



SpeakingVolumes

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF HENNEPIN COUNTY

Celebrating 125 Years of Free Public Library Service in our Community

This year marks the 125th anniversary of public library service in Hennepin County. While Hennepin County and the Library have changed over the years, the Library's critical mission has not: to provide equal access to information and foster lifelong learning.

In 1885, a group of civic leaders came together in the belief that their community would be stronger and more prosperous if knowledge was shared rather than held as a private commodity. To bring this vision to life, they founded the Minneapolis Public Library and began building libraries to serve its growing population.

Under the leadership of director Gratia Countryman, library resources rapidly expanded. When Countryman became director in 1904, the Library consisted of 43 staff, four library buildings, and ten delivery stations. In 1915, the Hennepin County Commissioners began allocating \$1,000 annually to expand library service to the rural areas of the County—resulting in small book collections in general stores and eventually a book wagon. The Minneapolis Public Library provided services to suburban and rural communities until 1922, when Countryman successfully lobbied for the creation of the Hennepin County Library system to specifically serve the outer communities of the County. Paraphrasing Gratia Countryman's eulogy sums up the Library's philosophy perfectly: *Carry the book to every part of the city and county, to the little child, the factory worker, the farmer, the businessman, the hospital patient, the blind and the old.*

By the end of the 1960s, the population of Hennepin County had surpassed Minneapolis. The County and City libraries worked together to provide comprehensive library resources and services throughout our community.

In 2008, after 86 years of mutual dependence, the Minneapolis and Hennepin County Library systems merged, bringing all library services under a single system once again. The merger brought together the 41 libraries throughout the County to better serve more than 1.1 million people. Over the past 125 years, our Library has grown from a modest collection housed in a single building to one of the country's premier systems with more than 5 million books, CDs and DVDs; 1,600 public computers; extensive website and outreach services; and approximately 800 staff. The stage is set for the Hennepin County Library's next 125 years to be better than the first. This year alone, two new libraries opened, service hours expanded, and Library use is on-track to break records.

Our public libraries have changed millions of lives since 1885. While a great deal has changed over the years, the spirit of the early founders and leaders like Gratia Countryman continues to infuse the purpose and goals of the Hennepin County Library: Knowledge is your right. If you want to know more, your public library will help you learn and grow.

Gratia Countryman





Dear Library Supporter,

The Great MN Give Together November 16

Give to the Max Day is a quick and cost-effective way to take care of all your charitable giving at once and maximize your support to your favorite organizations. Last year, Minnesotans gave \$14 million online to over 3,400 nonprofits, including almost \$25,000 to the Library Foundation of Hennepin County, on the first annual Give to the Max Day. Mark your calendar for November 16 and log on to GiveMN.org for Give to the Max Day 2010. GiveMN will randomly select one donor every hour and add \$1,000 to their donation.

! Thanks to an anonymous donor to the Library Foundation, every gift received through GiveMN.org on November 16 will be matched dollar for dollar — up to \$25,000!

So, go online and renew your membership to the Foundation or consider making an additional year-end gift to help us meet our critical goals this year! To learn more call 952-847-8106, become a Fan of our Facebook page, or go online at supporthclib.org.

giveMN.org
Click. Contribute. Change Your World.

While libraries have existed for millennia, free public libraries are a relatively recent invention and one of the many wonders of our proud American democracy. Our Library, now 125 years old, has seen tremendous growth and has greatly enriched the lives of millions. Today, the Hennepin County Library is heavily used by a majority of residents and provides essential services and programs to many of our neediest citizens.

To ensure that our Library is still here 125 years from now (in 2135!) what can you do today? First, be sure to thank your public officials—County Commissioners, Library Board members, and State officials—for their continued support of the Library. Hennepin County and Minnesota have yet to see the devastation of its libraries that other areas are experiencing, and that is a testament to the support of our public officials. Second, be an active participant in your local library. Volunteer, become involved in a local Friends group, attend programs, check out books, tutor, and ask your librarian for help. Finally, make a commitment of financial support to the Library Foundation this fall. Foundation funded programs and services, such as children's story times, youth reading and tutoring programs, outreach to new immigrants, job and small business resources, and new book purchases, are important parts of the Library's overall package of services. In addition to funding particular programs, ongoing private assistance effectively demonstrates that there is vital and vibrant support for the Library in the community.

By supporting the Library Foundation today, you can make future history at your Library. Inject resources and energy into your Library so that your great, great grandchildren will look back in wonder at the Library legacy you created in 2010. Thanks, and see you at the Library!

Sincerely,

Stu Wilson, Executive Director

Book Sales to Support the Library

Many Friends groups host book sales to raise fund for their local library. Each sale features hundreds of adult and children's fiction and nonfiction books in hardcover and paperback. Most books are priced at \$2 or less. Make sure to check out www.supporthclib.org for more details and directions.

