

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

September/October 2006

Vol. XLII, No. 1

Note: the Monday series of talks are held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a sandwich lunch, if you wish; beverages are available. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel on Thursdays at 7 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 p.m.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Fall 2006

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski
Barbara Grasier, Program Chair, Friends of SCPL

Sept. 11 - *Poisoned Souls: A Look into the Climate of Violence and Aggression in America*

Presented by **Joel Ross**, retired Correctional Psychologist and author of the novel, *Eye For an Eye*

Sept. 18 - *The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works — and How It's Transforming the American Economy*, by Charles Fishman

Charles Fishman takes a hard look at supply, demand, and pricing, as well as business practice as developed by Sam Walton. Reviewed by **John Karl**, retired teacher and President, Friends of SCPL

Sept. 25 - *Francis Hodgson Burnett: The Unexpected Life of the author of The Secret Garden*, by Gretchen Gerzina

Hugely successful in her own time for adult novels and plays, Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849–1924) would be astounded to find out she is remembered most of all for the enormously popular *The Secret Garden*. Reviewed by **Dr. Anne Roberts**, teacher of children's literature and former librarian, University at Albany.

Oct. 2 - *The Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*, by Nathaniel Philbrick

The true story of the Pilgrims is much more than the well-known tale of piety and sacrifice; it is a fifty- five-year epic that is at once tragic, heroic, exhilarating, and profound. Reviewed by **James Sefcik**, retired professor of history

Oct. 9 - Columbus Day holiday

Oct. 16 - *Conversation: A History of a Declining Art*, by Stephen Miller

Essayist Stephen Miller pursues a lifelong interest in conversation by taking an historical and philosophical view of the subject. Reviewed by **Jack Rightmyer**, Times Union book reviewer

Oct. 23 - *Big Coal: The Dirty Secret Behind America's Energy Future*, by Jeff Goodell

In the tradition of Rachel Carson and Eric Schlosser, the veteran journalist Jeff Goodell examines the danger behind President George W. Bush's recent assertion that coal is America's "economic destiny." Reviewed by **Dr. Robert Fleischer**, Research Professor of Geology, Union College

Oct. 30 - *Black Like You: Black Face, White Face, Insult and Imitation in American Popular Culture*, by John Strausbaugh

A lighthearted and erudite analysis of American race issues as reflected by the historical and cultural practice of "blackface" explores its continuing impact, past role in entertainment, and symbolism of positive advances in modern race relations. Reviewed by **Paul Elisha**, writer and reader of poetry.

Nov. 6 - *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan

In his new book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, journalist and writer Michael Pollan argues that many Americans suffer from a national eating disorder based on super- sized, corn-fed diets. Reviewed by **Phil Adams**, GE Power Systems (retired), Board member, Friends of SCPL

MUSIC PROGRAMS at Niskayuna Library

The Young Musicians Forum has for ten or more years been sponsoring concerts at the Niskayuna Library. YMF is an organization independent of the library; they bring young professional musicians from various music schools -- Juilliard, Mannes, Manhattan, Curtis -- to perform on piano, violin, cello, flute, clarinet, etc. The concerts, held on Saturdays at 2:00 in the Niskayuna Public Library, are free and open to the public.

The first concert this year will be on **September 9th**, and will feature **Svetlana Tsoneva**, violin, and **Matei Varga**, piano in a program of music by Franck, Schumann, Mozart, and Brahms.

The second concert will be on **October 7** with **Jason Wirth**, piano.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As fall approaches, the Friends are anticipating a busy schedule. Our noontime programs are ready to go and you'll find the schedule in another part of this newsletter. The fall book sale planning is in the works, so mark the dates on your calendar (Sept. 30 & Oct. 1).

Keep an eye out for the choice of a book for the One County, One Book program. The selection will be announced in October. This year's program (To Kill a Mockingbird) won the Mohawk Valley Library System annual award for innovative programming.

The Schenectady City Council presented its Community Pride Award to the Friends for our significant contribution to the improvement of life in the city. All in all, your organization, in cooperation with the library staff, makes a great impact on this community. As of this writing, there is not a final plan for the addition and renovation of the central branch building. County officials are working on a suitable design and details should be in place in September. Once again, it is a real privilege to be a part of Friends and to work with people who are truly dedicated to having the best library system in the state.

John Karl

BOOK SALE REPORT

The two day sale on May 6 & 7 produced an income of \$13,443. In addition, the remaining books were sold to Books Pro Quo for \$300 and the manager made a \$75 donation. Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson want to express their thanks to all those who volunteered in staging this sale – more than 180 people were involved. As always, the Library staff provided excellent cooperation and helped to make the sale a major success.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Outreach Services is in need of a volunteer with good computer skills to teach several enthusiastic seniors at a senior apartment the basics of computers, internet, and email. We will provide training for the prospective teacher, and are hoping to have someone start in August or September. There will be a limited number of sessions, with convenient days and hours to be set by the volunteer and the seniors. The location of the site is in Rotterdam. If you know anyone who might be interested, please call the Outreach Services office at 388-4521.

Our other need is for people to bring library materials to seniors in the apartments, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities we serve. Prospective volunteers should: want to share their love of books, music, movies, and life with others; enjoy -- or think they might enjoy -- visiting with the elderly and/or physically disabled; be available weekday daytime hours once or twice a month (most facility visits take 2-4 hours); and, at some of the facilities, be physically fit enough to be able to push a cart of library materials. Individuals and two person teams are

welcome! To find out more, call Ann Moore or Paula Carosella at 388-4521

BOOKS ON LINE:

In February Ed Reilly began posting some books from the Friends' book sorting for sale on Amazon.com. The thought was that we were not getting the value from some of the books we sold, either in the Whitney Book Corner or at the semi-annual book sales.

In April Joyce Parry and George Gould took over the site and, as of 07/31/06, we have sold over 200 books at an average of somewhere around \$10 per book. We currently have 320 books offered for sale on line. There are expenses associated with the sales, but we are still "coming out ahead". The Library has supplied us with a room and a computer of our very own. The posting, packaging and mailing are rather labor intensive and we would welcome additional help. If you have any interest, please call **Joyce 346-5834 or George 303-2516**. You can learn the required computer skills in minutes.

FUTURE EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

1. We would like to encourage everyone to vote for one of our five finalists for our next *One County, One Book* program. Voting will take place from September 25 to October 21st. You may vote online at our website or you may fill out a paper ballot located in any one of our libraries or at the Whitney Book Corner.

2. Central is having a NYSCA facilitated Books & Brunch discussion of Joan Didion's 2005 National Book Award winner *The Year of Magical Thinking* on Saturday, October 21st, at 10am. Our discussion will be facilitated by Maria Riccio Bryce. You can register and pick up copies of the book at the Reference Desk by calling 388-4511

3. **Sunday Afternoon with the 7 Sisters in Crime** will feature seven female mystery authors as panelists, moderated by Frankie Bailey – author and University at Albany criminal justice professor. This program will take place on September 24 at 2:00 pm, in the McChesney Room. Contact the library for more information, and register by calling 388-4511.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons are new members of the Friends of SCPL: James A. Barlow, Bill & Peggy Cernik, Jennifer Coryer, Wayne J. Delude, Nick DeMartino, Estelle L. Diamond, Xian Wen Fang, Henry W. Frick, Jean Johnson, Cathy Kipp-Nicholas, Don and Marilyn Leach, Rebecca L. McKenna, Ellen M. Mesley, Peter Moller, Carol Jean Noyes, Michelle Osprelich, Linda Parker-Kucik, Steven Porter, Katherine Vacca, and Marian Zwicker.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION TEAM

The May/June issue of this newsletter was assembled and mailed by Kathy August, Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Bill and Lois Isles, John Karl, Lillian Stern and Anne Yunick. Thanks, Folks!

