



46th Anniversary 2011 Annual Report



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During 2011, at the request of the Library Director Andy Kulmatiski, the Board of the Friends of the Library donated \$250,000 towards the construction of the new library addition to enable the project to proceed as planned. This was in addition to \$70,000 already donated in prior years by the Friends for this project.

The book sales, coordinated by two very enthusiastic and successful volunteers, Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson, are a major source of funds for the Friends. Over 200 volunteers supported the spring and fall sales and had a good time while working hard for a good cause. All the filing and sorting work involves about 25 hardworking people who come to the library each week to help. We made \$46, 487 in 2011 from the sales; that, combined with the income from the Whitney Book Corner, supported our great programs and helped make our new addition to the main library a state of the art facility.



The Whitney Book Corner, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2012, is a short walk from the central library and is open every day. It is staffed entirely by volunteers for a total of 18 shifts per week. The weekly sorters in the library select the best of the donated books to send to the Whitney. We have been fortunate with the generous donations of next-to-new books from everyone in the Schenectady area. The Whitney averages approximately \$1,000 a week in sales. Please continue to leave your books at the loading dock in the main library parking lot or at the branches. Spread the word to your friends in the area about how easy it is to donate books.

The membership of the Friends of the Library has been increasing and many members are very active in helping with our great

projects. As co-chairpersons of the Membership Committee, John Karl and Rita Moore help collect the annual dues and donations (including GE match), recruit new members, manage our computer database and help with the mailings of the bi-monthly newsletter. They are tirelessly coming up with new ideas to attract members, such as offering discounts on tickets to Proctors shows.

Chris Witkowski is the editor of our newsletter as well as our publicity director (along with Cori Lombardo). Chris has a can do attitude and gets things done with a smile. She has successfully gotten favorable publicity for all our events and also teaches our computer students at the library along with Rita Moore and others.

George Gould, a long-time Friends volunteer, along with Joyce Parry and his team of volunteers, research valuable used books every week and sell them on-line using Amazon.com and other software. They are successful in providing extra funds for our programs through their hard work.

Even though Joan Ham is no longer on our Board, she has continued to provide us with great music programs with the help of the late Ron Patrick , the Schenectady Community College Music students, and others.

Lisa Holt has done a great job running the Literary Tours. She, along with John Goldsmith, an experienced English tour guide, coordinated an exciting 2 week trip with 34 members of the Friends. We traveled to England in May 2011 visiting the homes of famous English authors. Lisa has continued to plan local day trips sponsored by the Friends that have been a great source of new members.

We have been fortunate in having a very talented, hard-working and well liked treasurer, Nancy Virkler, a retired banker. She has continued to challenge us and helped to improve control of our finances and expenditures. We have hired Don Halstead, CPA of Zalucki and Halstead, LLP to conduct our annual audit.

Three of our Board members, Val Catlin, Sally Magid and Debbie McCamridge have completed 6 years on the Board and will be replaced at the annual meeting. Val has been acting as an assistant treasurer and has agreed to continue in this capacity as a non-Board member. They have all been hard-working members of the Board and we hope that they will continue their active service.

Bill Ward has been our Annual Dinner chairman, with the help of Simon and Sally Weinstein. Bill was able to successfully complete all his plans even though he recently had a hip replacement

I have been supported by a great Board and I sincerely appreciate all their hard work. Gene Rowland has been very supportive as First Vice President in addition to filling his very difficult position of coordinating our great noon-time programs. Mary Beth Barbagelata, our secretary, has been very efficient and supportive. The library staff has also been generous with their assistance, especially Janice Martin and Sandy Andersen.

Bill Leitch

HOSPITALITY

The 45th annual meeting and dinner was held on April 12, 2011, at Schenectady County Community College. Prior to the dinner there was a wine/cheese/cracker social hour, followed by a delightful musical performance presented by Schenectady County Community College music students. The dinner, attended by nearly 100 people, was prepared and served by students in the Community College Culinary Arts Department. John Yagielski, Acting Superintendent of City of Schenectady Schools, was the principal speaker.