THURS., NOV. 11

Southdale Library - 7001 York Ave. S., Edina
(5 PM - 8:30 PM - members only)*

FRI., NOV. 12

Southdale Library - 7001 York Ave. S., Edina
(10 AM - 4:30 PM)

SAT., NOV. 13

Southdale Library - 7001 York Ave. S., Edina
(10 AM - 4:30 PM)

Augsburg Park Library - 7100 Nicollet Ave.,
Richfield (10 AM - 2 PM)

SUN., NOV. 14

Southdale Library - 7001 York Ave. S., Edina
(10 AM - 4 PM)

FRI., DEC. 3

East Lake Library - 2727 East Lake St.,
Minneapolis (5 PM - 6 PM - members only)*

SAT., DEC. 4

Washburn Library - 5244 Lyndale Ave. S.,
Minneapolis (10 AM - 4 PM)

East Lake Library - 2727 East Lake St.,
Minneapolis (10 AM - 4 PM)

FRI., JAN. 7

Penn Lake Library - 8800 Penn Ave. S.,
Bloomington (2 PM - 3:30 - members only)

SAT., JAN. 8

Augsburg Park Library - 7100 Nicollet Ave.,
Richfield (10 AM - 2 PM)

Penn Lake Library - 8800 Penn Ave. S.,
Bloomington (10 AM - 3 PM)

THURS., JAN. 13

Eden Prairie Library - 565 Prairie Center Dr.
(4 PM - 8 PM - members only)*

FRI., JAN. 14

Eden Prairie Library - 565 Prairie Center Dr.
(9 AM - 5 PM)

SAT., JAN. 15

Eden Prairie Library - 565 Prairie Center Dr.
(9 AM - 1 PM, Bag sale from 12 PM - 1 PM)

MON., FEB. 7

St. Anthony Library - 2941 Pentagon Dr. N.E.
(12 PM - 7 PM)



Did you know that each Friends group has its own webpage at www.supporthclib.org? Each page contains information about Friends news, membership, and sales.

* At all member-only sales, non-members can join at the door.



Save the date for the Holiday Toast

Save the date for the Library Foundation's 37th Annual Holiday Toast on Friday, December 3 at the Minneapolis Central Library. Enjoy a Minnesota-themed holiday buffet of sweets and appetizers, raise your glass of sparkling wine, and enjoy a program from humorist and Minnesota Public Radio contributor Peter Smith about his new book, *A Porch Sofa Almanac*, an anthology of musings on being Minnesotan.

Peter Smith is a humorist, author, and weekly contributor to Minnesota Public Radio's *Morning Edition with Cathy Wurzer*. *A Porch Sofa Almanac* is a collection of Smith's essays from his work as a public radio contributor. His book reflects on the common experiences of being a Minnesotan: small-town football, stacks of Hudson's Bay blankets in an antique store, ice fishing, and even those soggy gloves that emerge from melting snow banks each spring. The result is a hilarious, often wry, and always remarkable portrait of everyday life in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

✳ This event is free for all Library Foundation members.

✳ An invitation will be mailed to all Library Foundation members in mid-November.

Not a member and want to attend? You can become a member of the Library Foundation at supporthclib.org or by calling 952-847-8106.



IN THE NEWS

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Librarians Gift Union Treasury of \$83,000 to Minneapolis Libraries

The Professional Librarians Union of Minneapolis (PLUM) recently voted to gift their remaining assets to the Library Foundation. PLUM, established in 1946, was left with a substantial treasury and no employees to represent following the 2008 consolidation of the Minneapolis and Hennepin County library systems.

The former PLUM members designated \$45,000 to be split equally between the 15 Minneapolis libraries to assist the Foundation in establishing Friends groups at each location and support Friends-directed activities such as celebratory launch events, membership promotions, and programs to enhance each of these community libraries. The Foundation expects to launch new groups at all Minneapolis libraries by the end of 2011.

An additional \$38,000 from PLUM will help digitize unique materials in the Minneapolis Collection in Central's Special Collections department, making them accessible to a broader base of users. The Minneapolis Collection contains historical books, photographs, yearbooks, manuscripts, periodicals, maps, and newspaper clippings dating back to the early 1800's.

This generous support, made possible by librarians who spent the majority of

their careers in Minneapolis libraries, will help solidify the Foundation's work to build a strong, united library support network and enhance the collections and resources of the Library.

Pictured in the upper left corner, PLUM members present a check to the Library Foundation in front of Central Library's Special Collections. Left to right: Heather Lawton, Helen Burke, Stu Wilson, Deb Reiersen, Dawn Flinsch, and Ian Stade.

