

January, 1968

Vol. III, No. 1

Gifts and Bequests

Mrs. Charles Concordia, Gifts and Bequests Secretary, announces that 27 gifts totaling \$274 have so far been received in memory of Florence Van Epps. Other gifts amounting to \$20 have also been received by the Friends since the last Newsletter.

Nominating Chairman Appointed

The Friends' president, Mrs. Norris, has announced that Mrs. Herbert Poller will serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of officers and seven new board members for 1968-1969.

Board Replacement

The resignation of Mr. Ralph Bengtson was accepted with regret at the November meeting of the Board. Mr. Fred W. McChesney has been named to fill the remainder of Mr. Bengtson's term, which expires in 1969.

The Director's Chair

The new building is going ahead with unexpected rapidity. The contractors are on schedule, the building is 50 percent finished, and a fall 1968 completion date is not just a promise but practically a certainty. If I say the builders have just poured the auditorium roof, you will of course understand that it--like most of the building--is formed of concrete. We are all delighted with the progress being made.

--E. Leonore White

"FILMS

SANDWICHED

IN"

County Planning Commissioner

Mastrianni to Open Friends'

Noontime Film Series January 15

Four "Films Sandwiched In" have been scheduled at the YMCA to follow the successful lunch-hour "Books Sandwiched In" fall series.

Joseph E. Mastrianni, planning commissioner for Schenectady County, will be the commentator on the first film, which is entitled "Green City," to be shown on January 15. Following Mondays will feature these programs:

Jan. 22 - "Dylan Thomas"

Commentator: Mrs. Selden Crary, Instructor in Literature, Adult Education Division, Schenectady City Schools.

Jan. 29 - "British Sculptors"

Commentator: Robert Blood Sculptor-in-residence, Schenectady Museum.

Feb. 5: "Inconstant Air"

Commentator: Bernard Vonnegut, Senior Research Scientist, Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, SUNY at Albany.

All programs will be held at 12:00 at the YMCA and are open to the public. Those attending are welcome either to use the YM cafeteria before the meeting or to carry lunch trays to the meeting room.

Mrs. T. E. Rich, program chairman for the Friends, has been in charge of arrangements for the series.

FRIENDS OF THE
SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

President: Mrs. R. H. Norris
1st Vice Pres.: Glenn Burrows
2nd Vice Pres.: Dr. Walter Grattidge
Secretary: Miss Anna Turkalo
Treasurer: Mrs. Paul A. Frank

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Mrs. John F. Brown, Jr.
Circulation: Mrs. Donald Kerr

Shut-In Service Initiated

The Friends' program of bringing library books to home-bound individuals has gotten under way, according to Mrs. John Kagay, chairman of service to shut-ins. If you know of anyone in need of this service, Mrs. Kagay would welcome hearing from you at 377-6834--or call Mrs. Smeallie at the Library (372-4415).

SCPL's Artist-Magician

Have you wondered whose talented hands are responsible for the handsome posters and displays in the Children's Room and elsewhere in the Central Library, as well as in the branches?

The construction-paper wizard behind the displays is Mrs. August G. Coffin of Schenectady, who has been with the County system since 1958. Starting at the former Van Vranken Branch as an aide, she became known for her artistic abilities, and within

a couple of years she was in charge of art work for the system, creating an amazing variety of animals, elves, balloons, kites, and whatever else strikes her fancy, and incorporating them into display material for the library's halls and walls and windows.

Mrs. Coffin works almost entirely in bright construction paper, with a few touches of paint here and there. Besides creating the displays, she works with other staff members in designing and doing the art work for the many brochures, book lists, and other informational materials the library offers the public, and also for the poetry pages that grace the Children's Room.

Mrs. Coffin studied art in New York before coming to Schenectady, but her inspirations, she says, come from material she finds right here in the library. She has three children -- a married son, another son serving in Viet Nam, and a 16-year-old daughter whom she is pleased to have working after school as a page in the Catalog Department.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Friends' board of directors will be on Friday, January 19, at 12:00 noon at the GE Research and Development Center, The Knolls.

Looking forward to more working space in the new building, Mrs. Coffin anticipates being able to branch out into other kinds of art work such as mobiles and papiermache figures. Certainly, library-users anticipate seeing even more of her gay and imaginative work.