REELS

Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Wednesday, September 6 at noon & Thursday, September 7 at 7pm *Tortilla Soup*

Hector Elizondo, Raquel Welch, Jacqueline Obradors; Samuel Goldwyn; Directed by Maria Ripoll
Rated PG-13; 102 minutes; 2001

Tortilla Soup is a remake of Ang Lee's romantic comedy *Eat Drink Man Woman* which, instead of taking place in China, transports the audience to a Hispanic community in the U.S. Retired Mexican-American chef Martin Naranjo lives in Los Angeles with his three beautiful, grown, single daughters. Martin's life consists of running his kitchen and dealing with his difficult girls. Though he is in complete control of his kitchen and the magnificent preparation of the food, he is completely helpless when it comes to trying to control or guide his family.

Wednesday, September 13 at noon & Thursday, September 14 at 7pm *Carol's Journey*

Clara Lago, Juan Jose Ballesta; RB Media; Directed by Imanol Uribe; 100 minutes; 2004; Spanish with English subtitles

Carol, a twelve-year-old Spanish-American girl from New York, travels with her mother to Spain in the spring of 1938, at the height of the Civil War. Separated from her beloved father, Carol arrives in her mother's home village and transforms the secretive family environment. Her innocence and rebellious nature drive her at first to reject a world that is at once new and foreign. But she soon journeys into adulthood through a friendship with Maruja, the village teacher, and a young local boy, Tomiche.

Wednesday, September 20 at noon & Thursday, September 21 at 7pm *Duck Season*

Enrique Arreola, Diego Cataño; Warner Independent Pictures; Directed by Fernando Eimbcke
Rated R; 90 minutes; 2005; Spanish with English subtitles

In this Mexican comedy, Flama and Moko are two well-to-do 14-year-olds who find that a power outage has killed their plans of a day filled with video games and pizza. When the pizza man and a girl next door join them on this dark day they are forced to relate to one another in a very real way and they begin to reveal inner turmoil about divorce, loneliness and the confusion about relationships.

Wednesday, September 27 at noon & Thursday, September 28 at 7pm *Ask The Dust*

Colin Farrell, Salma Hayek, Val Kilmer, Charlie Hunnam; Paramount Classics; Directed by Robert Towne; Rated R; 117 minutes; 2006

Based on John Fante's Depression Era novel, this is the story of Camilla, a fiery Mexican beauty who desires to rise above her economic class by marrying a wealthy American. Her plan is thrown off course when she meets Arturo Bandini, a first-generation Italian only interested in pursuing his writing career.

REELS

The Jewish Experience

Wednesday, October 4 at noon & Thursday, October 5 at 7pm *Ushpizin*

Shuli Rand, Michal Bat-Sheva Rand, Shaul Mizrahi, Ilan Ganani; Picturehouse Entertainment; Directed by Giddi Dar; Rated PG; 90 minutes; 2005; Hebrew with English subtitles

This film is Israel's first movie with an insiders' view of Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox community. The film takes place during Sukkoth, when Jews host guests (called "Ushpizin") to commemorate the time of Exodus. A couple's faith is tested after praying to the Lord for a child on this religious holiday.

Wednesday, October 11 at noon & Thursday, October 12 at 7pm *Fateless*

Marcell Nagy, Miklos B. Sekely, Zoltan Bezeredy, Peter Vallai
ThinkFilm, Inc.; Directed by Lajos Koltai

140 minutes; 2005; Hungarian, English & German with English subtitles
Based on the 1975 novel by concentration camp survivor Imre Kertesz, this film follows a young Hungarian Jew who is deported to Auschwitz. Gyuri finds himself lost in the horror of the camp trying to find solace in any kindness offered him by fellow inmates. When Gyuri finally returns home, he finds that the heinous things he has seen have left him alienated from the community he left behind.

Wednesday, October 18 at noon & Thursday, October 19 at 7pm *Death in Gaza*

Documentary Feature - James Miller, Saira Shah; HBO Pictures; Directed by James Miller;
80 minutes; 2004; Arabic, English, and Hebrew

This harrowing documentary portrays the vitriolic relationship between Palestinians and Israelis. The film focuses on the hate being taught to the very young so that from a very early age Palestinian youths begin to hate their neighboring enemy.

Wednesday, October 25 at noon & Thursday, October 26 at 7pm *Focus*

William H. Macy, Laura Dern, David Paymer, Meatloaf; Paramount Classics; Directed by Neal Slavin;
Rated PG-13; 106 minutes; 2001

Based on the Arthur Miller novel, this film follows Lawrence Newman (Macy) a Christian but "Jewish-looking" man as he and his wife struggle to survive in their anti-Semitic neighborhood in the final months of WWII. Suddenly victims of racial hate and persecution simply because of the way they look, they find themselves unexpectedly aligned with a local Jewish storeowner as they take a stand against this unwarranted treatment. In the midst of a physical struggle, Newman must also face a personal internal battle between just fitting in and standing up for what is right.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

BOOK SALE



most books
\$1.00
paperbacks
3/\$1.00

hard covers
paperbacks
biographies
cookbooks
records & CDs
foreign language books
mysteries
children's books
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Large
selection of
records



**SATURDAY,
September 30, 2006**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

***\$ 2.00 Bag Sale*
Sunday, October 1
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**



Schenectady County Public Library

99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
388-4500
www.scpl.org

Coffee & donuts will be sold by the Literacy Volunteers of America.

DATED MATERIAL

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2006

Vol. XLII, No. 2

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NOON PROGRAMS - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

Barbara Grasier, Program Chair, Friends of SCPL

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

Nov. 6 - *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan

In his new book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, journalist and writer Michael Pollan argues that many Americans suffer from a national eating disorder based on super-sized, corn-fed diets.

Reviewed by **Phil Adams**, GE Power Systems (retired), Board member, Friends of SCPL

FALL FEATURES

Gioia Ottaviano, Special Features Coordinator

"The past isn't dead, it isn't even past."

Nov. 13 - Jennifer Roy will discuss writing *Yellow Star*, the story of her Aunt's survival from the World War II Lodz Ghetto after a silence of 60 years.

Nov. 20 - Rupert Pratt relates his experiences, spanning 50 years, of the 1954 Air Force crash in the Alaskan wilderness, the lingering effects, and the reunions of survivors in *Touching the Ancient One*.

TABLE TALKS

John Karl, Table Talks Coordinator

Nov. 27 - Ray Wemple, retired Sergeant, Schenectady Police Dept.; Coordinator, Schenectady County Communications System and Civil War expert will speak on *Le Secret de la Guerre (The Secret of War)*: a history of the Union Army Signal Corps, founded by General Albert J. Myer

Dec. 4 - Frank Keetz, retired history teacher, Bethlehem Central High School and author of several books about early local baseball history will discuss **Professional and semi-professional baseball in Schenectady** (including the Schenectady Blue Jays).

Dec. 11 - Mary Shannon, Director of Mental Health Services at Ellis Hospital, will speak. Her topic: **Mental health issues in Schenectady County and the inpatient/outpatient programs at Ellis Hospital.**

Dec. 18 - Tom Kelly, retired history professor and Chairman, History Department, Siena College, is a consultant to local media on matters of national and world importance. His topic will be "**Now We are 65**": A view of societal change during the 65 years since America's entrance into World War II

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day holiday--library closed

MUSIC PROGRAMS

Friday, December 1st at 12:00 noon: The Etude Club of Schenectady will present **Music at Noon** Please check the Library schedule for further details.

Sunday December 10th. at 2.30 AM: The Music Committee of the Friends is pleased to present a musical recital by **The Capital Trio: Madalyn Parnas (violin), Alex Grimes (viola), and Cicely Parnas (cello)** in the McChesney Room at the Central Library. They will play compositions by Beethoven, Mozart, Tcherpnin, and Francaix. Refreshments will follow the concert.