Comcast Renews Support of HCL's Immigrant Resources

For the past four years, Comcast has been the presenting sponsor of the Library Foundation's Pen Pals author series. As part of that commitment, the Comcast Foundation has made generous grants directly supporting essential programs for new immigrants at the Hennepin County Library. This year's gift of \$21,000 will support native language technology training, world language story times for families, and youth culture and mentoring groups. This grant from the Comcast Foundation is in recognition of their commitment to the communities where its customers and employees live and work.

1st Annual Book Browser Social

On September 18, 115 Library Friends members representing 23 of Hennepin County Library's independent Friends groups enjoyed the First Annual "Book Browser Social" at the Ridgedale Library. This Friends recognition event featured *Star Tribune* books editor and author Laurie Hertzell with remarks from Hennepin County Commissioner Jan Callison, Library Director Lois Thompson, and Library Foundation Executive Director Stu Wilson.

Nokomis and Northeast Library Construction Underway

It is a busy time for construction at HCL as staff at the Nokomis and Northeast libraries in Minneapolis prepare for grand-openings in the spring of 2011. At the Nokomis site, the roof deck is in place, the foundations for the south side addition is complete, stonework and electrical work are underway, and the final roofing installation and geothermal drilling began last month. At the Northeast site, all ductwork in the building has been replaced, the structural steel framing the addition to the library is installed, the main concrete wall is built, and the roof over the existing part of the building is complete.



IN THE NEWS

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Otto Bremer's Capacity Building Grant Benefits Friends Groups

In October, The Otto Bremer Foundation made a \$50,000, two-year commitment to the Library Foundation to renew and help strengthen Friends groups at each of the 41 libraries in Hennepin County. A stronger relationship between the Foundation and Friends is the next chapter in a rich history of library support. Bremer's mission to "assist people in achieving full economic, civic and social participation in and for the betterment of their communities" was an ideal fit with the role an active, organized Friends group can play in connecting patrons with the vast resources and programs of the Library. The grant will underwrite incorporation fees, web and database upgrades, print promotions, training workshops, staffing and more with the goal of having all 41 Friends groups activated by early 2012.

Author Lust Luncheon with Nancy Pearl

On September 24, members of the Foundation's Board, Minerva Circle, and Gratia Circle gathered for a special luncheon at the Minnekahda Club to discuss the question, "which authors would you walk over hot coals to see?" Their answers will help guide staff as they line-up authors for Pen Pals, Talk of

the Stacks, and Club Book in 2011 and beyond. A continuation of the popular Pen Pals Author selection lunch, Author Lust was inspired by special guest Nancy Pearl, best-selling author of *Book Lust*, creator of the internationally recognized program, "If All of Seattle Read the Same Book," and model for the world-famous "Librarian Action Figure."

Nancy launched the discussion with a rapid-fire list of her top "must-read" titles, among them:

- *The Great Railway Bazaar* by Paul Theroux
- *Last Night in Montreal* by Emily St. John Mandel
- *Matterhorn* by Karl Marlantes
- *The Last Stand* by Nathaniel Philbrick
- *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjana Soli

NYPL Live Event with JAY-Z at the Library

Shawn "JAY-Z" Carter (the multi-platinum, 10 time Grammy Award-winning entrepreneur and iconic musician) is set to release his first book in November. *Decoded* is a narrative journey through the lyrics and life of one of the most prolific artists of our time. The beautifully designed, illustrated book decodes 36 songs from JAY-Z's extensive catalog—

offering gratifying insights for both the long-time JAY-Z fan and the reader who might meet him here for the first time. On November 15 at 6 PM, the Library Foundation will host a live video stream of JAY-Z being interviewed by Cornel West, direct from the New York Public Library. This live-streaming event will be hosted in the Pohl Hall at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall. 250 autographed copies of the book will be available for purchase and can be reserved in advanced for \$37, limit 1 per attendee. To reserve a signed copy in advance visit www.supporthclib.org or www.magersandquinn.com. Pre-purchased books will be held for pick up at the door and a seat will be reserved for you in the auditorium. A portion of all book sales support the Library Foundation.

L to R: PLUM members present a check to the Library Foundation, Nokomis Library rendering, Northeast Library under construction, Nancy Pearl, JAY-Z

Programs & Events

All programs are free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served. For more information visit: www.supporthclib.org or call **952-847-8107**.

Talk of the Stacks

An author series exploring contemporary literature and culture.

Presenting sponsor: The  **usbank**
Private Client Reserve at servicing you

U.S. Bank. Program sponsor: National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support: Secrets of the City, Marquette Hotel, and Magers and Quinn Booksellers.

