

Mrs. Raymond Sigsbee, President
 Mrs. Andrew Pletenik, 1st Vice-President
 Mrs. William H. Day, 2nd Vice-President
 Mrs. Roger Yepsen, Recording Secretary

Mrs. David Potts, Corresponding Secretary
 Mr. Frank Maginniss, Treasurer
 Mr. Carl Niemeyer, Editor, NEWSLETTER
 The William McColl Family, Circ. NEWSLETTER

FOURTH ANNUAL BOOK SALE
 Saturday, October 2 -- 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 at the
 CENTRAL LIBRARY

BOOKS FOR THE SALE

Please help us by donating your TIME and your BOOKS. Books means hard covers or paperbacks, special interest magazines (no weeklies, please!), and recordings. Remember, we appeal to a broad clientele, and books you're no longer interested in and want to clear from your shelves may be just what someone else is looking for. Just bring your contributions to the Central Library during regular hours.

TIME means as many hours as you can give for sorting, boxing, and transporting books from the storage area to the Community Room on Thursday, September 30; and on the day of the sale (Saturday) for acting as cashiers and helping restock the tables. Call Betsy Potts (374-2133) or Barbara Beverley (374-2333). They'll be grateful, and so will the Friends!

BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN SERIES

Here is the fall schedule for this popular series that has long been under the sponsorship of The Friends. All dates are Mondays. The hour is NOON. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea are available in the vestibule of the Community Room, where the series is held. Please notice that no review is scheduled for October 11.

SEPTEMBER 20

929.2 THE ROCKEFELLERS: AN AMERICAN DYNASTY
 R68c By Peter Collier and David Horowitz
 Reviewer: Mrs. Betty Bean

OCTOBER 18

RAGTIME
 F By E. L. Doctorow
 Reviewer: Mrs. Hester Shapiro

SEPTEMBER 27

B I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS
 A5841 By Maya Angelou
 Reviewer: Mrs. Frances Grant

OCTOBER 25

1876
 F By Gore Vidal
 Reviewer: Mrs. Natalie Yepsen

OCTOBER 4

B SCOUNDREL TIME
 H477a2 By Lillian Hellman
 Reviewer: Prof. Harold W. Blodgett

NOVEMBER 1

B EDWARD THE VIII
 E252d By Frances Donaldson
 Reviewer: Mrs. Katie Rich

* * * * *

DOORSTEP: SUMMER 1976

During July and August, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, in the Van Vranken Street and Hamilton districts of Schenectady, three children's librarians were out ringing cowbells! These are almost as good as the sound of the ice-cream truck for attracting children. Only Mrs. Nancy Gifford, Mrs. Janet Lindsley, and Miss Iris Fagle of the SCPL staff told stories for free, instead of handing out ice-cream cones for money. When a few children appeared, everybody sat down on a convenient porch or doorstep and listened to the story-teller. Although the series was planned for children, adults were sometimes found listening too, and were equally welcome. The librarians estimate the audience at about four hundred listeners a week. The program ended August 27 and was the subject of a byline story, with a picture, in the GAZETTE of the day before. The Friends will

take satisfaction in knowing that the \$1,500 voted by our Board to implement the program was well spent and greatly appreciated by the children whom it reached.

A FAMILY FILM SERIES made possible by the generosity of The Friends, has been scheduled for Thursday evenings at 7:30 during October and November, in the Meeting Room of the central library. The schedule is as follows:

October 7 -- "The Yearling"
 October 14 -- "My Side of the Mountain"
 October 21 -- "Bushbaby"
 October 28 -- "Little Women"
 November 4 -- "Cheaper By the Dozen"
 November 18 -- "National Velvet"