REELS - A Free Film Series Presented in the McChesney Room at the Main Library

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 1 at noon &

Thursday, November 2 at 7pm

Only Human

Guillermo Toledo, Marian Aguilera
Magnolia Pictures;

Directed by Dominic Harari and Teresa Pelegri

Rated R; 85 minutes; 2006

Despite their religiously and politically different backgrounds, Leni and Rafi are hopelessly in love. All is roses until Rafi must meet Leni's Jewish family and everything goes haywire when they find out that he is a Palestinian in this cultural comedy.

Wednesday, November 8 at noon &

Thursday, November 9 at 7pm

Keeping Up With The Steins

Jami Gertz, Darryl Hannah, Jeremy Piven
Miramax Films; Directed by Scott Marshall

Rated PG-13; 99 minutes; 2006

This endearing movie is a coming of age film in an upper middle class family in a Jewish neighborhood in LA. Meet Benjamin Fiedler (Daryl Sabara) age 13. Ben has reached the age where he undergoes the bar mitzvah ritual to mark his entrée to adulthood. Of course his friend Zachary Stein (Carter Jenkins) who precedes Ben warns "this doesn't mean you can drink or drive a car". The Stein family threw a lavish affair with a movie theme based upon the Titanic. Ben's dad, Adam Fielder decides the Fielders must outdo the splendor of the Steins by renting out Dodger Stadium. Adam Fielder (Jeremy Piven) is not a little sore that his own bar mitzvah was a subdued affair and that his father Irwin Fiedler (Garry Marshall) deserted the family. Religion and the meaning of the rite has taken a back seat to the planning of an extravagant event.

Wednesday, November 15 at noon &

Thursday, November 16 at 7pm

A Prairie Home Companion

Meryl Streep, Lindsay Lohan, Garrison Keillor
Picturehouse; Directed by Robert Altman

Rated PG-13; 105 minutes; 2006

Based on Garrison Keillor's real life radio institution this film imagines the St. Paul based show as if it is their final broadcast. With an eccentric cast of country singers, bawdy cowboys and delusional detectives, this is radio like you've never seen it before.

Wednesday, November 22 at noon

She's the Man

Amanda Bynes, Channing Tatum,
Robert Hoffman, Alex Breckenridge
DreamWorks Pictures; Directed by Andy Fickman

Rated PG-13; 105 minutes; 2006

A contemporary take on William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," this comedy follows Viola who, when her soccer team gets disbanded, poses as her twin brother at his school which has an active soccer team. Things get complicated when she falls in love with her new roommate, Duke, and then finds herself the object of affection of the beautiful Olivia, the girl whom Duke loves.

Wednesday, November 29 at noon &

Thursday, November 30 at 7pm

The Da Vinci Code

Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou, Ian McKellen, Alfred Molina
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Ron Howard

Rated PG-13; 149 minutes; 2006

Based on the international best-selling book by Dan Brown, this film begins with a murder at the Louvre Museum. Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is called in to help with the case. He finds an enigmatic riddle filled with clues centered on the paintings of Da Vinci. He goes on an amazing worldwide adventure following leads, which could end up shaking the very foundation of Christianity.

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 6 at noon &

Thursday, December 7 at 7pm

An Inconvenient Truth **(Documentary Feature)**

Al Gore

Paramount Vantage; Directed by Davis Guggenheim
Rated PG; 100 minutes; 2006

This documentary presents Al Gore's campaign to make the issue of global warming a recognized problem worldwide. Intertwining simple but harrowing statistics with personal reflections, Gore explains that the tools and methods to reverse the damage we have done are at hand and that the economic consequences of tackling the problem are positive rather than negative.

Wednesday, December 13 at noon &

Thursday, December 14 at 7pm

The Lost City

Andy Garcia, Dustin Hoffman, Tomas Milian
Lions Gate Films; Directed by Andy Garcia

Rated R; 143 minutes; 2006

Set in Havana, Cuba, during the revolutionary 50s, Fico Fellove is a club owner caught in the transition from the oppressive regime of Batista to the Marxist government of Fidel Castro. Fellove fights the internal and external struggles of whether or not to leave the strife-ridden area.

Wednesday, December 20 at noon &

Thursday, December 21 at 7pm

Invincible

Mark Wahlberg, Greg Kinnear
Walt Disney Pictures; Directed by Ericson Core
Rated PG; 105 minutes; 2006

When part time bartender and full time Eagles fan Vince Papale answers an open call to try out for the team he finds his wildest dreams coming true when he is asked to slip on a Philadelphia jersey. This inspiring story is the true tale of local hero Vince Papale.

Wednesday, December 27 at noon &

Thursday December 28 at 7pm

How To Eat Fried Worms

Thomas Cavanagh, Kimberly Williams
New Line Cinema; Directed by Bob Dolman
Rated PG; 98 minutes; 2006

Based on the hugely popular Thomas Rockwell book, 11-year-old Billy accidentally challenges the school bully on the first day of school. In order to earn the respect of his new classmates, Billy accepts the cuisine-challenged dare of eating ten worms in one day.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER
600 Union Street, Corner of Clinton
377-4670

www.whitneybookcorner.com

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Thursdays to 7
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Paperback and hard cover books in most subjects; records, videos, CDs and cassettes.

Come, Browse and Buy!

BOOK SALE REPORT

The book sale on September 30 and October 1 at the Central Library proved that people still love books in this high-tech age. The sale was a huge success! We netted \$15,191.47, which will benefit the Branches of the Schenectady County Public Library. This happened due to the combined efforts of many people and organizations. More than 170 people participated the weekend of the sale. Approximately 30,000 books, paperbacks and records have been recycled into the hands of happy customers. This was truly a great community event.

The "Thank You's" are many for this sale: General Electric Power University and Law, Order and Justice for workers; Bern Allanson, Sylvia Curley, and Leah Leonard for organization; Fred Thompson for record sales; Valerie Catlin for financial management; Literacy Volunteers of America for selling refreshments; Lisa Holt for publicity; and especially the wonderful help we received from the library staff, Victor Jakway and Sandy Anderson. We also owe our thanks to Dunkin' Donuts and Price Chopper for refreshments for the workers and for paper products.

Also essential to the sale are the sorters of donated and library discarded books, lead by Phyllis Bornt, who worked weekly on Wednesdays from 9:00 to noon, plus extra days as well, to make the sales possible. Due to the number of books for this sale sorters often worked two days a week. They are Alice Reed, Phil Adams, Elsie Maddaus, Fred Thompson, Bern Allanson, Adrienne Bashe, Sally and Simon Weinstein, Sylvia Curley, Dorothea Potochnik, Don Leach, Rich Holt, Leah and Bill Leonard, Joan Molloy, Lois Quillian, Jean Johnson, and Ellie Rowland. Without their efforts there would be no sales.

Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson, Co-Chairs

FEATURING LOCAL WRITERS

SCPL's Annual *Community of Writers Program*, featuring local writers who will be reading from their work and selling it, will be held on Sunday, November 19th, at 2PM in the McChesney Room. This annual event is held in partnership with the Hudson Valley Writers Guild, the Hamilton Hill Arts Center and Electric City Poetry Productions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just before I sat down to write this message (October 5), I received word that the county legislature had approved the plans for the Central Library renovation and expansion. This was certainly good news and it means that Friends can now look forward to planning our part in the renewed facility. Doubtless you will be hearing about the plans as time goes on.

The fall book sale was a huge success and our thanks go to Ellie and Ginny as well as Leah and Bill Leonard. I know they will thank the many people who helped make it work. The three book sales in 2006 (January, May and September) have netted over \$30,000.00 which will go to purchase necessary books and materials for the branches.

This newsletter contains the schedule of Friends' events for the coming months. I hope you will take the opportunity to attend and support as many of these offerings as possible. Friends programs are truly outstanding. If you cannot attend, please check channel 16 for airings of taped versions of the presentations.

