowment funds."

For additional information, please contact Liz Boyd, Planned Giving Officer, by phone at 651-366-6490, or via email at liz@thefriends.org.

DIVERSE CULTURAL PROGRAMS PRESENTED BY THE FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, NOON

Central Library, Magazine Room, 90 W. 4th St.

The Rose Ensemble, an award-winning Twin Cities ensemble presenting early vocal music, presents an annual free concert at Central Library.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 7 P.M.

Merriam Park Branch Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES:

Filmed in Jordan and on the West Bank, **Crimes of Honour** captures the horrific tragedy of violence against women thought to have dishonored their families, examines the wider societal response, and the accounts of three



women fighting to end these crimes. A discussion follows the film, moderated by Cheryl Thomas, Director of the Women's Human Rights Program at Minnesota Advocates.

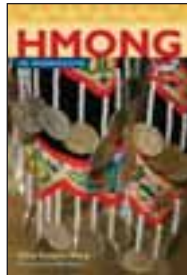
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 7 P.M.

Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 N. Dale St.

Chia Youyee Vang: Hmong in Minnesota

Chia Youyee Vang reveals the colorful, intricate history of Hmong Minnesotans, many of whom were forced to flee their homeland of Laos when the communists seized power during the Vietnam War.

By introducing readers to the immigrants themselves, *Hmong in Minnesota* conveys a population's struggle to adjust to new environments, build communi-



ties, maintain cultural practices, and make its mark on government policies and programs. Co-sponsored by The Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 7 P.M.

Hamline Midway Branch Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha

14TH ANNUAL FIRESIDE READING SERIES:

Bill Holm:

Windows of Brimnes

Poet, musician, essayist—Bill Holm is one of a kind. In *Windows of Brimnes*, his most ambitious book to date, he repairs to his cottage in Iceland to reflect on the state



of our country today and what we might learn from the land of his ancestral roots.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 7 P.M.

Hamline Midway Branch Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha

14TH ANNUAL FIRESIDE READING SERIES

Lise Erdrich:

Night Train

Lise Erdrich's first collec-

tion of stories, *Night Train*, offers a sharp humored and powerful



glimpse into rural communities and contemporary American Indian life and culture. Set in the small towns and reservations of northwestern Minnesota and western North Dakota, her lightning-quick tales capture the moment when the pressures of daily life collide with the insidiousness of history.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 7 P.M.

Highland Park Branch Library, 1974 Ford Parkway



WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES:

"Not For Sale" and "So Deep A Violence"

are two compelling short films that go beyond the myths about prostitution and sex trafficking, to demonstrate clear harm and explore what the world needs to do about this massive violation of women's human rights.

A discussion follows the film, moderated by Cheryl Thomas, Director of the Women's Human Rights Program at Minnesota Advocates.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7 P.M.

Hamline Midway Branch Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha

14TH ANNUAL FIRESIDE READING SERIES

Wing Young Huie:

Looking for Asian America: An Ethnocentric Tour

In search of contemporary Asian America, celebrated photographer

Wing Young Huie—the only member of his



family not born in China—traveled with his wife, Tara, through nearly forty states to explore and document the funny, touching, and sometimes strange intersection of Asian American and American cultures. *Looking for Asian America* illustrates their rich and surprising journey across the United States.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 7 P.M.

The Rose Ensemble Sing-Along

St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave.

The Rose Ensemble presents its annual sing-along of early Renaissance music. People of all musical experience are welcome to this participatory event.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 7 P.M.

Hamline Midway Branch Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha

14TH ANNUAL FIRESIDE READING SERIES

Sun Yung Shin, Skirt Full of Black

Throughout *Skirt Full of Black*, Sun Yung Shin uses her cultural duality as a Korean adoptee to create a new language



for traversing the mine-fields of identity. Each poem in

her resonant collection reveals the very personal consequences of the political, social and economic forces at work in the life of every adoptee.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 7 P.M.