Simon Weinstein

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The year 2011 began with "Beat the Snow", a rich program of music organized by the late Ron Patrick and his wife Christine. Various programs included a cabaret, several jazz groups, classical music -- both soloists and groups, bluegrass and brass. The program runs from the first Sunday in January through the last Sunday in March. Attendance has been between 50-100 people each Sunday; there is interest in all the different styles and presenters. The Schenectady County Community College Department of Music once again brought young, promising musicians to the library including solo singers and pianists, instrumentalists, a choral group, and a jazz group. We are grateful to Mark Evans from the department who organizes and prepares the program. Mark also brought music to our annual dinner. We would like to pay special tribute to Ron Patrick, who used his talents as a musician and as a cheerful and charming impresario to enrich the musical experience offered to the public in our library.

Joan Ham

MONDAY NOON PROGRAMS

The Friends of SCPL have continued to present a series of interesting and thought-provoking programs at the Central Library each Monday at noon. The Winter 2010-2011 Books Sandwiched In series, coordinated by Linda Witkowski, presented book reviews by local writers, scholars and book reviewers. Selections were: *The Man Who Sold America: The Amazing (But True) Story of Albert Lasker and the Creation of the Advertising Century* by Jeffrey Cruikshank and Arthur Schwartz, reviewed by Anne Bishop; *Stealing the Mystic Lamb: True Story of the World's Most Coveted Masterpiece* by Noah Charney, reviewed by Dr. Patricia Rush; *Famine and Foreigners: Ethiopia Since Live Aid* by Peter Gill, reviewed by Dr. William Valchovic; *Six and Eleven: A Television News Anchor's Story* by

Ed Dague; *Atlantic: Great Sea Battles, Heroic Discoveries, Titanic Storms and a Vast Ocean of a Million Stories* by Simon Winchester, reviewed by Gene Rowland; *Fortune's Children* by Arthur T. Vanderbilt, reviewed by Karen Watkins; and *My Name is Mary Sutter: A Novel* by Robin Oliveira, reviewed by Dr. Melinda Lawson.



The annual Science Series, coordinated by Dr. Walter Grattidge, featured presentations by four local scientists: *G. E. Hutchinson and the Invention of Modern Ecology* by Nancy Slack, Professor of Biology and History of Science emeritus, Sage Colleges; *2011- The Year Of Chemistry* by Larry N Lewis, Senior Scientist, GE Global Research; *The Smart Grid* by Gene Zeltmann, Past Member NY Public Service Commission and President & CCO, New York Power Authority; and *Neuroscience at Union College* by Stephen Romero, Professor of Psychology, Union College.

The Spring Specials series, coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano, was presented in April, 2011. Howard Young, a Civil War re-enactor from the 125th New York State Volunteer Infantry, presented two lectures on railroads during the Civil War. Titles were: *The 1st Railroad War* and *Meet Billy Yank*.

The Spring 2011 Books Sandwiched In series presented: *When The War Was Over: Cambodia And The Khmer Rouge Revolution* by Elizabeth Becker, reviewed by Greg Millett; *97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement* by Jane Zielzgelman, reviewed by Margaret Hartley; *How Lincoln Learned to Read: Twelve*

Great Americans and the Educations that Made Them by Daniel Wolff, reviewed by Irving Dean; *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup, reviewed by Dr. Elaine Handley; *Lindbergh vs. Roosevelt: The Rivalry That Divided America* by James Duffy, reviewed by Ernie Tetrault; and *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography* by Sidney Poitier, reviewed by Chris Bishop.

The Fall 2011 Books Sandwiched In series, coordinated by Linda Witkowski, presented the following reviews: *Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America* by Eugene Robinson, reviewed by Marge Karowe; *The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement* by David Brooks, reviewed by Bill Buell; *I Don't Sound Like Nobody: Remaking Music in 1950's America* by Dr. Alvin Zak, reviewed by the author, song writer and professor of music, SUNY Albany; *Let's Take the Long Way Home* by Gail Caldwell, reviewed by Kileen Stone; *Idea Man: A Memoir by the Co-founder of Microsoft* by Paul Allen, reviewed by Fred Eddy; *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* by David McCullough; reviewed by Frank Taormina; *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin* by Erik Larson, reviewed by Joan Ham; and *Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth* by Frederick Kempe, reviewed by Philip Adams.