As we move into the winter months, there will be much planning to be done to get the Central Library project going. Let us know what you think as the plans unfold.

John Karl

ONLINE BOOK SALES

George Gould reports that the sale of books on the Internet continues to be brisk, limited only by our "inventory", i.e. the books we get posted on our web site. He and Joyce Parry can use help ranging from packing and mailing to posting and pricing. Anyone interested? No experience necessary!!! Please call: Joyce Parry 346-5834 or George Gould 393-2516

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members into the Friends of SCPL: Aviva Andreen, Lois Atkinson, Michelle Clookey, Ronald Patrick, Marie E. Ayuso, Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Ellen, J.T. and C.A. Savage, Mary Fraenckel, R. Noah Fuhrman, and Dan Salvin.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION TEAM

Volunteers for mailing of the September/October Friends newsletter were: Gert Schutz, Doris Clark, Lois Isles, Bill Isles, Lillian Stern, Dick Sills, Ann Yunick, Trudy Carpenter, Bill Beaulieu and Kathy August. These folks do a great job on every issue - say "Thanks" when you see them

DONATING BOOKS

Hard cover and paperback books in good condition, as well as CD's, Cassettes, Videos, and Books on Tape may be donated. Your donation may be added to the library's collection, or given to the Friends of the Library for the Whitney Book Corner or the Friends book sales.

Please note that the library cannot accept materials listed below:

- Books with torn or yellowed pages
- Dirty, stained books, or water damaged books
- Musty material smelling of mildew
- Magazines
- Textbooks older than five years,
- Encyclopedias older than ten years
- Computer or software books older than three years

Please leave all donations on the loading dock in the library parking lot

Donation tax credit forms may be obtained at the reference desk.

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DATED MATERIAL

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2007

Vol. XLII, No. 3

Note: the Monday series of talks are held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a sandwich lunch, if you wish; beverages are available. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel on Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 3 p.m.

NOON PROGRAMS – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

Barbara Grasier, Program Chair, Friends of SCPL

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

January 8 - *Radical Innocent: Upton Sinclair*, by Anthony Arthur

An exploration of Sinclair's complex private life

Reviewed by Jan Howard Finder, retired education counselor, U.S. Military; publisher of *Fanzine* - about Arthur Upfield.

January 15 - Martin Luther King Day holiday; Library closed

January 22 - *White Guilt: How Blacks and Whites Together Destroyed the Promise of the Civil Rights Era*, by Shelby Steale

Reviewed by Richard Evans, retired teacher of history, Niskayuna High School

January 29 - *A Human Being Died That Night: a South African Story of Forgiveness*, by Leah Samuel

Reviewed by Esther Willison, educator, author, staff member, Open Door Bookstore

February 5 - *Life, Liberty, and Happiness: An Optimist Manifesto*, by Frank S. Robinson

Robinson asserts that freedom is the key to understanding our own love and happiness, and to making a better world for all.

Reviewed by Frank Robinson, former N.Y. State Administrative Law Judge

February 12 - Book To be announced.

Reviewed by Ernie Tetrault, area radio and television broadcaster

February 19 - Presidents' Day Holiday; Library closed

February 26 - *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* by Stephen Greenblatt

A brilliant reading of Shakespeare's world yields a new understanding of the man and his genius.

Reviewed by Richard Holt, retired teacher of English, Niskayuna High School; coordinator, Whitney Book Corner; former Niskayuna Councilman

Great Decisions 2007

Tuesdays - 10:00 - 11:30 - The McChesny Room

The **Great Decisions** discussion series is free of charge, and is sponsored by the national, non-partisan, **Foreign Policy Association** (www.fpa.org). It aims to encourage free and open discussion of major foreign policy issues. It is a chance for all who are interested, to express their thoughts and opinions, and to hear those of others.

The **FPA** publishes a discussion guide, which presents a comprehensive balanced review of each topic, is helpful, but not mandatory. A copy of the 2006 edition may be ordered (\$17), by calling Phil Adams - 393 9505, or Frank Feiner 377 9448.

The 2007 series is as follows:

Feb 6 - Global Warming
Feb 13 - Middle East
Feb 20 - Mexico
Feb 27 - Migration

Mar 6 - South Africa
Mar 13 - War Crimes
Mar 20 - Central Asia
Mar 27 - Children

Your attendance will be welcomed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the Friends celebrated our 40th anniversary in 2006, it was evident that the first 40 years were just the beginning. Great things are happening and it looks like there will be a solid Friends program for years to come. Our book sales netted a record \$30,000, which was transferred to the library branches for new purchases. The Whitney Book Corner is going great guns and adds significantly to our ability to support library programs. The new online book sale program, operated by Joyce Parry and George Gould, is steadily increasing its sales. Noonday programs and music programs draw solid audiences and are well appreciated. Friends will be a major participant in the One County, One Book program this year as we all hope to read *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. Ms. Picoult, with support from the Friends, will be visiting the area on March 10. Please note the plans and we hope to see many of you there. Our annual dinner will be held during the week of April 14, so look for specifics in the next newsletter. And finally, the library is hoping to break ground for its new expansion in the fall of 2007. It is truly an exciting time to be part of the library. John Karl

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The Friends wish to express our thanks to Barnes & Noble of Mohawk Commons for their generous contribution of approximately 20 boxes of books, toys and puzzles to the Book Corner. We were able to sell these items at the store, with profits going to the library.

Thanks to an overwhelming response, Joyce Parry and George Gould now have enough interested people to help with the online book sales. These sales continue to go well, though the pace is somewhat unpredictable.

GE MATCHING GIFTS

We'd like to remind our GE donors that GE will match gift of \$25 or more to the Friends. GE now releases money to us quarterly instead of annually, so the quicker gifts are registered, the quicker we get the money. Gifts can be registered by telephone at 1-800-305-0669 or online at www.gefoundation.com.

NEW MEMBERS

Our Membership Chair, Bill Beaulieu, reports that the following persons have joined the Friends: Mary Beth Barbagelata; Debra Berude; Nora Caligione; Terry DeNoyer; Joanne DiCaprio; Lawrence & Ellen Eisenberg; Jill Masterson; Jules Scheinzeit; Arthur J. Stevens, Jr. and Oscar & Jacqueline Sylvan. We welcome them all.

ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK

The Library will kick off this program in late February and will be having a PBS sponsored community book discussion on WMHT. Taping is slated for February 9th and it will be shown multiple times later in February. SCPL has also scheduled an author visit by Jodi Picoult, the author of *My Sister's Keeper* for Saturday, March 10th at 1PM at the Scotia-Glenville High School.

MID-WINTER BOOK SALE

Back by popular request, the Mid-winter Fiction sale will be held in the lobby of the main branch of the Schenectady County Public Library on January 27, 28, and 29 during library hours. All types of fiction will be available: modern, mystery, classical, plays and TV, science fiction, romance, historical, action and suspense, and short stories. The supply will be periodically restocked as space allows. Come and browse, often

Membership

Join the Friends to receive our bi-monthly newsletters and become eligible to volunteer at book sales and the Whitney Book Corner. Print out the following form and mail with your contribution to the Treasurer, Friends of the Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305. A GE employee or retiree, or his or her surviving spouse who contributes \$25 or more will have the contribution matched if it is reported to the GE Matching Gift Center 1 (800) 305-0669.

Contribution levels are:

Individual	\$10	Supporting	\$35
Family	\$15	Business	\$50
Contributing	\$25	Patron	\$100 or more

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Contribution \$ _____

GE eligible? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, date called in: _____

I am interested in volunteering for (check all that apply):

___ Semi-annual book sale

___ Whitney Book Corner

___ Online book sales

___ Newsletter mailings

JANUARY REELS

Featuring Films with Award-Winning Scores

Wednesday, January 3 noon & Thursday, January 4, 7pm

Schindler's List

Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes, Caroline Goodall, Embeth Davidtz;

Universal Pictures; Directed by Steven Spielberg
Black and White; Rated R; 195 minutes; 1993

John Williams won the Academy Award for the best musical score for a film that has been ranked among the finest movies of all times. The Schenectady Symphony will perform the theme from this epic on January 14 at Proctor's. Based on a true story and adapted from Thomas Keneally's 1982 award-winning book, a German businessman (Liam Neeson) overcomes unbelievable odds to protect and rescue more than 1100 Jews from Auschwitz in this World War II epic drama of faith and survival.