Mary Logue returns to her acclaimed Claire Watson series with **Maiden Rock**, a tragic, personal follow up to *Poison Heart*. Claire's



daughter Meg is struggling with depression—after an all-night high school Halloween party, Meg's best friend was found dead of an apparent suicide at the foot of Maiden Rock. Now Claire is faced with a growing trend in her rural town—meth labs, doped-up teenagers, and young girls just looking for a way to escape their small-town lives.

Each year, The Friends presents an array of FREE cultural programs – including author readings, discussions, lectures, music events, and theater programs. Please visit our website: www.thefriends.org for more information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 8/1/07–12/10/07

Ken and Tracey Agranoff; Roger and Joan Ballou; Paul Bard; Gibson Batch; Daniela Bell; Richard Berowski; Norrine Bohman; Diane and Ron Borgmann; Bruce and Char Bostrom; Tom Bottern; Robert Brereton; Valerie Bump; Sherri Buss; Marilou and Mark Cheple; Ray Clemas; Kevin Corliss; Scott and Rhonda Davie; Mark and Mary Ann Davis; Mary P. Diaz; Greg Dorner; Edward and JoAnne Driscoll; Bill Dunn; Linda Feist; Bruce Field and Ann Schulman; Carolyn Forman; Mikhail and Ruta Franklin; Timothy and Susanne Goodman; Joseph and Visala Goswitz; Michael Gottsacker; Kathleen A. Green; John and Seema Hanbury; Mike Hazard; Don and Sandy Henry; William Hensley; Cheryl Jahnke; Molly Johnson; Lois Kauppila; Lee Klancher; Bill Kostur and Nancy James; Greg Lauer; John Love; Lucy Low; Francis and Sharon Luikart; Carol R. Madden; Anne Maertz; Robin Moede and Joel Lagerquist; Judith Newberry and Phillip King; Kim and Eric Nuxoll; Roger Oelschlager; Jocelyn F. Olson; Allan and Drucilla Osterud; Marlys A. Peterson; Joann and Troy Peterson; Donald and Aline Petzold; Carol A. Quest; John and Ave Rasmussen; Sarah Roberts; Jerry and Lynn Rossow; Heather Sander; Elizabeth E. Sanford; Dorothy Sankey; Sheree and Joshua Savage; Mike and Marlene Schoenberg; Rajni Schulz; Duane and Marcheta Scribner; Abram and Karen Shapiro; Jack and Patti Shomion; Michael Slusser; Milton G. Smith; Angela Stehr and Mark Friedl; Warren Stortroen; Alex Szczepaniak; Temple of Aaron Congregation; Robert and Alice Wendt; Robert Wicker; Max Zarleng.

AND THANK YOU!

Memorials and Honoraria from 8/1/07 through 12/10/07

Memorials in Perpetuity:

Boyd and Lorraine Gilde: Tom Gilde

Morris & Rebecca Ziskind and Angelo & Dovina Tarino: Charles and Janet Tarino

Book Endowment Fund:

Jean and Mark Schroeffer; Janet McClelland

In Memory of:

DeLoris Fastner: Jeanette Zaczkowski

Elizabeth "Bette" Gardner: Bill and Elie Yungbauer

Trudy Gutz: Mary Clare Huberty & Sherry Hanson; Tom and Ginny Lufkin; Geraldine M. Ritter

James Armand Harris: Bill and Elie Yungbauer

Robert Heuer: Bill and Elie Yungbauer

Gerald R. McKay: Rose Ann Foreman

Janaan K. Pearson: William and Maureen Cosgriff; Michael and Patricia Houston; Mary and Charles Nixon; Tom and Sally Patterson; Mark and Mary Walsh; Jean M. West

Steven Rardin: Patricia G. Pelto

Robert J. Reichert: Jean M. West

William A. Rowley: Bill and Elie Yungbauer

Ken Stonesifer: Bill and Elie Yungbauer

Mary Ann Sudeith: Jean M. West

Harry Ward: Adrienne Brown Ravitz

Dorothy Widman: Elizabeth M. DeLay

Honoraria:

Kelly Davis's 94th Birthday: Tom and Sally Patterson

Matt Entenza's Contributions to the Saint Paul Public Library: Carol Walsh and Jamie Fitzpatrick

Maxim A. Zolotukhin-Ridgway 7th Birthday: Richard and Krispen Ridgway

Berta and Stan Shapiro's 75th Birthdays: Bart, Margie, Ellie and Chana Schneider

Connie Wallace's Birthday: Margaret and Em Olson

Grace Lynn Peck's Birthday: Dianne M. Brooke

Recent Foundation Support

The Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$3,000 for general operating support.

