

# 45th Anniversary Annual Report 2010



**CHANGE YOUR WORLD  
@ YOUR LIBRARY**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was a very interesting year with numerous activities sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The book sales coordinated by Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson were the biggest moneymakers for the Friends. The Monday Noon Programs, coordinated by Gene Rowland, continue to be very successful and offer a refreshing selection of speakers and programs.

The Whitney Book Corner, staffed by volunteers and just a short walk from the Central Library, is open every day. It has been a winner for the Friends and all the happy customers who enjoy finding "almost new books" for a very reasonable price. The manager, Gail Karl, has been able to transfer her enthusiasm to all the volunteers who staff the store. It averages approximately \$1000 a week in sales which helps to support all the library's programs.

The membership of the Friends of the Library remained steady and many members are very active in helping with our great projects. John Karl and Rita Moore are co-chairpersons of the Membership Committee. They collect the annual dues and donations including GE match, recruit new members, manage our computer database as well as help with the mailings of the bi-monthly newsletter. Chris Witkowski is the editor of our newsletter as well as our publicity director for the Whitney Book Corner and Friends activities. Cori Lombardo handles publicity for the large book sales.

We have a hard working team run by George Gould who research valuable used books and sell them on-line using Amazon.com and other venues.

Lisa Holt has done a great job running the Literary Tours. She visited John D. Rockefeller's home, Kykuit, and Washington Irving's home, Sunnyside, in 2010. She has an exciting 2 week trip planned with 34 members of the Friends traveling to England in May 2011 visiting the homes of famous English authors.



We have been fortunate in having a very talented treasurer, Nancy Virkler, a retired banker, who is very hard working and efficient. We have implemented many of her new ideas, improving control of our finances and expenditures. We have hired Don Halstead, CPA of Zalucki and Halstead, LLP in Schenectady to conduct our 2010 audit.

Two of our Board members, Barbara Grasier and Kathy August, have completed 6 years on the Board and will be replaced at the annual meeting. Barbara and Kathy have been hard working members of the Board and we hope that they will continue their active service.

I have been supported by a great Board and I sincerely appreciate all their hard work. Our secretary, Mary Beth Barbagelata, 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

On April 19, 2010 the Friends held their 44th annual meeting and dinner at Schenectady County Community College. After a musical performance presented by SCCC music students the guests enjoyed a dinner prepared and served by the students of the Community College's Culinary Arts Department.

The guest speaker was Christine McDonald, Director of the Crandall Library in Glens Falls, who spoke about the recent renovations to that library.

*Simon Weinstein*

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

During January, February and March of 2010, Ron and Christine Patrick arranged a wonderful series called "Beat the Snow". Every Sunday afternoon during these months there was a program at the library including Holiday Wind Down for Horn, Voice and Piano; Story Tellers; Music of Yesteryear; and Purim Celebration, Klezmer Style. Many thanks to Ron and Christine for this wonderful feast.

In April, 2010 The Schenectady County Community College Music Department presented a variety of music and performers. In November, 2010, the Music Committee sponsored Music at Noon by the Etude Club.

*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. The winter 2010 Books Sandwiched In series, coordinated by Linda Witkowski, presented book reviews by local writers, scholars and book reviewers. Selections were: *Emily Post – Daughter of the Gilded Age*, *Mistress of American Manners* by Laura Claridge; reviewed by Anne Bishop; *Bold Endeavors: How our Government Built America and Must Do It Again* by Felix Rohatyn; reviewed by Dr. William Valchovic; *Musicophilia: Tales Of Music and The Brain* by Oliver Sacks; reviewed by Dr. Walter Grattidge; *The Peculiar Life Of Sundays: A Cultural History Of Sunday Observances In The Christian West* by Stephen Miller; reviewed by Arthur Hudak; *The Healing Of America: A Global Quest For Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care* by T.R. Reid; reviewed by C. Christopher Rush; and *Why We Cooperate* by Michael Tomosello; reviewed by Dr. George Wise.



On March 1 Wonja Brucker presented a review of the 2010 One County One Book selection, *Hotel On The Corner Of Bitter And Sweet* by Jamie Ford. She described her own experiences as an immigrant to the United States, helping the audience to understand cultural differences.

The annual Science Series, coordinated by Dr. Walter Grattidge, featured presentations by four local scientists: “Life Under Antarctica’s Semi-Permanent Frozen Ocean: Possible Key To Ecosystems And Climates Of The Past And Future” by Molly Miller, Phd, & Samuel Bowser, Phd; “Inborn Or Learned? A Biologist Looks At Some Human Behaviors” By Helen Ghiradella, Phd; “Ice Jams”

By John Quinlan, meteorologist; and “A Chemist Ponders The Origin Of Life” By John F. Brown.