Wednesday, January 10 noon & Thursday, January 11, 7pm

The Adventures of Robin Hood

Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Basil Rathbone
Turner/Warner Bros.; Directed by Michael Curtiz and William Keighley

Not Rated; 102 minutes; 1938

Erich Korngold won the Academy Award for the best musical score for the finest of Errol Flynn's swashbuckler movies. The Schenectady Symphony will perform Korngold's *Concerto for Violin* on January 14 at Proctor's. This film is one the most successful and entertaining adventure films of all-time. Flynn as Robin Hood is a force to be reckoned with, whether it's foiling evil Prince John (Claude Rains), dueling wicked Sir Guy Gisbourne (Basil Rathbone), or winning the hand of Maid Marian (Olivia de Havilland). Robin Hood is presented as more than just the legendary figure who robs from the rich and gives to the poor; he is an activist-hero who fights injustice and cruelty.

Wednesday, January 17 noon & Thursday, January 18, 7pm

A Passage to India

Peggy Ashcroft, Judy Davis, James Fox, Alec Guinness, Victor Banerjee

Columbia Pictures; Directed by David Lean
Rated PG; 163 minutes; 1984

Maurice Jarre won the Academy Award for his score of this big screen classic. Wealthy British Adela Quested (Judy Davis) accuses Indian Dr. Aziz (Victor Banerjee) of raping her in this dramatic adaptation of E.M. Forester's classic novel, a portrait of British life in India of the 1920s.

Wednesday, January 24 noon & Thursday, January 25, 7pm

The English Patient

Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche, Willem Dafoe, Kristin Scott-Thomas

Miramax Films; Directed by Anthony Minghella
Rated R; 162 minutes; 1996

Gabriel Yared won the Academy Award for the best dramatic score for this beautiful film. A once handsome Englishman (Ralph (Fiennes), now burned beyond recognition in a horrible plane crash, spends his final days in an abandoned Italian village. While under the care of a kind nurse (Juliette Binoche), he remembers his torrid affair in the African desert with his colleague's wife Katharine Kristin (Scott-Thomas) in this sweeping and poetic World War II epic.

Wednesday, January 31 noon & Thursday, February 1, 7pm

The Red Violin

Samuel L. Jackson, Don McKellar, Carlo Cecchi, Irene Grazioli

Lion's Gate Films; Directed by Francois Girard
Rated R; 131 minutes; 1999

John Corigliano won the Academy Award for the best original score for this lovely film. *The Red Violin* traces the history of a legendary instrument across five countries and

300 years, from a workshop in the Italian city of Cremona to an auction of rare violins in modern-day Montreal. Along the way, the violin affects the lives of a variety of people as it passes from hand to hand and generation to generation, nearly possessing those who play it. From the workshop in Cremona in the late 17th century, where the violin maker loses his wife during childbirth, the violin next turns up 100 years later in Vienna, in the hands of a child prodigy. From there it passes to gypsies, and then, another century later, to master violinist Frederick Pope in Oxford, inspiring jealousy in his poet lover. We next see the violin in Shanghai during the Cultural Revolution in 1968, where its very existence is threatened, along with those who would protect it. Finally, the violin arrives at an auction house in Montreal, where American violin expert Charles Morritz races against time to discover the true nature of the seemingly haunted instrument.

FEBRUARY REELS

A Free Series of Recent Thought Provoking Films

Wednesday, February 7 noon & Thursday, February 8, 7pm

Catch a Fire

Tim Robbins, Derek Luke

Focus Features; Directed by Phillip Noyce
Rated PG-13; 98 minutes; 2006

Patrick Chamusso is a sweet-natured South African with a beautiful family and a better-than-average life who remains outside of the political world that surrounds him. However, due to unexpected circumstances he finds himself becoming a freedom fighter during Apartheid who carries out solo attacks against the regime.

Wednesday, February 14 noon & Thurs., February 15, 7 pm

Jesus Camp

Documentary Feature

Magnolia Pictures; Directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady
Rated PG-13; 84 minutes; 2006

This documentary follows kids who attend an evangelical summer camp run by founder Becky Fischer. Fischer uses war metaphors to teach her followers how to take back America for Christ borrowing tactics from extreme religious factions such as Islam. Three campers are featured as their fervor for their faith grows in this spiritual boot camp.

Wednesday, February 21 noon & Thurs., February 22, 7 pm

The Illusionist

Edward Norton, Jessica Biel, Paul Giamatti
Jet Stream;

Directed by Neil Burger

Rated PG-13; 110 minutes; 2006

Eisenheim, a magician in turn-of-the-century Vienna, catches the attention of the villainous Crown Prince Leopold who invites him to perform at a gathering. Eisenheim embarrasses the Prince with one of his illusions and when it becomes known that Eisenheim and the Prince's fiancé were childhood sweethearts, he attempts to discredit and imprison the skilled illusionist in this magical period piece.

Wednesday, February 28 noon & Thursday, March 1, 7pm

Marie Antoinette

Kirsten Dunst, Jason Schwartzman, Molly Shannon
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Sofia Coppola
Rated PG-13; 123 minutes; 2006

This lush biopic of the beautiful teen Queen of France has the costuming and scenery of the 18th century mixed with a hip modern soundtrack. Marie Antoinette became a symbol for the extravagance of the monarchy with her vast wardrobe and her penchant for parties. She was then stripped of her riches, imprisoned and beheaded by her own subjects during the French Revolution.

*The Friends of the Schenectady County
Public Library*

FICTION BOOK SALE

January 27-29, 2007

All Hardcover and Trade Fiction



\$1.00

*Sale will be held in the lobby at the Central
Library during library hours.*

Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
388-4500
www.scpl.org

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2007

Vol. XLII, No. 4

Note: the Monday series of talks are held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a sandwich lunch, if you wish; beverages are available. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel on Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 3 p.m.

NOON PROGRAMS – MARCH/APRIL, 2007

Barbara Grasier, Program Chair

SCIENCE SERIES -Winter 2007

Coordinated by Dr. Walter Grattidge

- March 5 - Brave New World: The Bioethical Issues Raised in *My Sister's Keeper***
Prof. Robert Baker, Union Graduate College, Schenectady, NY
With an introductory review of the book by **Susan Lehrman**,
Dean of the Faculty, Union Graduate College, Schenectady, NY
- March 12 - Sky of Dreams: Capital Region's Dudley Observatory Explores the Stars**
Dr. George Wise, GE Global Research (ret.), Niskayuna, NY
- March 19 - What is New in Early Detection of Heart Disease?**
Carl Rosner, President & CEO,
Cardio-Mag Imaging, Inc., Schenectady, NY
Chairman-Emeritus, InterMagnetics General Corp.
- March 26 - The Education of Charles Darwin**
John Eshbach, PhD,
GE Global Research (ret.), Niskayuna, NY

SPRING SPECIALS - April 2007

"Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal"

Gioia Ottaviano, Coordinator

- April 2 - Beginnings and Endings**
Frank Taormina, retired teacher and administrator,
Niskayuna School District
- April 9 - The Erie Canal in the Civil War**
Tricia Shaw, Program Specialist
Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site
- April 16 - Depression in the Elderly**
Dr. Anthony Yacona, Chairman
Psychiatric Department, Ellis Hospital
- April 23 - Program to be Announced**
(Check the Reference Desk for details)

MUSIC PROGRAMS

The Etude Club will present a musical program on **Sunday, March 4th at 2:00** in the McChesney Room, featuring music by Chopin, Massenet, Brahms, Prokofiev, and V. Herbert. Performers will be: Carol Parillo, Cathy Barber, Elizabeth O'Neil, Joan Ham, and Janet Stasio. The concert is free and open to the public.