The F.R. Bigelow Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$1,000 at the request of Dr. John Scanlan as he left their Board.

The Boss Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$5,000 for general operating support.

The Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts awarded The Friends a grant of \$10,000 to support The Friends' arts programming and a grant of \$5,000 to support the Minnesota Book Awards.

The Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$1,000 for general operating support.

The Ecolab Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$12,500, of which \$7,500 is to support the Library's early childhood literacy program, and \$5,000 is to support the Summer Reading Program.

The Hardenbergh Foundation (formerly *The St. Croix Foundation*) awarded The Friends a grant of \$3,000 for general operating support.

The Huss Foundation, which in early 2007 awarded The Friends a grant of \$30,000 to support the Minnesota Book Awards, has pledged to continue its support with \$20,000 in 2008 and \$10,000 in 2009.

In Memory of Gary Wynia for the Gary Wynia Memorial Endowment Fund:

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation; Judith A. Bailey; Michael and Patricia Banks; Kristin Beckmann and Robert Richman; Jeffrey and Patricia Berg; Judy Bjork; W. Andrew and Linda Boss; Darwin and Mary Boutiette; Melbourne and Elizabeth Boynton; Julie Brunner; Bernardine Bryant; Carolyn Canfield; John and Marjory Christensen; Theresa M. Crosby; Garvin and Bern Davenport; Theresa Davids; Tracy De Morett; Wendell and Marjorie DeBoer; Jane Delage; Paul and Susan DeNuccio; Cheryl Dickson and James Smith; Neil and Janet Dieterich; Humphrey and Elisabeth Doermann; Wilbur and Jean Donaldson; Ellen Dubuque; Glenace Edwall; June Estelle; Diane Feldman; Nancy Feldman; Steven and Karen Flink; Pamela Folk; Libby Geier; Warren and Kiki Gore; Lillian Grundfest; Alice and Robert Hausman; Don and Sandy Henry; Joan Hershbell; Harlan and Sandra Hewitt; Shirley Hokanson; Frances Homans and Allan Torstenson; Deborah Huskins; Richard and Janice Jacobs; Debbie Johnson; Ember Reichgott Junge; Laura Kadwell; Phyllis and Donald Kahn; Barbara W. Kaufman; Thomas and Marlene Kayser; Donald and Carol Kelsey; Mary B. Kennedy; John and Anne Kersey; Elizabeth and Bruce Kiernat; Laura King; Thomas and Mary Kingston; Ms. Martha Kittridge; Dorothy Belgium Knight; P. Kenneth Kohnstamm and Naomi Perman; Karen Koivisto; Gretchen Kreuter; Elton A. Kuderer; Bruce Lebus; Mary June Long; Wanda Lorentzen; Sara and James Lovat; Nicole Ann Lynskey; Tracy Maki; Robert and Susan Mantell; Daniel and Caroline Mason; Harold and Judy Melanson; Gene Merriam; Raymond and Audrey Mularie; Nancy R. Myers; Kevin Nelson and Jeannette Nelson; Allen Kent Johnson and Janice Nicodemus; John Nist; Byron and Alis Olsen; Rod and Charlotte Pakonen; Park Midway Bank; Ann Rest; Thomas and Jo Anne Rohricht; Mary F. Rosenthal; Mary Ryan; Ellen and Martin Sampson; Lloyd and Kathryn Sandeen; Mary T. Schertler; Lisa Schlotterhausen; Kay Scow and Paul Thompson; Phil and Barbara Shively; Joan Sorenson and Wayne Jennings; Susan and Gerald Sorheim; LaVonne M. Souther; David and Susanne Spitzer; Gunter and Nancy Stein; Judy Stuthman; Judith C. Sullivan; Ms. Mary Elizabeth Swanson; Scott and Abbie Thiss; Ann Valentine; James and Kathleen Vellenga; Susan L. Vento; Donald and Joan Volkmuth; Michael Walsh and Maureen Kucera-Walsh; David and Mary Ann Wark; Stephen and Katherine Wellington; Jean M. West; Stephen White and Marcia Jefferys; Thomas Wulling and Marilyn Benson; Nancy Zingale and Bill Flanigan

The Margaret H. and James E. Kelly Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$5,000 for general operating support.