The Spring Specials series, coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano, was presented in April, 2010. James Jamieson, A.I.A. and Capitol Architect for the State of New York, spoke about “New York State Architecture – The State Capitol”. Claire Puccia Parham, author of *St. Lawrence Seaway & Power Project – An Oral History Of The Greatest Construction Show On Earth* spoke on April 12.

The spring 2010 Books Sandwiched In series presented: *John James Audubon: The Making Of An American* by Richard Rhodes; reviewed by Dr. Carl George, Professor Emeritus, Biology, Union College, *Chronicles: Rediscovering America On The Hudson* by Jessica Dulong; reviewed by John Rowen, *The Ballad Of Dorothy Wordsworth: A Life* by Frances Wilson; reviewed by Dr. Peter Heinegg, Professor of English, Union College; *The Imperial Cruise: A Secret History Of Empire And War* by James Bradley; reviewed by Dr. Greg Millett, China traveler, Worldwide Friendship Organization; *People’s History Of The United States: 1492 To Present* by Howard Zinn; reviewed by Joan Ham, Ucall course coordinator and lecturer, retired social worker; and *Behind The Scenes In The Lincoln Whitehouse: Memoirs Of An African-American Seamstress* by Elizabeth Keckley; reviewed Dr. Elaine Handley, Professor Of Literature And Writing, Empire State College.

The fall 2010 Books Sandwiched In program included: *Species, Serpents, Spirits and Skulls: Science at the Margins of the Victorian Era* by Dr. Sherrie Lyons; reviewed by the author; *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brain* by Nicholas Carr; reviewed by Dr. Edwin Reilly; *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent; reviewed by Roy Williams; *The Age of Wonder: The Romantic Generation and the Discovery of the Beauty and Terror of Science* by Richard Holmes; reviewed by Dr. Walter Au Clair; *The Korean War: A History* by Bruce Cumings; reviewed by Dr. Thomas Kelly; and *Stones Into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs in Afghanistan and Pakistan* by Greg Mortenson; reviewed by William Poppino.

The Fall Features series, coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano, explored the theme: “Library Treasures – Old and New.” Two programs were presented by Robert Lang, Robert Sullivan and Mary Ann Warner, librarians from the Schenectady County Public Library reference desk.

*Gene Rowland, Program Coordinator*

## PUBLICITY

The use of an on-line press release service has greatly increased publicity for all Friends activities as well as enhanced our ability to promote the Whitney Book Corner and library sales. We continue to advertise on a regular basis in the Daily Gazette, with coupons offered as part of special promotions. Certificates given to those children completing the library Summer Reading Program, good for one free book, have provided additional exposure for

our store, bringing in customers who may have been unaware of the Whitney. Coupons for the store are included in the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce's "Welcome Bags" given to new businesses when they move into the city. An ad for the Whitney was placed in the DSIC's attractive magazine "Explore Downtown Schenectady", a publication with a large distribution base. We expect to have a feature article about the store in the magazine later this year.

Additionally, all of our sales are promoted at no cost via craigslist, e-mail, on-line book sellers and the Whitney Book Corner web site [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org).

We continue to move forward with publicity for the large book sales and during the last year have included yard signs as a means to generate interest in the sales. A survey of book sale patrons conducted during the fall sale identified flyers posted at the Central Library as the leading means of publicizing the sales. Yard signs and word-of-mouth generated the next highest means of publicity and was followed by paid display advertising in the *Daily Gazette*. We continue to take advantage of on-line community calendars and free local newspaper community notes sections to publicize the annual book sales.

Thank you to the Friends who pass out flyers, display yard signs and talk up the sales. Without you, we could not be as successful as we are.

*Christine Witkowski & Corine Lombardo*

## BOOK SALES



The sorting space for the donated books and library discards was unavailable for the Friends for almost two months during 2010 while asbestos was removed. Unsung heroes during this time were Bob Schumaker, Betty Jean Lent, George Kirker and Carla DeCarlo who, even though their work area was cramped, gave the sorters one third of their space to put up tables so the sorting could go on. The library rented three PODS for storage. The Friends are eternally grateful to the maintenance staff for their sacrifice and for their continuous help throughout the year. We do thank the library for a new larger sorting space, now that the work is done.

The other heroes are the 25 or more volunteers who work weekly to sort the books for the sales, the Whitney Book Corner and for on-line selling. Additionally, the people who push the books over to the Whitney on the "Schleppmobile" do an invaluable service to make the store a success.

