

If instead of a gem, or even a flower,
we should cast the gift of a loving
thought into the heart of another,
that would be giving as the angels
give.

-George MacDonald



Inside this Issue

1. Wishing Well: A Chiasm
2. Patron: Rose Krull

Wishing Well: A Chiasm



The wishing well is a symbol, one may even say a mystery, dare one say chiasm, or cryptically vesica pisces? To wish is defined as “to feel or express a strong desire or hope for something.” Well is defined as, “a plentiful source or supply.” Folktale has it that carved on the rim of the stone well was a six word message, but few saw it; their desire to obtain clouded their vision. The hex read, “May all your wishes be granted.”

Some would come seeking riches, though the weight of the bucket was too cumbersome to pull up. Many were the skeletons found resting on their riches, teeth marks on gold coins. Others came seeking forgiveness for their sins. They would no sooner receive the pardon and again need forgiveness. Myriads came seeking free-will. Upon receiving this power, having no idea what to do with it, they wasted time pursuing shadows and nothingness. It seemed the wishing well was a beautiful burden, an unsolvable riddle, truly, a double-edged sword.

I once heard a story of a boy who learned the whereabouts of one of these magic wells. He loved to read, so the words written on the rim were clear to him. Upon reading them he thought of Time’s words, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” He had been searching for this home his whole life. He wanted to know who lived there. He wondered how then to respond to the hex? He had learned to prostrate before anything he didn’t understand. It was his habit.

Then, a woman’s voice, as the sound of many waters, tore through time and space, “Meekness is becoming gentle and learning to submit. The word $\mu\epsilon\kappa\alpha\tilde{\nu}\nu\varsigma$ is spoken to define a wild horse, broken. They were said to be meeked. A unicorn is the reward to those who learn meekness. Meekness is the mystery of the wishing well.” Then, thirty minutes of silence.

The boy decided that he would write a prayer and lower it into the well. He wrote, “Love me, wishing well.” Within a short while he found a home outside of time, and knocked. It seemed no one was home. He again prayed, “Love me, wishing well.” Later, under the Oak of Mamre, he found a book. It was written in an obscure language; he couldn’t read it. He lost hope in his prayer. He prayed once more, “Love me, wishing well.” In the distance approaching he saw a white horse. It was a unicorn. The horse approached him meekly and bowed. The horse brought him back to the home he had found. It was the woman who spoke on meekness home. She invited him in and asked for the book. She read it to him and peace descended upon him. The wishing well was somehow past, present, and future, “Love us, wishing well...”



I learned this prayer from Mother Teresa said Rose Krull, “People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway. If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway. What you spend years creating, others could destroy in a night. Create anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway. In the end it was never between you and them anyway.”

“Patron” is a column in *Athenaeum* that focuses on someone connected to FCPL. This month I interviewed Rose Krull against her will. If the Rochester Branch were a child, she would be the child’s mother. She is the child’s mother. She will say she’s not, but she’s lying.

Who is Rose Krull?

She is Rose Krull.

How long have you worked at the library?

I have worked at the library for ten years. I started in 2007. I love working for the library.

Are you the mother of the Rochester Branch of FCPL?

No, I am not (see introduction).

Do you have a favorite book?

No favorites really. I like Fannie Flagg because they are funny. I like Stephen King just because he is a great author. Of course the Bible I consider the greatest book in history. I like how Max Lucado interprets the Bible. I feel like he helps me understand it.

Do you have a favorite movie?

The African Queen with Katherine Hepburn. She is a stubborn woman that I can identify with. I also like *A Few Good Men*. There is a part where Tom Cruise wrestles with his guardian angel. Against all odds the angel keeps pressing him, “Yeah, but what would you do?”

What is your favorite song?

Memories by Elvis Presley.

What do you wish others knew about you?

How much I sincerely care about them. I think the meaning of life is to care for each other.

What were you like as a kid?

A tomboy. I was always dirty. I loved the farm: planting in the garden, milking cows, riding pigs, walking the river, and picking raspberries.

What is one obstacle that you had to overcome that changed you?

The death of my brother. He was only two years old and I was nine. It was horrible for me.

If you got a tattoo, what would it be?

A rose of course. The name has been passed down by both sides of my family. Now my granddaughter’s middle name is Rose.

Who influenced your life the most?

My grandpa. He lost his money in the crash of ‘29, but he came home and started over. He bought a farm, lived a simple life, and was happy. I learned from him the power of longsuffering patience.

Do you have any artistic interests?

Nature is my artistic interest. I love the outdoors: waterfalls, creeks, animals, caves, mountains, forests, roses, butterflies, rainbows. Nature is truly magical.

Does mythology play a role in your life?

A small role. I am interested in Greek and Roman mythology as it relates to Christianity. Also, the hierarchy of heaven and hell.

If there were one person from history you could invite to dinner who would it be?

Mother Teresa. She wrote a prayer that has somehow changed me. Thank you Mother Teresa, I memorized it, pray for me.

Do you believe in the concept of fate?

Absolutely. 90% fate, 10% choice.

Who inspires you? What inspires you?

Who? All people in everyday life, their past and present, how they have lived and survived. What? Nights under the stars by a campfire with those I love close by. If one listens really close they can hear those that have gone before them talking, laughing, and enjoying where they are now.

Do you have any superpowers?

Everyone has superpowers, but they are only awakened when we need them most.

Do you have any fears?

Snakes. Seriously, I am terrified of them. I don’t like even the metaphor for Satan. I think that Tim’s caduceus is scary and I wish he would stop practicing magic.

If money were no object, what would you do with your time?

Travel. I would buy a small motorhome and travel across the country and see its beauty.

What is the top two on your bucket list?

1. Retire and be a library board member.
2. Own a red and white ‘57 Chevy Nomad.