NBCC Reads: A Literary Showcase

The National Book Critics Circle (NBCC), consisting of over 600 book reviewers, presents annual awards for the best books in different genres. This special edition of Talk of the Stacks will feature three diverse and talented authors, all of whom were recognized this year by the prestigious NBCC awards committee. Eula Biss won the NBCC Award for criticism for *Notes from No Man's Land: American Essays*; Stephen Burt was a finalist in the criticism category for *Close Calls with Nonsense: Reading New Poetry*; and Marlon James was a finalist in the fiction category for *The Book of Night Women*. Jeffrey Shotts, senior editor at Graywolf Press and editor of Biss and Burt's respective books, will moderate.

Wed., Nov. 3, 7 PM

Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall



From top: Eula Biss, Stephen Burt, Marlon James

Club Book

A new series bringing acclaimed authors to library communities across the metropolitan area. Visit www.clubbook.org for a full listing of events at libraries throughout the Twin Cities area.

This project, a program of Metropolitan Library Services Agency and coordinated by Library Foundation of Hennepin County, was funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Media sponsor: Minnesota Public Radio. Creative partner: A/B Geist. Additional support: Around Town Agency, Magers and Quinn Booksellers, and Renaissance - The Depot Hotel Minneapolis.

Gish Jen

Award-winning author Gish Jen is the author of three novels, *Typical American*, *Mona in the Promised Land* and *The Love Wife*—as well as a collection of stories, *Who's Irish?* Her short work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *New Republic*, and has been reprinted in textbooks and anthologies, including *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*. Her new novel, *World and Town*, asks deep and absorbing questions about religion, America, love, and home.

Tues., Nov. 16, 7 PM

Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka



Paul Harding

Harding's acclaimed debut novel, *Tinkers*, won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize, was named a 2010 American Library Association Notable Book, was shortlisted for the American Booksellers Association's Best Book of the Year Award, and won a PEN Fellowship for Writers. Harding has taught writing at Harvard and the University of Iowa and is the 2010 Guggenheim Fellow.

Wed., Feb. 16, 7 PM

Southdale Library, 7001 York Ave. S., Edina



Childish Films

A program of children's cinema and arts for ages 3 and up.

This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional Support: Whole Foods Market, Jagged Edge, Weston Woods, Friends of the Southdale Library, Friends of the Ridgedale Library, and Minnesota Parent.

Instrumental Movies

Ignite your imagination by watching a program of beautiful, old-style animated films featuring instruments as characters.

Sat., Nov. 20, 10:30 AM

Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
The extras: Explore real instruments with Katie Condon of MacPhail Center for Music.

Sat., Nov. 27, 2:30 PM

Southdale Library, 7001 York Ave. South, Edina
The extras: Create a musically-inspired book with the staff of Minnesota Center for Book Arts.

Toys' Stories

Explore life with toys through film.

Sat., Dec. 18, 10:30 AM

Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
The extras: Meet Choo Choo Bob's Engineer Paul and his train set before the films.

Sat., Jan. 8, 11 AM

Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka

The extras: Make a toy-themed book to take home with you.

It's Cold!

Enjoy a program of animated shorts set in wintry climates.

Sat., Jan. 15, 10:30 AM

Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
The extras: Warm up with Minneapolis dancer Leah Nelson before the films.

Sat., Feb. 12, 11 AM

Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka

The extras: Get hands-on with a food project led by Whole Foods Market staff.



Childish Films shown in Pohlrad Hall, Minneapolis Central Library

Pen Pals Tickets Still Available

Programs are held at the Hopkins Center for the Arts (HCA), 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins. Tickets are \$40 for balcony and \$50 for main floor. Members of the Foundation get a \$5 discount on all ticket purchases.

Ticket Package Discounts

Buy multiple tickets to one or more of the lectures and save money! Purchase multiple tickets to the same lecture or one ticket to each lecture of your choice. This way you can save by bringing a group of friends or picking which lectures are most appealing to you. To save use the following codes:

PICK 3: \$120 (for 3 tickets of your choice on Main Floor, a \$150 value)

PICK 4: \$160 (for 4 tickets of your choice on Main Floor, a \$200 value)

PICK 5: \$200 (for 5 tickets of your choice on Main Floor, a \$250 value)

To purchase tickets, visit the HCA box office in person, call the box office directly at 952-979-1111, or visit www.supporthclib.org.

PEN PALS



Pen Pals is an author lecture series that raises funds to support the work of the Library Foundation of Hennepin County

Ann Patchett
Mar. 10, 2011 – 7:30 PM
Mar. 11, 2011 - 11 AM

Dave Eggers
May 12, 2011 - 7:30 PM
May 13, 2011 - 11 AM



Bill Bryson
Nov. 4, 2010 – 7:30 PM
Nov. 5, 2010 - 11 AM



Mark Doty
Mar. 31, 2011 - 7:30 PM
Apr. 1, 2011 - 11 AM



PEN PALS TICKETS: WWW.SUPPORTHCLIB.ORG OR 952-979-1111

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