The Fall Features series, coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano, explored the theme: *The Who, What, When and Where of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage at Mt. McGregor, Wilton, N.Y.* Speakers and topics were: *The Grant Cottage: A Virtual Tour*, presented by David Hubbard, site manager and *Oliver Clarke, the First Caretaker of the Grant Cottage (and Civil War Veteran)*, portrayed by Steve Trimm, Tour Guide.

The Fall series of Table Talks, coordinated by John Karl, presented the following speakers: Jeff Clark, Executive Director of the Schenectady Habitat for Humanity, spoke about providing homes for residents of the Schenectady community. Jim Cesare, board member of the ALCO Historical and Technical Society and project manager for the new ALCO Museum on Maxon Road, described the new museum and gave a preview of what it will include. Jim Salengo, Executive Director of the Schenectady Downtown Improvement Corporation, provided an update on developments in the downtown area and plans for more to come. Marcia White, President and Executive Director of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, reviewed the history of SPAC and plans for the future.

Linda Witkowski, who has coordinated the Books Sandwiched In programs for 14 years and organized more than 240 book reviews, has announced her retirement, effective at the end of the Spring 2012 series. The program will continue with new leadership, to be announced in the fall. We owe Linda a great debt of gratitude for her years of faithful service and effective leadership.

Gene Rowland, Program Coordinator

PUBLICITY

We continue to publicize all Friends activities by distributing regular press releases to the daily newspapers, weekly publications, craigslist and on-line events calendars. Our email reminders for book sales reach over 200 people.

The Whitney Book Corner and the Friends of the Library can now be found on Facebook! The web site for the Whitney is a prominent vehicle for information about the store as well as all Friends activities, including noon programs, literary trips and much more. A wonderful feature about the Whitney ran in the DSIC's attractive magazine "Explore Downtown Schenectady", a publication with a large distribution base.

The lawn signs for the big book sales have been a huge success. Our paid advertising includes regular ads in the Daily Gazette as well as the Downtown Schenectady magazine.

Christine Witkowski & Corine Lombardo

BOOK SALES

For the first year ever, the Spring and Fall book sales finally surpassed the \$20,000 goal. In these times of financial stress, the Friends were able to make a total of \$46,487 for the combined large and small sales in 2011 for the betterment of the Schenectady County Public Library.

Over 200 enthusiastic, helpful volunteers were needed to stage the spring and fall sales and 75 persons for the various hall sales held this year. We especially are indebted to the brave souls who work all day Friday before the sales and come to the library at 7 AM to set up the big sales. Thank you everyone!

Publicity is the key to good sales, so we added larger bright yellow yard signs that sprung up all over town before the sales. Print media and on-line advertising are also very important. We have people coming from a wide

geographical area who are serious book buyers.

We are continuing to sell the remaining books after the two big book sales to BooksProQuo from Massachusetts. This gives us a small profit, doesn't burden the library staff, and makes everyone happy that the books aren't going to the dump. This is done after many non-profit agencies have had their choice of books in large quantities.

GE Power University and Global Research Center helped greatly by assisting us in the set-up and clean-up of the sales. Clients of the Bridge Center were a tremendous help setting up the big sales at 7AM; Union College students and students from Duaneburg High School helped with the afternoon clean-up. Local businesses helped by providing refreshments for the workers and five liquor stores donated wine boxes for book storage.



The library staff is unequalled with their assistance technically and, most importantly, with their encouragement and toleration of the disruption our activities cause in their professional environment. Sandy Andersen, who does our graphics, Bob Schumaker, Betty Jean Lentz and Carla De Carlo, who do the basic set-up, and security personnel from the Sheriff's Department deserve our special thanks.

The unsung heroes are the sorters of over 40,000 books for each sale, for the Whitney Book Corner and for online sales. About twenty-five people come to the library weekly and many come more than once a week to do this task. Bob Symons does the original sorting, Alice Read oversees the library discards, Leah Leonard heads up the fiction sorting and Sally and Simon Weinstein do the non-fiction. Joan Molloy organizes special authors, Judy Dillenbeck and Fred Marx do the paperbacks, Sylvia Curley is in charge of all the children's books, Nancy Virkler sorts the movies, Bern Allanson does the music, Rich Holt sorts the audio books and Bruce Northrup sorts the records. Many others help them complete this task and others do the heavy lifting for storing the books until the sales.