FRIENDS OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

35 Front Street
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305
December 6, 1967

Dear Friend of the Library:

As there seems to be some confusion among our members as to the fiscal year of our organization, we are writing this letter to all our members whose dues are in arrears. This lack of clarity over when dues are due is understandable when you realize that, as a new organization, we have sought memberships throughout the year instead of conducting a concentrated membership drive. However, our fiscal year runs from May 1 to May 1 and the annual membership meeting is held in April. Starting next year, we will bill all members immediately following the meeting. (For your information, we have adopted the policy that all new members joining on February 1 or later will have their membership extended through the approaching fiscal year.)

Your membership has helped us launch the Friends and we hope you plan to continue with us. With the new library opening in the fall, our group has a real opportunity to be helpful to the staff and to the community. Do fill out the attached blank. We plan to revise our mailing list after the January newsletter is mailed out; and watch out for our noontime film series that starts in January at the YMCA.

Sincerely yours,

Betty Norris

Mrs. R. H. Norris, President

Please detach and mail to Mrs. Murray Sprung, 1144 Van Curler Ave., Schenectady 12308

I wish to renew my membership in the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library and enclose my check for \$ _____ for the type of membership checked below.

_____ Individual	\$2	_____ Patron	\$100
_____ Family	\$4	_____ Organizational	\$15
_____ Contributing	\$10	_____ Business and	
_____ Supporting	\$25	_____ Industrial	\$25 and over

Please make checks payable to "Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library". Contributions and membership fees are deductible for income tax purposes.

About the Speaker...

JOHN A. HUMPHRY, who will speak at the Friends' Annual Meeting on April 22, came to his present post with the State's Education Department from the directorship of the Brooklyn Public Library, in April 1967.

A graduate of Harvard and of Columbia's School of Library Service, he has worked also at Libraries at Harvard, in Baltimore, and in Springfield, Mass. (his birthplace). During World War II, he did intelligence work for the Navy.

Mr. Humphry has served as president of the Massachusetts Library Association, as board member of the New England Library Association, and with the resources and technical services division of the American Library Association. He has been advisor, consultant, and lecturer in library matters for various schools and institutions, and has conducted state-wide comprehensive library studies in both Delaware and Rhode Island. His book "Library Cooperation" was published in 1963.

He and his wife, who is from Newton, Mass., have two sons, one at Cornell and one at the College of Wooster, Ohio. The Humphrys live on Rosendale Road, Niskayuna.

PLAN TO ATTEND . . .
THE FRIENDS' ANNUAL
MEETING AND DINNER
<u>Monday, April 22 - Holiday Inn</u>
. . . SPEAKER:
JOHN A. HUMPHRY,
Assistant Commissioner for
Libraries in New York State
<u>Details and reservation form below.</u>

THE FOURTH WEEK of April marks National Library Week--and the occasion of the Friends' Third Annual Meeting. A dinner meeting is scheduled this year, to be held at the Holiday Inn, Nott Terrace, Schenectady; there will be a social hour starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Reservations are required in advance.

Guests of honor at the dinner will be members of the Library staff having 20 years or more of service.

After a brief business meeting and election of officers, we will be privileged to hear John A. Humphry, Assistant

Please reserve _____ places in my name for the Friends of the Library dinner on Monday, April 22, at Holiday Inn.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (@ \$4.50 per person).

I will pay at the door (\$5.00 per person) _____ .

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: Mrs. T. A. Rich, 78 St. Stephen's Lane, Scotia, N. Y. 12302

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Schenectady Public Library.

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Commissioner for Libraries in New York State, speak on modern libraries and library systems.

The full chicken dinner is \$5.00, if paid for at the door (reservation in advance is still required); \$4.50 if your check accompanies the registration and is received by April 17. The fee in either case includes gratuity and tax. Please use the reservation form on the first page of the Newsletter.

Mrs. T. A. Rich is in charge of arrangements for the dinner. Serving with her are Mrs. Philip Ham, Mrs. Miles Martin, Mrs. John McGrew, Mrs. Ronald Wilson, and Mrs. Volney Wilson.

For people interested in learning more about library work and the opportunities it offers, the Mohawk Valley Library Association is holding an information meeting at its headquarters, 858 Duanesburg Road, on April 24 at 9:30 a.m. Speakers on various phases of library work will include representatives from S.U.N.Y.'s library school. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Dr. Louis Navias has been appointed by Mrs. Norris as delegate from the Friends to the Citizens' Convention for the Schenectady School Board. Mrs. Donald Kerr was named as alternate.

The "Library in Action" photo contest winners will be awarded prizes of books to be donated by the Friends.