In 2010 the fund raising record was broken with the total for the two big semi-annual sales and the two mid-winter sales in the hall reaching over \$42,000. In these times of financial budget stress, the Friends are happy to be able to give this money for the betterment of the Schenectady County Public Library. Over 200 enthusiastic, helpful volunteers are needed to stage the spring and fall sales and 75 cheerful, hard working persons to sell fiction books in January and the non-fiction sale in February. Thank you everyone!

People buying a large or small amount of books can use our "Dealer Tent" to keep their selections safe while they are searching for more. Since we have listed our sales on the internet our profits have greatly increased. We are continuing to sell the remaining books after the two big book sales to BooksProQuo from Massachusetts after we have exhausted ways to give leftovers to other non-profit agencies.

GE Power University and Global Research Center help greatly by assisting us in the set-up and clean-up of the sales. Local businesses help by providing refreshments for the workers and five liquor stores donate wine boxes for book storage. The library staff is unequalled in their assistance technically and, most importantly, their encouragement and toleration of the disruption our activities cause in their professional environment. Sandy Andersen, who does our graphics, and Randy Lucia, who does our security, deserve our special thanks.

A basic ingredient to our success are all the books, records, CDs and DVDs that Schenectady County citizens donate to the library as well as library discards. We hope this continues for many years to come.

*Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson, Book Sale Chairs*



## BOOKS-ON-LINE

The sale of books on-line was begun in 2007 in order to realize the real value of some of the used books we have in our library sales. We now have a very capable group of dedicated volunteers: Janie Hayner, Jean Emery, Susanne Kimura, Rickie Gageway and Joyce Parry, all who post books for sale and wrap and mail purchased books. In 2009 we sold 676 books and received \$13,012.12 from Amazon for an average book price of \$19.25. In 2010 we sold 602 books and received \$11,970.93, an average price per sale of \$19.98. We keep an inventory posted on-line of about 1300 books, limited by the shelf space we have available. Sales are variable over the year, but generally similar from year to year. Judging by the number of books offered by other sellers for just a penny, the competition is growing each year.

*George Gould*

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Since the bookstore opened over 9 years ago, our gross income has climbed from approximately \$21,000 in 2002 to nearly \$50,000 in 2010, more than double.



The community is finding the bookstore a popular destination to purchase books of all types at low prices. Inventory comes from donors in the community and discards from the library. Our workers are all volunteers, from sorting books to clerking at the store.

We have been supportive of schools and other groups in the community by providing coupons and certificates. One of our most popular promotions was the presentation of a coupon for a free book to all children who successfully completed the library's Summer Reading Program.

We are looking forward to celebrating the Whitney Book Corner's tenth anniversary in 2012.

*Gail Karl, Store Manager*

## MEMBERSHIP

After serving as Membership chairman for six years, Bill Beaulieu retired from the Board. Bill and his wife, Mary Jane, have overseen a solid growth in the Friends membership during their tenure. Having trained the new chairs for this demanding job, the Beaulieus continue to be strong supporters of the Friends of the Library. We thank them for their dedication.

We had an increase in membership from 919 to 991 for the 2010 fiscal year. 72 new members joined our ranks to experience the benefits of membership and in support of public libraries. Membership income totaled \$22,750 which includes GE Match funds of \$3,105. Our membership also showed their dedication to the Friends of the Library with 78 members contributing \$50 or more for a total of \$10,190.

The Membership Committee will continue its efforts to attract new members, growing even more support for the Library.

*John Karl and Rita Moore*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee proposes the following slate for 2011-2012:

*Officers:*

William P. Leitch	President
Eugene Rowland	1st Vice-President
Debbie McCambridge	2nd Vice President
Mary Beth Barbagelata	Secretary
Nancy Virkler	Treasurer

Bern Allanson will continue to serve as Past President

*Board of Directors – First three year term*

**Fred Eddy** worked as a computer scientist for GE before beginning his own consulting business, doing work for a number of large firms. He has authored a book on software design. He and his wife Robin are retired and have been volunteering at Friends Book Sales.

**Charles (Charlie) Hatch** lives in beautiful Central Bridge. He has worked as a ceramics materials engineer for GE and, more recently, for both the NYS Departments of Health and Correctional Services. Charlie has been volunteering at the bookstore and is a regular on the Wednesday morning sorting team.

**Leah Leonard** has been a member of the Friends for 22 years. She coordinates the McChesney Room for the large book sales and is a long-time sorter on the Wednesday morning team. Leah recently ended 10 years of distinguished service on the Board of Trustees of the Schenectady County Public Library.