Sunday March 11th. at 2.30 p.m. in the McChesney Room, Allen Yu will present a piano recital. Allen was the 2006 winner of the Parillo Piano Competition sponsored by the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. He will be playing compositions by Bach, Mozart, Liszt, Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev. Refreshments will follow the recital.

Sunday April 22nd. at 2.30 p.m. in the McChesney Room, Students of the Music Department of the Schenectady County Community College will present a musical program by soloists, instrumentalists and pianists. Refreshments will follow the program.

ATTENTION: LOVERS OF POETRY

It's not too early to start thinking about the Eighth Annual Poetry Gala on Sunday, April 15, 2007 in the McChesney Room. Come to recite; come to listen; come to a lovely afternoon in April. The program will begin with music, light refreshments and friendly conversation at 2:00. Poetry readings will take place from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. If you would like to read or recite a favorite poem, please call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904. Time is available for only seventeen presenters, so please call to reserve a place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This will be my last report as president of the Friends. It has been a privilege to serve such an energized group. During the past two years the Friends have been involved in plans for the central library expansion, contributing funds and expertise to the project. This fall we hope to see a groundbreaking. Book sales have reached new highs of income, providing needed funds for the branches, and the bookstore has continued its success, providing backup funds for the many Friends' supported library programs. Our new online sales project (reported in a separate article), has been growing steadily. The noontime programs, music programs and other audience type programs continue to attract large numbers of residents and supporters. Space prevents me from thanking all who have made the programs and activities of the Friends great benefits for the people of Schenectady. I hope they know how much they are appreciated. Please be sure to sign up for the annual dinner meeting, which is detailed in this newsletter, and look ahead to the volunteer picnic on June 8th at River Road park in Niskayuna (by John Karl)

BOOK SALES GO ONLINE

Last February, under the tutelage of Ed Reilly, Joyce Parry and George Gould launched an online project to sell good quality books on the internet. The books are entered through Amazon.com and, once sold, are shipped to the buyer. At year's end, almost \$4000 in profits has been realized. Carolyn Hermes, Susanne Kimura and Barbara Grasier have recently joined Joyce and George in this work. Wonja Brucker, Assistant Director of the library, has been a great help in finding space and equipment for the project.

FRIENDS REACH OUT TO JOAN NICOLE PRINCE HOME

The Jean Nicole Prince Home for terminally ill residents opened this past year. The residence is located in Glenville, and is operated by a combination of staff and volunteers. Friends and the library outreach program, under Paula Carosella, are providing equipment and program information that will allow downloading of audio books and music for use of the patients. The technology, available to all library cardholders, is described on the library website or in brochures that are available at all library branches.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER SALES

The Whitney Book Corner, located at 600 Union Street, announces two upcoming sales. There will be a paperback book sale at the store from March 19 - March 24. All paperbacks (excluding trade paperbacks) will be on sale, three for \$1.00. Large Print books will be on sale from April 2 - April 7 for \$1.00 each. Store hours are Monday Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 - 4:00; Thursday 10:00 - 7:00; Saturday 11:00 - 3:00. The Whitney Book Corner sells quality used books at reasonable prices and is managed and staffed by volunteers from the Friends of SCPL. All proceeds from the store benefit the library system.

NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome four new members to the Friends of SCPL. They are: Ginny Folger, John F. Elter, Jacqueline Preddice, and Patricia Halsey. (Reported by Bill Beaulieu, Membership Chair)

MID-WINTER BOOK SALE REPORT

Although the weekend of January 27-29, 2007 was the coldest of the winter with wind and a little snow, people came to buy books. We sold 2,895 books at \$1.00 each! Special thanks to Leah and Bill Leonard, who worked four days organizing all the books and to Valerie Catlin with the help of Gene Rowland, did all the collections and tabulations of the money. We had 48 wonderful volunteers, who set-up the sale, served as cashiers and organizers, and then cleaned up all the remaining books, which will be in the May 5th sale. Jean Wildgrube made signs. Lisa Holt arranged the publicity that made the sale a huge success. It was truly a total team effort

This year we had a huge number of large print books culled from the library. So, half were in this sale and half will be in the May sale. The remaining books after this sale were donated to several organizations: Baptist Retirement Home taken by Bern Allanson, VA Hospital taken by Marianne and Bob Hall, and Glendale Home by me. All seemed very happy to receive these donations. Also, a few remaining boxes will go to a Nursing Home in Vermont.

We greatly appreciate the wonderful cooperation we receive from the all the library staff. We especially thank Betty Jo, who moved the tax forms temporarily and set up the tables Friday morning, giving us three more tables than past sales. And to Sandy Anderson, who did all the graphics and printing. Without their help, the sale couldn't happen.

Ten hard working, efficient people set up the sale from 3:00-4:30 Fri. afternoon. A terrific crew of five people began taking book boxes and re-shelving those upstairs at 7:30PM. Customers were able to purchase books until 8:00. This is the ideal number for both jobs. (from Ellie Rowland, Chair)

MARCH REELS

**Wednesday, March 7 noon &
Thursday, March 8, 7pm
*Stranger Than Fiction***

Will Ferrell, Dustin Hoffman,
Queen Latifah, Emma Thompson
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Marc Forster
Rated PG-13; 113 minutes; 2006

Kay Eiffel is struggling to complete her latest book. Through a strange twist of fate, her main character Harold Crick, who is actually a real person working as an IRS agent in Chicago, starts to hear Kay's narration in his head. After a hilarious journey to figure out what is happening to him, Harold must convince Kay not to kill off her main character!

**Wednesday, March 14 noon &
Thursday, March 15, 7pm
*Babel***

Cate Blanchett, Brad Pitt
Paramount Vantage;
Directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu
Rated R; 142 minutes; 2006

In English, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese and French with
English subtitles

Three intertwining and tragic stories are set in Morocco, Tunisia, Mexico and Japan. A series of unintended consequences leads to the shooting of an American wife and an ill fated trip to Tijuana in this film that explores terrorism, immigration and American entitlement.

**Wednesday, March 21 noon &
Thursday, March 22, 7pm
*Science of Sleep***

Gael Garcia Bernal, Charlotte Gainsbourg
Warner Independent Pictures;
Directed by Michel Gondry
Rated R; 105 minutes; 2006

Stephan has always been an imaginative dreamer but when he gets a mind numbingly boring job he truly loses himself in his fantasies. Shot in a highly stylized fashion, it is hard to tell where reality begins and ends in this imaginative "dramedy".

**Wednesday, March 28 at noon &
Thursday, March 29, 7pm
*Infamous***

Sandra Bullock, Gwyneth Paltrow,
Sigourney Weaver
Warner Independent Pics;
Directed by Douglas McGrath
Rated R; 110 minutes; 2006

While researching his book *In Cold Blood* about the 1959 murders of a wealthy Kansas family of four, writer Truman Capote developed a close relationship with convicted murderers Dick Hickock and Perry Smith. What started out as a standard issue "whodunit" turns into a complex bond in this biographical drama.

APRIL REELS

**Wednesday, April 4 at noon &
Thursday, April 5 at 7pm
*Boynnton Beach Club***

Joseph Bologna, Dyan Cannon, Brenda Vaccaro
Samuel Goldwyn Films; Directed by Susan Seidelman
105 minutes; 2005

This romantic comedy speaks to our amazing capacity to find love at any age. A group of colorful characters live in an active adult retirement community and they all meet at a local Bereavement Club where they go to find emotional support after the loss of a loved one. Their lives intersect as they become friends and even lovers in their golden years.