Without donations of books, records, CDs, DVDs, movies and audio books that Schenectady County citizens donate to the library as well as library discards, the sale could not happen. We hope this continues for many years to come.

Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson, Book Sale Co-chairs

BOOKS-ON-LINE

Selling books on-line can be compared to panning for gold in the Yukon; sorting through boxes of books and pricing them separates a few salable books from the less valuable ones. These are then posted (offered for sale at our price on Amazon's web site) where they become available to anyone searching Amazon for a used book. Our Amazon web name is Friends 12305.

We sell, on average, 55 books per month and the return on the sale has gone from \$18.40 per book in 2009 to \$22.40 per book this past year.

We have put \$15,633.32 into the Friend's accounts during this past year, 2011.

The people responsible for this are Janie Hayner, Jean Emery, Joyce Parry and Nolene (Rickie) Gageway. It is through their dedication and tenacity that this scheme works.

George Gould

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The WBC provides coupons and gift cards to those who participate in library sponsored programs. We have monthly special sales and mini sales.

Our volunteers are so important. Without them we could not have accomplished the many tasks: painting the interior and exterior of the store; sorting books; transporting the books to the store; shelving books; and waiting on customers with a friendly attitude. The volunteer staff works 18 shifts a week. Their untiring work makes WBC a great success.



For 2012, we are making plans for "Return The Favor", a program offered through the County Office of Veterans Affairs. WBC will offer a 50% discount on regular priced items to all qualified veterans.

Plans are being made for the Whitney's 10TH Anniversary, with an Open House scheduled for Thursday, May 3.

Gail Karl, Manager

LITERARY TRIPS

The Friends sponsored their first European trip in 2011, a literary tour of England which included visits to the homes of some of England's most well known authors as well as some of its greatest cathedrals, castles and gardens. The two week trip that ran from May 14 – 28 began in London before heading south to Kent and Winchester, then continued north via the Cotswolds, Stratford-on-Avon and onto the Lake District National Park. Highlights of the trip included tours of Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's home; Jane Austen's home, tours of Shakespeare's birthplace and an evening performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre; the Bronte's sister's Parsonage in Yorkshire and the homes of Wordsworth, Ruskin and Beatrix Potter in the Lake District.

On September 16, 2011, the Friends sponsored a trip to Manchester, Vermont to visit Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham and Mary Lincoln. This trip included a tour of the house, gardens, and goat cheese making facility located on the property, a recent addition to this educational center. After lunch at the historic Wilburton Inn, the group visited the Southern Vermont Arts Center of Manchester.



These trips have been very popular and well attended. Day long trips usually include from 50 – 55 people and we have added many new members who joined when they registered for the trips. The Hildene trip alone brought nine new members.

Lisa Holt

MEMBERSHIP

As of the end of February, 2012, we have 665* members in good standing. 170 have joined the Friends since January 2011 and, of those, 21 have joined during the first two months of 2012. 156 of the Friends membership are eligible for GE matching funds. Two have been active members since 1967.

**This number is of memberships, which may include more than one individual, e.g. a family membership, so the actual number of members is higher.*

147 members who have not renewed in two or more years were deleted from the rolls but special efforts will be made to encourage them to return to membership.



The membership committee was active in planning a revised renewal and new member application form and will be sending annual membership cards (with renewal dates) to renewed and new members. In addition to the literary trips, the membership committee is sponsoring a members-only group discount to the Proctor's production of the Broadway musical Memphis on April 18 of 2012.

Because all of the programs provided by the Schenectady County Public Library are funded by the Friends, a strong membership is crucial to their success. The Friends of the SCPL is, without a doubt, the strongest library support organization in the capital region if not the entire state. We have much of which to be proud and, at the same time, much more that we can do in the future.

John Karl and Rita Moore

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee proposes the following slate for 2012-2013

The following officers are nominated for the next year:

Officers:

William P. Leitch	<i>President</i>
Eugene Rowland	<i>1st Vice-President</i>
Fred Eddy	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Mary Beth Barbagelata	<i>Secretary</i>
Nancy Virkler	<i>Treasurer</i>

Bern Allanson will continue to serve as Past President.

Board of Directors-first three year term:

Tricia Margas: Tricia has been a long time volunteer at the Whitney Book Corner. She has had a love of reading since childhood and her first job was at a library.