Slate for 1968-1969

The following slate of officers and Board members will be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting on April 22:

President: Mrs. Charles Concordia
1st V. P.: Mrs. John F. Brown, Jr.
2nd V. P.: Dr. Walter Grattidge
Secretary: Miss Ann Turkalo
Treasurer: Mrs. Paul A. Frank

Directors

(New): Vincent Aceto
Miss Ruth Ann Evans
Steve Fitz
Miss Helen Mynderse

Directors

(Renominated): Mrs. J.F. Brown, Jr.
Mrs. Donald Kerr
Mrs. Fred Luborsky

Board members continuing in office are: Mrs. J. E. Bigelow, Glenn Burrows, Mrs. Concordia, Mrs. Harold A. Dewhurst, Kent Dixon, Mrs. Frank, Dr. Grattidge, Mrs. John F. Kagay, Fred W. McChesney, Mrs. Herbert Poller, Mrs. T.A. Rich, Heaward Robinson, Jr., Mrs. Murray Sprung, and Miss Turkalo.

The new nominees for the Board are each well qualified to make a contribution to the work of the Friends. Mr. Aceto is professor of library science at S.U.N.Y. Miss Evans is assistant librarian at Union College. Mr. Fitz, in charge of communications at GE's Large Steam Turbine component, was for a number of years connected with radio and TV in the area. Miss Mynderse, a specialist in nursery education, will represent the Mayor's Committee for a new Scotia Library on the Friends' Board.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee preparing the above slate was Mrs. Poller. Other committee members were Miss Adele Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mrs. Leo Jandreau, and Mrs. Luborsky.

Money in the Bank

Mrs. Paul Frank, Treasurer, reports a financial balance of \$560 in restricted funds and \$1071 in the general account of the Friends.

September 1968

Vol. III, No. 3

Summer Movie Program a Hit
in Horace Mann Neighborhood

This summer the Friends sponsored an outdoor movie series with a program each Wednesday night at dusk from July 17 to August 28 in the Horace Mann School playground. With the aid of a specially made screen (two 2 x 4's and a large sheet), seven evenings of films were presented, with the cooperation of the Horace Mann Neighborhood Association.

Most popular of the films shown were "The Golden Age of Comedy," "The Harlem Globetrotters," and "King Kong." Audiences, ranging in age from two years and up, usually numbered about 70, although over 100 watched "King Kong" and cheered heartily throughout. The Union Star supported the series by featuring it in an illustrated article.

Because of the success of the Wednesday series at Horace Mann, the Germania Action Group asked the Friends to present the movies on Tuesdays at the former Jewish Community Center on Germania Ave. That group has now asked the County Library to sponsor the showing of films there throughout the year on a continuing basis. The Friends may take credit for beginning a program which is popular with the local citizens and which the Library can continue.

In planning the film series, Miss White and the Library staff were most helpful, as were Roland B. DeAncy and Mrs. Robert J. Szemela, president and secretary, respectively, of the Horace Mann Neighborhood Association. Active in this program from the Friends were Vincent Aceto, Lyman and Karen Johnson, and Rebekah Poller.

The Friends provided financial support for the film rentals, which proved to be about \$200 more than anticipated; and additional funds are being sought to cover the balance of the cost of the program. Contributions would be welcome. They may be sent to the treasurer, Mrs. Paul Frank, at 1576 Regent Street.

-- Karen Johnson

GREAT DAY!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Why? because a new "Books Sandwiched In" series starts at 12 noon at the YMCA . . . with three more programs to follow.

PLAN NOW TO COME!

Oct October 7 - "The Double Helix"Commentator: Mrs. Charles Olton

James D. Watson's personal account of the discovery of DNA, a major scientific advance which led to the award of a Nobel Prize.

October 14 - "The Autobiography of Malcolm X"Commentator: Dr. David Potts of Union College's History Dept.

This book is one chosen for discussion by Union freshmen during their orientation period this fall. Dr. Potts can enlighten us on student reaction to it.

October 21 - "Speak, Memory"Commentator: Mrs. Selden Cray

V. V. Nabokov's newest has been described as "an enchanting host of recollections of youthful years, a liberal-minded father, a beautiful mother, and lovely civilized hours in St. Petersburg and the surrounding countryside."

October 28 - "Death at an Early Age"Commentator: Dr. Donald Sayles of the Schenectady School System

Dr. Sayles will compare Jonathan Kozol's book with some others that also comment on the problems of education, particularly as they pertain to racial issues.

"Books Sandwiched In" programs will all be held at the YMCA at noon, and will adjourn by 1:15 p.m. A new depart-

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Mrs. Ronald H. Wilson
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ture this season, according to Mrs. T. A. Rich, Program chairman; if you like, you may order a sandwich ahead and have it waiting for you in the meeting room. To place your order, just call the Central Library (372-4415) between 9 and 11 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Or you may of course pick up your lunch in the regular YMCA cafeteria line when you arrive.