The R.C. Lilly Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$5,000 for general operating support.

The McNeely Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$10,000 to support the Homework Help program at the Library.

The Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$5,000 for general operating support.

The Dwight D. Opperman Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$1,000 for general operating support. The foundation is a new supporter this year.

The Scrooby Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$10,000 in recognition of the Library's 125th Anniversary.

The Raft Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$20,000 for general operating support.

The Trillium Family Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$9,000 to support the "Ready to Earn" program for workforce development. The foundation previously made two consecutive annual gifts to support the Small Business Resource Center at the Rondo Library.

The H.E. and Helen R. Warren Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$1,000 for general operating support.

The Lillian Wright and C. Emil Berglund Foundation awarded The Friends a grant of \$2,000 to support the Summer Reading Program at the Library.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Each year, the Advocacy Committee of The Friends calls on elected officials of the City of Saint Paul to address critical needs at the Library when preparing its budget for the next fiscal year. Our theme this year was that the Library contributes to the economic development of Saint Paul, addressing such pressing issues as literacy, workforce training, small business vitality and community quality of life. The Library is a dynamic tool to support our City's economic growth as it:

- 1. Contributes to long-term economic success by increasing levels of school readiness.** The Library reaches young children and families in diverse neighborhoods with early literacy services that are the first link in a chain of investments needed to build the educated, globally competitive workforce for the knowledge economy.
- 2. Prepares workers with new technology resources for employment and career advancement.** With public computers, Internet access, and media products, the Library is a first point of entry for many technology users.
- 3. Lowers barriers to market entry for small businesses, creating new jobs.** The Library is the best source for new online business databases that reach entrepreneurs around the clock. When the Library provides business development workshops and research, prospective and existing small businesses advance, and new jobs are created.
- 4. Encourages community development.** Libraries are highly regarded destinations. They contribute to stability, safety and quality of life in neighborhoods.

Due to the Governor's veto of the 2008 tax bill, the City lost an estimated \$10.2 million of expected revenue through Local Government Aid (LGA). Facing a gap of \$17 million just to maintain current services, the Mayor instructed the Library Director to trim up to \$300,000 from the Library's budget.

The Friends' Advocacy Committee asked the City to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to the Saint Paul Public Library in 2008 by:

- 1. Making no cuts to the Library's budget, with adjustments for inflation.**
- 2. Issuing \$10 million in library bonds for making strategic capital investments** in neighborhoods with economic and social challenges, renovating existing branch libraries, and constructing a new branch library on the East Side.

In order to facilitate and support this commitment to the Saint Paul Public Library, **The Friends offered to match City funds.** If the City issued Library bonds for long-term capital investments, The Friends would raise \$10 million in private funds to supplement Library renovations and improvements, continuing its pursuit of a vision that the Saint Paul Public Library be among the foremost library systems in the U.S.

2008 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

The Saint Paul Public Library's recently passed 2008 budget is a promising commitment to the residents served. Mayor Coleman and the City Council created a budget that will increase the staff and public service hours to a level higher than our community has seen in recent history.

- **Increased Staff Levels** - 5 FTE higher than in 2007. All of these positions will be in public service, including the planned restoration of Sunday hours at Merriam Park, and strengthening the Rice Street Branch staffing levels with its current schedule.
- The funding level of the 2008 budget makes it **unnecessary to implement the reductions at Hamline Midway and Hayden Heights** that were initially proposed in the Mayor's budget. This is a result of the Library Board using the library levy as a financing source, the first time this levy has been used.