**Wednesday, April 11 noon &
Thursday, April 12, 7pm
*The Prestige***

Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale,
Scarlett Johansson
Touchstone Pictures; Directed by Christopher Nolan
Rated PG-13; 128 minutes; 2006

Rupert and Alfred are rival magicians in turn-of-the-century London who battle each other for trade secrets. When Alfred performs the ultimate trick Rupert desperately tries to find the secret only to discover that it might not be a trick at all. Their jealousy of one another turns deadly in this stylish thriller.

**Wednesday, April 18 noon &
Thursday, April 19, 7pm
*Gattaca***

Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman, Alan Arkin, Jude Law
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Andrew Niccol
Rated PG-13; 108 minutes; 1997

A film that considers some of the same issues that are important in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper*. Ethan Hawke and Uma Thurman team up for a futuristic thriller centering around a genetically altered society of have and have-nots. The action turns on one man's struggle to overcome the way he has been created in a world that ranks people by their genetic makeup. Featured among the ensemble are Alan Arkin, Jude Loren Dean, and novelist Gore Vidal.

**Wednesday, April 25 noon &
Thursday, April 26, 7pm
*Children of Men***

Clive Owen, Julianne Moore
Universal Pictures; Directed by Alfonso Cuarón
Rated R; 114 minutes; 2006

In 2027, the world has been thrown into chaos as a fertility defect has prevented any further procreation of mankind. When a woman miraculously becomes pregnant a former activist agrees to help keep her safe while scientists can determine if her child's birth can provide the answer to save mankind.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK ACTIVITIES

The book selected for this year's "One County, One Book" program is *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. This book will be reviewed briefly by President Sue Lehrman of Union Graduate College on Monday, March 5th, as part of the Friends' Science Series. Following this brief introduction Robert Baker, Professor of Bioethics, will discuss "Brave New World: the bioethical aspects of *My Sister's Keeper*." This event officially kicks off SCPL's second community read.

The author, Jodi Picoult, will present a free program on Saturday, March 10th, at 1pm, at the Scotia-Glenville High School Auditorium, followed by a book signing. Admission is free and doors open at noon, with seating on a first come first serve basis. The Open Door Bookstore is offering a 20% discount on all of Jodi's books and is donating 20% of the sales to the library.

Save the date - Central Book Discussion Saturday, April 21st

**Friends of Schenectady County Public Library – 41st Anniversary Annual Dinner Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2007, 6:15p.m.**

Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, 1945 Union Street, Niskayuna

The Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna has been in existence for over 55 years, and the chapel features a beautiful mural by well-known children's illustrator and author, Tomie dePaolo (his first major work).

Speaker: Sue Lehrman, President of Union Graduate College

The Menu:

Tossed Garden Salad

Chicken Breast with onion,

mushrooms and green pepper in a sauce

Vegetable Lasagna

Sugar Snap Peas

Oven Roast Potato

Rice Pilaf

Orange Cake

Dinner Rolls

Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea and Soda

Following the meal we will be treated to a performance by a talented student musician

ELECTIONS – The nominating committee will present the following persons for officers and directors:

OFFICERS: President: Bern Allanson; President –Elect: Phil Adams; 1st Vice President: Carolyn Hermes;
2nd Vice President: Frank Taormina; Secretary: Anne Yunick; Treasurer: Junice Wusterbarth.

DIRECTORS, for a 3-year term: Frank Taormina; Carolyn Hermes; Bill Beaulieu and Joan Ham

Further information concerning elections will be presented at the meeting.

Reservations Must Be Made By Friday, April 13, 2007 – Please Use This Form

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Thursday April 19, 2007 @ 6:15 p.m.

Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation
Dominican Retreat House

Number attending _____

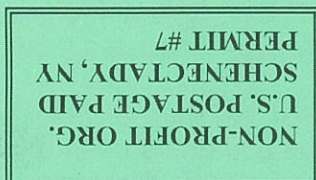
Amount Enclosed _____ @ \$22.00/person

Attendee names (Please print)

Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and send in by: Friday, April 13, 2007 to
Simon Weinstein, 4036 Windsor Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309

DIRECTIONS TO Dominican Retreat House: When driving west on Route 7, at the intersection of Route 7, Union Street and Rosendale Road (which is where we are), there are overhead road signs identifying the intersection. Our entrance is on the right just before these signs. We are about 1/2 mile west of Bellevue Women's Hospital which is on the opposite side of the road. We are also next door to Congregation Agudat Achim. If you miss that entrance and drive under the signs, take the first right onto Rosendale and then first driveway on the right. Follow the driveway around to the front of the brick one story building.

When approaching from the west on Route 7 or Union Street, you would have to cross Route 7 to make a left into the entrance, which can be difficult. It is best to follow the Rosendale Road sign and turn into our driveway from Rosendale, which is the first driveway on the right. Follow the driveway around to the front of the brick one story building. Park in front of the building



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SCHENECTADY, NY 12305

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

May/June 2007

Vol. XLII, No. 5

Note: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; tea and coffee are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listing for days and times.

NOON PROGRAMS

Barbara Grasier, Program Chair

Books Sandwiched In

Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- April 30 **The Reluctant Mr. Darwin: An Intimate Portrait of Charles Darwin and the Making of his Theory of Evolution**, by David Quammen
Reviewed by John Hawley, retired engineer, bibliophile, and book seller
- May 7 **American Bloomsbury**
Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work, by Susan Cheever
Reviewed by Walter Auclair; UCALL Board member; Professor Emeritus, RPI, Cambridge
- May 14 **Colossus: The Price of America's Empire**, by Niall Ferguson
Reviewed by Dr. Joseph Board; Political Science Professor Emeritus, Union College
pronounced Neil
- Ferguson argues that not only IS America an Empire, but that our great nation could in fact become a powerful positive force for global leadership if certain factors were in place.
- May 21 **Love and Theft: Blackface Minstrelsy and the American Working Class**, by Eric Lott
Reviewed by Dr. Wesley Brown; Professor Emeritus, Rutgers Univeristy; author of *Darktown Strutters*

****Please note: The Poetry Gala scheduled for April 15 was cancelled due to snow and will not be rescheduled this spring.****

Adult Programs

Our Adult Summer Reading Club was so popular last summer that we are doing it again. Our second Adult Summer Reading Program will run from June 21 to August 15. Patrons may register at any SCPL branch or online at our website, and they can submit a brief book review for each book they read that will be entered into a drawing for weekly incentives. The more you read the more chances you have to win! An Ice Cream Social has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 15 at 7:00 pm to celebrate the end of the program. It will feature a book discussion of Jodi Picoult's newest book, *Nineteen Minutes*.

We will also be having our second ethnic themed book discussion/pot-luck dinner featuring Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*, with NYSCA facilitator Bob Miner who will lead the discussion in the McChesney Room of the Central Library. The evening will include ethnic music and dance. Registration is required by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511.

Nominate a Book for One County, One Book 2008!

Schenectady County Public Library is launching another One County, One Book program. From April 15-June 8, you can nominate a book! Nomination forms are available at the Central Library, all of the branches, the Whitney Book Corner, and online at www.scpl.org.

Those volunteering to help with the newsletter distribution on March 1 were: Bill Beaulieu, Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Anne Yunick, Dick and Lois Isles, John Karl, Helen Steiner, and Kathy August. Kathy's grandson, Jake August, volunteered to collate the newsletter for distribution to the branches. He was doing his community service work for Bishop Gibbons and was a big help to the group.