The Director's Chair

Progress on the library building progresses -- at times less rapidly than we might wish. No definite date has been set for the move, but I do not anticipate an opening before sometime in February.

A commercial mover will handle the actual transportation of books and furniture, and the Library will be closed during the move. I hope that our readers will borrow heavily immediately before the moving date to lessen the movers' load.

The Library is scheduling a series of adult and young adult film programs, beginning in October, with the hope that they can be extended after the move into the new building. The program schedule is listed in the Calendar.

-- E. Leonore White

Fall Membership Plans

During September, newly designed brochures inviting membership in the Friends are being distributed at the branch libraries.

Mrs. John Mahar, membership chairman, will speak on the Friends' organization at the "film evening" to be held at the Woodlawn branch on October 22. (see Calendar).

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

1968-1969

Finance

Mrs. Paul A. Frank

Brochure

Mr. Steve Fitz

Gifts and Endowment

Mrs. Herbert Poller

Library Opening Assistance

Mr. F. W. McChesney

Mr. Glenn Burrows

Membership

Mrs. John W. Mahar

Nominating

Mrs. R. Hosmer Norris

Program

Mrs. T. A. Rich

Public Relations

Mrs. J. E. Bigelow

Services to Shut-Ins

to be appointed

Volunteer Services

Mrs. John F. Kagay

Representatives to

Community Welfare Council

Mrs. Fred E. Luborsky

Mrs. R. Hosmer Norris

Representatives to Schenectady

School Board Convention

Mr. Vincent Aceto

Mrs. Fred E. Luborsky

File

Last April

...the Third Annual Meeting and dinner of the Friends was held, on the 22nd, at the Holiday Inn. It was a smashing success, thanks to Mrs. T. A. Rich and her committee, and to the large and enthusiastic group of Friends and guests in attendance.

Honored at the dinner as special guests were the Library's 20-year staff members, Mrs. Dorothea Brown, Miss Ruth L. Adams, Miss Catherine Tower, Miss Adele H. Brown, and Mrs. Magdalene E. Cox. (Mrs. Sylvia Rowback, staff member with the longest record of service, dating from 1934, was unable to be present because of illness in her family.) Mrs. Brown responded for the staff group with a few "reminiscences and gratitude."

Also honored were Mrs. E. MacDonald Stanton, who received a scroll from Miss White, Library director, recognizing her as Library Volunteer of the Year; and Mrs. Monica N. Alden, designer of the winning bookplate in the Friends' con-

test. Her design has been incorporated in a new bookmark now in use at the Children's Room.

Mr. John A. Humphry, Assistant Commissioner of Education and head of the New York State Library, spoke on "New Channels of Library Service for New York State." Mr. Fred W. McChesney gave a progress report on the new building; and Mrs. Charles Concordia, newly elected president, expressed, in her terms, an "appreciation and a look ahead."

Mrs. R. Hosmer Norris, who presided at the meeting, thanked Mrs. August G. Coffin of the Library staff for designing the programs and the covers for the annual report.

The by-law changes circulated earlier last spring to all members were presented for approval and adopted, during the short business meeting.

On display at the meeting were some of the group of Beatrix Potter figurines purchased through this year's \$300 gift of the Friends to the Library.

CALENDAR OF LIBRARY EVENTS

- Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m., Children's Room
Central Library
Young Adult films: "Story of a Writer" and "Study in Wet"
- Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m., Children's Room
Central Library
Adult film: "The Jazz Age"
- Oct. 7, 12:00, YMCA
Mrs. Charles Olton on "The Double Helix"
- Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m., Children's Room
Central Library
Young Adult films: "Munro" and "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"
- Oct. 14, 12:00, YMCA
Dr. David Potts on "The Autobiography of Malcolm X"
- Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m., Children's Room
Central Library
Young Adult films: "The Hat" and "Reality of Karel Appel"

- Oct. 21, 12:00, YMCA
Mrs. Selden Crary on "Speak, Memory"
- Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., Woodlawn Branch
Friends' Film Evening: "The Nile," narrated by James Mason
- Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m., Children's Room
Central Library
Young adult film, to be announced
- Oct. 28, 12:00, YMCA
Dr. Donald Sayles on "Death at an Early Age"
- Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m., Children's Room
Central Library
Young Adult film, to be announced
- Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m., Children's Room
Central Library
Adult film: "Life in the Thirties"
- Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., Children's Room
Central Library
Adult film: "F.D.R."