In addition to funding the library's operating budget for 2008, Mayor Coleman and the City Council/Library Board also invested in the library's present and future facilities in the following ways:

- **\$349,000 in Capital Improvement Bonds** were allocated for studies on whether to expand or update the following facilities: **Arlington Hills, Highland Park, Hamline Midway, Sun Ray and West Seventh.**
- **\$250,000 in Capital Improvement Bonds for maintenance** were assigned to the library for building expenses. This funding marks the realization of a long-term library goal: a designated fund to be used for maintenance.
- **\$640,600 in fund balances** related to the building of Rondo and other library construction projects was assigned to the library for use in maintaining facilities.
- **The shifting of \$2,519,645 in support from State LGA to local property tax revenue.** Property tax is generally regarded as a more stable source of funding for the long term.

Library Director Melanie Huggins reacted to the budget news with relief, and recognition of the ongoing, high-quality work of her staff: "The support that we have received from Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council is a result of our skills and ability to provide excellent city services in many neighborhoods throughout the city; our staff truly make the Saint Paul Public Library a great institution." 🌿

OPUS & OLIVES 2007... SPECTACULAR!

What were over 600 guests of The Friends doing in the Crowne Plaza Riverfront on the night of October 28?

- Meeting five great authors: Nikki Giovanni, Frank Delaney, Dorothea Benton Frank, Dave Zirin and our author-emcee, Katherine Lanpher.
- Buying over 900 of the authors' books from the wonderful staff of The Red Balloon, with total book sales over \$13,000 (our 25% of the earnings donated back: \$3,304.85).
- Drinking martinis, wine and other potables as their favorite authors signed their books.
- Dining in the beautiful ballroom with the dramatic backdrop of Saint Paul's riverfront.
- Listening to the authors tell stories about Ireland, losing a loved one, making a mid-life move to Manhattan, love gone wrong and sports gone wrong.
- Vowing to return to Opus & Olives next year because it's the best party in Saint Paul.

The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library and the *Pioneer Press* hosted the 4th annual Opus & Olives this year to huge acclaim. Guests said that the mix of authors was "pitch perfect". The authors said that Opus & Olives is the "best book event in the country".



Opus & Olives VIPs (from left to right) Frank Delaney, Marcie Purcell from Random House, Dorothea Benton Frank, Bobby Brinson from Harper Collins, Nikki Giovanni, and Dave Zirin shared a lot of laughs and camaraderie over the weekend. Also part of the literary coterie, but not pictured: our emcee, Katherine Lanpher.

Corporate sponsors were beaming... and the event raised over \$175,000 for The Friends and the literacy programs of the *Pioneer Press*, exceeding our goal by \$20,000.

Opus & Olives has become a smashing success in a very short time – don't miss it next year. Save the date: Sunday, October 12!

Securian Sponsors Donor Society Lunch

The 2007 Donor Society Luncheon, sponsored by Securian, was held September 28, 2007. Billie Young was our featured author, presenting her beautiful new book, *A Noble Task: The Saint Paul Public Library Celebrates 125!*



Jim Quandt, of the Securian affiliate *Fortune Financial*, welcomed the guests before Ms. Young stepped up to talk about her research and share anecdotes from the Library's 125-year history.

The Friends would like to thank Securian for its generous support of this prestigious event.

If you are not yet a Donor Society member but are interested in joining, please call Stu Wilson at 651-366-6483.

Friendly Connections is the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library. A large print version is available by contacting Ann McKinnon at 651-366-6489. If you would like to see your name appear differently on the address label, please call the The Friends at 651-222-3242, or email friends@thefriends.org. Updates on literary programs and author events may be found at www.thefriends.org.



Due to a generous gift to The Friends by the **Steve and Linda Kantner family**, the Saint Paul Public Library now offers free, online help in learning **English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Russian** and **French** through their website. The Rosetta Stone software allows anyone with a Saint Paul Public Library card and Internet access to learn the languages at their own pace. Several levels are available for each language, and an unlimited number of people can use the online program at any given time. Saint Paul Public Library cardholders can visit the Library's website – www.sppl.org – to log on to the lessons. For more information about the Library's language lessons, call 651-266-7400.



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