President's Report

Two years have just flown by and now I will be stepping aside as President of Friends. I have enjoyed working with all of the volunteers and staff who make the Schenectady Library such a wonderful and unique place. Several "hot" topics took our attention during these past two years. Most notable has been the planning for the central library expansion. I am happy to report that we are almost there and will probably have a groundbreaking in early 2008. While there are still many details to be worked out, Friends stands ready to assist with the transition to an improved facility. The other major venture has been the establishment of a One County, One Book program for the community. During 2006, the book chosen (by community ballot) was *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The public interest in the many programs associated with the book led to a second selection for 2007; Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper*. The community response has been overwhelming, and a third (now annual) selection will be made soon for 2008. During my tenure, I have witnessed the seamless transition of leadership in the bookstore from Joyce Parry and George Gould to Renie Federighi and Rich Holt. Bookstore and book sale volunteers, as usual, look forward to the reminders from Ellie Rowland, who doesn't accept many no's for an answer. Ellie and Ginny Thompson continue to set sales records for the benefit of the library, and the bookstore and on-line sales are going great guns. I have also enjoyed working with the library staff, Andy Kulmatiski, Wonja Brucker, Karen Bradley, Paula Carosella and, without question, Janice Martin and Sandy Andersen, who make our jobs easier. If I have not mentioned everyone who makes a difference it's because my typing fingers would be worn to the bone. I am looking forward to continuing on the board and harassing Bern Allanson, your new president. It's only fitting that Bern be in the hot seat since he is responsible for coaxing me onto the board many years ago. I've become, like so many others, a perpetual volunteer, and I'm loving it. (sorry MacDonald's.)

John Karl

New Members

We want to welcome ten new members to the Friends of SCPL. They are: Ed Menzies, Mary A. Maitino, Mary E. Rooney, Ethan & Colleen Lowry, Erin L. Daye, Taras & Julie Shapelavy, Julie McConnell, and Diana Belardo. Membership renewals will be mailed this month. The 2008 membership year runs from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. (Reported by Bill Beaulieu, Membership Chair.)

Friends, SCPL Officers, 2007-08

President	Bernard Allanson	2 nd Vice President	Frank Taormina
President-Elect	Philip Adams	Secretary	Anne Yunick
1 st Vice President	Carolyn Hermes	Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth

Board of Directors

Kathleen August	Lisa Holt
William Beaulieu	Priti Irani
Phyllis Bornt	John Karl
Valerie Caitlin	Sally Magid
Renie Federighi	Debbie McCambridge
Barbara Grasier	Dick Mehon
Joan Ham	Simon Weinstein

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REELS - A Free Series of Recent Thought Provoking Films

Wednesday, May 2 at noon & Thursday, May 3 at 7pm

The U.S. vs. John Lennon (Documentary Feature)

Lions Gate Films; Directed by David Leaf and John Scheinfeld

Rated PG-13; 99 minutes; 2006

This film covers beloved Beatle John Lennon when he was transforming from rock-n-roll cover boy to anti-war activist. From 1966-1976 the U.S. government attempted to silence him and others who aspired to peace through non-violent demonstration.

Wednesday, May 9 at noon & Thursday, May 10 at 7pm

Who The Bleep Is Jackson Pollock? (Documentary Feature)

Picturehouse; Directed by Harry Moses

Rated PG-13; 74 minutes; 2007

Teri Horton, a 73 year-old long-haul truck driver, picked up a painting in a thrift shop. When she went to sell it in a garage sale a local art teacher recognized the painting as a possible work by famed American artist Jackson Pollock. What followed pitted a blue collar worker against the highest, mightiest people in the art world and would perhaps change forever the way art is authenticated.

Wednesday, May 16 at noon & Thursday, May 17 at 7pm

The Painted Veil

Naomi Watts, Edward Norton; Warner Independent Pictures; Directed by John Curran

Rated PG-13; 125 minutes; 2006

When restless Londoner Kitty Fane finds that her husband is more interested in his research than her, she has an affair with a local playboy. This act leads her on a journey of self discovery that carries her to the Far East where she becomes involved in the fight against cholera.

Wednesday, May 23 at noon & Thursday, May 24 at 7pm

A Simple Curve

Kris Lemche, Michael Hogan; Canada First; Directed by Aubrey Nealon

Canada; 92 Minutes; 2005

A restless 27-year-old man questions his family tree, his hippy father's stubbornness, his own commitment to love and his laid-back, rural lifestyle in the majestic Kootenay Mountains of Canada. If you ever wondered what happened to those old hippies – especially the U.S. draft dodgers who flooded Canada during the Vietnam War disaster -- check out *A Simple Curve*. This made-in-British Columbia film is a charming, insightful and smart take on the topic. And, as a young adult's coming-of-age story, it is seen through the eyes of a hippy's 27-year-old son. The film, sharply written and smoothly directed by first-timer Aubrey Nealon, is also an accomplished piece of work that boasts a series of good performances.

Wednesday, May 30 at noon & Thursday, May 31 at 7pm

The Great Match

Atibou Aboubacar; Greenlight Media AG; Directed by Gerardo Olivares

Spain; 88 minutes; 2006; In Spanish (English subtitles)

The landscapes are exotic, breathtaking and majestic and represent the kind of cinematography that we are used to seeing in Historical epics. But the humor and incongruity in coexisting cultures are reminiscent of the art house comedy hit *The Gods Must Be Crazy*. Directed by the Spaniard Gerardo Olivares, the movie tells three simultaneous stories about men in far-flung corners of the globe going to some trouble to see the final match of the 2002 World Cup, which was played between Germany and Brazil. The movie is fascinating for the glimpses it gives us of worlds we rarely, if ever see, in the movies, and it makes us feel that, for one day every four years at least, soccer really does bring the world together

Wednesday, June 6 at noon & Thursday, June 7 at 7pm

Bobby

Anthony Hopkins, Demi Moore, Elijah Wood, Lindsay Lohan

The Weinstein Company; Directed by Emilio Estevez

Rated R; 120 minutes; 2006

On June 5, 1968 the course of American history was changed forever when Senator Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated at the Ambassador Hotel. This film takes us through the lives and reactions of 22 people who were at the hotel that night. The group represents a diverse range of people representing America at one of its defining thresholds.

Wednesday, June 13 at noon & Thursday, June 14 at 7pm

Hawaii, Oslo

Petronella Barker, Robert Skjaerstad

Directed by Erik Poppe

124 minutes; 2004; Norwegian (English subtitles)

The film takes place in one day—but it's a day in which several characters deal with extremely dramatic circumstances. Among the characters are a couple whose newborn son requires an expensive and highly experimental operation to have any chance of survival, a pair of recently orphaned boys dealing with guilt over their father's death, and a convict who uses his sweet-natured but troubled brother to escape from prison. These people cross paths with many others, including an empathetic paramedic, a suicidal pop star, and a man who seems to have near-psychic abilities. Each of these characterizations is written with nuance and performed to perfection.

Wednesday, June 20 at noon & Thursday, June 21 at 7pm

Venus

Peter O'Toole, Leslie Phillips, Kate Locke

Miramax Films; Directed by Roger Michell

Rated R; 94 minutes; 2006

Ian and Maurice are a pair of veteran actors who spend their days reminiscing about the past. When Ian's young niece Jessie arrives, Maurice begins to attempt to romance the girl who is 50 years his junior. As Maurice's health begins to fail they are forced to deal with how much they mean to each other. An Oscar winning performance by Peter O'Toole.

Wednesday, June 27 at noon & Thursday, June 28 at 7pm

Breach

Ryan Phillippe, Chris Cooper, Laura Linney

Universal Pictures; Directed by Billy Ray

Rated PG-13; 110 minutes; 2007

Inspired by the true story of the greatest security breach in US history, young Eric O'Neill is promoted from his low-level surveillance job into FBI headquarters. He first thinks he has his dream job when he is assigned to work for renowned operative Robert Hanssen but soon finds that Hanssen is subject of a long-term, top-secret investigation and is suspected of trading in our nation's most important secrets.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

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**SATURDAY,
May 5, 2007**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

***\$ 2.00 Bag Sale*
Sunday, May 6
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**



**Schenectady County Public Library
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