Kathy August- Kathy is returning to the Friends Board. She is a volunteer at the Whitney Book Corner as well as coordinator of the distribution of the newsletter.

Patti Rotunda: Patti is a retired school counselor of 30 years, where she worked at all 3 levels. She volunteers at the Whitney Book Corner as well as the Joan Nicole Prince Home and Capital Repertory Theater.

Rich Leon: Rich recently retired after 35 years with the Postal Service. He is a regular volunteer at the Wednesday book sorting, book sales and the Whitney Book Corner.

Nominated for a 2nd 3 year term: Virginia Thompson.

Continuing in their 1st term: Robert Coppola, Charles Hatch, John Karl, Leah Leonard, Joan Molloy, Rita Moore, Dorothea Potochnik, Gloria Zampini and William Ward

Continuing in their 2nd three year term: Gail Karl, Simon Weinstein and Christine Witkowski

Ending 6 years of membership on the board but continuing their active service to the Friends are: Valerie Catlin, Sally Magid and Debbie McCambridge.

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2011

ASSETS		LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Checking/Saving		Liabilities	
Certificates of Deposit	30,261.79	Sales Tax Payable	283.99
Checking Accounts	29,000.66	Total Liabilities	283.99
Money Market Accounts	232,925.53	Equity	
Savings Accounts	1,003.60	Book Sales Fund	106,911.53
Total Checking/Savings	293,191.58	Building Expansion Fund	13,500.00
Other Assets		Gilbert Endowmnt Fnd	1,000.00
AAA Visa Travel Card	606.71	Music Fund	11,289.54
Bulk Postage Permit Account	33.86	Niemeyer Memorial Fund	3,627.93
Petty Cash - Noon Programs	50.00	Niskayuna Landscape Fund	1,050.26
Petty Cash - Postage	25.00	Operating Funds	49,015.77
Total Other Assets	715.57	Whitney Book Corner	103,070.60
TOTAL ASSETS	293,907.15	Woodlawn Fund	460.95
		Net Income	3,696.58
		Total Equity	293,623.16
		TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	293,907.15

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Profit and Loss Budget Performance: January through December 2011

		Jan - Dec 11	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income				
	Author Book Sale	768.50	1,000.00	-231.50
	BookSale Income	49,216.35	40,000.00	9,216.35
	Building Expansion	13,500.00		13,500.00
	Contributions	21,905.13	18,000.00	3,905.13
	Friends trips	53.50		53.50
	GE Match	7,955.00	3,500.00	4,455.00
	Gifts/Memorial Contributions	924.00	500.00	424.00
	Interest	1,847.08	2,500.00	-652.92
	On line sales	8,692.90	6,000.00	2,692.90
Total Income		104,862.46	71,500.00	33,362.46
Expense				
	Annual Dinner	494.15	450.00	44.15
	Audit	750.00	750.00	0.00
	Book Donations from Booksales	500.55	25,000.00	-24,499.45
	BookSale Expenses	51,873.58	2,300.00	49,573.58
	Central Landscape	35.00	200.00	-165.00
	Equipment	0.00	200.00	-200.00
	Friends Noon Programs	1,280.34	1,300.00	-19.66
	Library Week	0.00	500.00	-500.00
	Membership	-33.34	400.00	-433.34
	Music	166.17	600.00	-433.83
	Newsletter	1,816.05	2,500.00	-683.95
	Other	657.25	1,000.00	-342.75
	Outreach	0.00	200.00	-200.00
	Piano	510.00	500.00	10.00
	Poetry Gala	0.00	100.00	-100.00
	Postage	858.35	1,500.00	-641.65
	Program Supplies, Adult	4,844.42	2,000.00	2,844.42
	Program Supplies, Children-YA	4,637.14	5,000.00	-362.86
	Programs, Adults	15,115.20	25,000.00	-9,884.80
	Programs, Children-YA	12,796.00	16,000.00	-3,204.00
	Publicity	783.57	1,000.00	-216.43
	Staff Conferences	3,207.81	2,000.00	1,207.81
	Stationery	0.00	500.00	-500.00
	Technology Support	353.89		353.89
	Volunteer Picnic	519.75	1,500.00	-980.25
Total Expense		101,165.88	90,500.00	10,665.88
Net Income		3,696.58	-19,000.00	22,696.58