**Joan Molloy** retired from nursing for 30 years at the Bellevue Maternity Hospital. She is now an avid golfer, wintering in Myrtle Beach. She is active in her church, St. Paul's Episcopal, and is a member of the Rowdy Scarlett's Red Hat group. Joan has been a volunteer at book sales and currently sorts and organizes the popular authors' section. She also volunteers at the Whitney Book Corner.

**Dorothea (Dottie) Potochnik** has been a member of the Friends for many years. She retired as a teacher from the Schenectady City Schools and is active in the AAUW and the Union Presbyterian Church. Dottie works as a sorter of children's books on the Wednesday morning sorting team.

**Gloria Zampini** has been a long time member of the Friends. She chaired the first One County One Book program and has more recently completed dedicated service to the library as a member of the Board of Trustees. Gloria is a certified EPA inspector who deals with the Federal HUD program. She has served on many boards in Schenectady County and is a regular volunteer for Friends activities.

*Nominated for a 2nd 3 year term:* Gail Karl and Christine Witkowski.

*Continuing in their 1st term:* Robert Coppola, Virginia Golden, John Karl, Virginia Thompson, William Ward

*Continuing in their 2nd three year term:* Valerie Catlin, Sally Magid, Simon Weinstein

*Ending 6 years of membership on the Board but continuing their active service to the Friends are:* Barbara Grasier, and Kathy August

**Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2010**

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		<b>Book Sales Fund</b>	<b>70,878.57</b>
Certificates of Deposit	171,329.09	<b>Endowment Fund - Unrestricted</b>	<b>7,890.90</b>
Checking Accounts	13,163.79	<b>Gilbert Endowment Fund Restricted</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
Money Market Accounts	271,426.68	<b>Mahan Fund</b>	<b>91,682.74</b>
Savings Accounts	<u>1002.09</u>	<b>Music Fund</b>	<b>11,289.54</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b><u>456,921.65</u></b>	<b>Niemeyer Memorial Fund</b>	<b>5,352.93</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>456,921.65</u></b>	<b>Niskayuna Landscape Fund</b>	<b>990.25</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>		<b>Operating Funds</b>	<b>64,668.75</b>
AAA Visa Travel Cart	265.37	<b>Whitney Book Corner</b>	<b>169,162.03</b>
Bulk Postage Permit Acct.	191.48	<b>Woodlawn Fund</b>	<b>632.81</b>
Petty Cash - Noon Programs	25.00	<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>33,879.98</u></b>
Petty Cash - Postage	25.00	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b><u>457,428.50</u></b>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b><u>506.85</u></b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>457,428.50</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>457,428.50</u></b>		

**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library  
Profit and Loss Budget Performance: January through December 2010**

	Jan - Dec 10	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Author Book Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00
BookSale Income	42,798.75	38,600.00	4,198.75
Contributions	20,008.59	17,000.00	3,008.59
Friends trips	-258.65		-258.65
GE Match	3,105.00	5,000.00	-1,895.00
Gifts/Memorial Contributions	1,495.00	200.00	1,295.00
Interest	5,234.79	5,000.00	234.79
On line sales	6,690.57	7,500.00	-809.43
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>79,074.05</b>	<b>73,300.00</b>	<b>5,774.05</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Annual Dinner	424.02	325.00	99.02
Audit	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Book Donations from Booksales	0.00	25.00	-25.00
BookSale Expenses	4,108.46	27,500.00	-23,391.54
Central Landscape	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Equipment	559.04	2,600.00	-2,040.96
Friends Noon Programs	1,274.61	1,200.00	74.61
Hospitality	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jail	0.00	0.00	0.00
Library Week	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Membership	66.62	200.00	-133.38
Memorials/Gifts Expense	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Music	276.69	600.00	-323.31
Newsletter	2,505.33	2,300.00	205.33
Other	701.61	750.00	-48.39
Outreach	176.00	300.00	-124.00
Piano	245.00	500.00	-255.00
Poetry Gala	33.70	100.00	-66.30
Postage	895.41	2,000.00	-1,104.59
Program Supplies, Adult	3,474.89	1,000.00	2,474.89
Program Supplies, Children-YA	3,987.34	7,000.00	-3,012.66
Programs, Adults	11,769.92	20,000.00	-8,230.08
Programs, Children-YA	11,908.00	15,000.00	-3,092.00
Publicity	548.90		548.90
SACCTV 16	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Staff Conferences	1,497.38	1,500.00	-2.62
Stationery	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Volunteer Picnic	741.15	1,500.00	-758.85
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>45,194.07</b>	<b>86,400.00</b>	<b>-41,205.93</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>33,879.98</b>	<b>-13,100.00</b>	<b>46,979.98</b>