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

E. Leonore White has both good news and bad news to report. The good news is the REINSTATEMENT OF A BOOKMOBILE STOP. The SCPL Bookmobile will reinstate a stop at Union Street and Woodland Avenue, beginning Thursday, September 16, from 6:00 to 8:15 p.m. This stop, formerly scheduled for Friday evenings, is in the parking lot of the Schenectady Trust Company. The reinstatement has been made possible through rearrangement of the Bookmobile staff schedules and will not require additional personnel. -- The bad news is that in an effort to live within the 1976 budget allocated the Library by the County Board of Representatives, it will be necessary to continue the Saturday closings, which are part of the summer schedule, through the month of September. In the past, the central library and the branches have usually begun Saturday service on the first Saturday following Labor Day. This year the central library will resume Saturday service on October 2. Branches will continue to close at 6 p.m., Friday nights, for the remainder of the year. Central Library hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Saturday hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Donna Jean Sigsbee. "With continued enthusiasm and interest from the community and The Friends, we are again organizing and presenting events of interest and value to the community. The Friends will support the County Library to the best of our ability, with community programs and with financial support to activities for which aid is not available from the County."

RECENT GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Two new memorial funds for use by the library have recently been set up through The Friends. The fund in memory of Marion Weininger (Mrs. Joseph Weininger) is to be used for the purchase of children's books, an area in which Mrs. Weininger was deeply interested. The bookplate, which The Friends have designed especially for children's books, will be placed in each volume of the collection. -- Contributions have also been made to a fund in memory of Mrs. Louise Carey Herskind, wife of Mr. C. Curtis Herskind of 2004 Lexington Parkway. The allocation of this fund is still un-terminated. Contributions to both funds may still be made through Mr. Maginniss, treasurer of The Friends. The Friends are deeply grateful to the contributors for their generosity.

THREATS TO LIBRARY SERVICE

SCPL is not the only library whose director must regretfully report reductions in service. At the Chicago meeting of the American Library Association in July of this year, Daniel Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, warned that the nation is on the brink of "turning out the lights on its libraries." He was referring especially to recently announced cuts in New York and Detroit. He urged librarians to discover new means of financing. The governing body of the Association, according to the UPI report in the New York Times, under a July 23 dateline, passed a resolution urging the Congress to add a new title to the Library Services and Construction Act authorizing state grants to large urban libraries.

* * * * *

NEW OFFICERS

Chairmen of The Friends committees for the coming year were named at the May meeting of the Board of Directors:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Membership | Mrs. George Connelly |
| Finance | Frank Maginniss |
| Nominating | Mrs. Leonard Niedrach |
| Program | Mrs. Andrew Pletenik |
| Public Relations | Mrs. William H. Day |
| Volunteer Services | Elizabeth Taylor |
| Community Liaison | Owen Begley |
| Newsletter | Carl Niemeyer |
| Circulation | Mrs. William McColl and Family |
| Gifts and Endowments | Mrs. Herbert Pollar |

The Chairmanship of the Outreach Program is still vacant.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Liberty & Clinton Streets
Schenectady, New York 12305

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TABLE TALKS: FALL SERIES

November 8 - Dr. David C. Golibersuch (GE Research and Development)
"Alternative Energy Sources"

November 15 - Professor Jogindar Uppal (Professor of Economics, SUNY Albany)
"Mrs. Gandhi and India"

November 22 - Dr. Paul Johnson (Assistant professor of Political Science, Union College)
"Strengths and Weaknesses of the SALT Agreements"

November 29 - Mr. Harold Chestnut (GE Research and Development, Energy Science and Engineering)
"Human Habitat"

December 6 - Professor Garry Wills (Washington Irving Professor of Modern Literary and Historical Studies, Union College, Fall 1976; author of Nixon Agonistes)
"The 1976 Election"

December 13 - Dr. Albert Yee (GE Research and Development)
"China after the Death of Mao Tse-tung"

All these talks are given on Mondays at noon, in the Meeting Room of the Schenectady County Public Library, under the auspices of The Friends. Bring your lunch; coffee and tea are available.

* * * * *

THE BOOK SALE--AN UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

Since volunteers first began sorting and categorizing books in the library stacks last spring, a total of at least sixty persons generously gave their time preparing for and working at The Friends' annual book sale. More than forty persons, ages twelve and up, helped to pack books, to move books to the sales areas, and finally to sell books on the big day itself, October 2. Donations were estimated to be about ten or twelve thousand items.

The sale began enthusiastically at 9:30 a.m., a half hour earlier than in the past. Best selling items were children's books, magazines, books on crafts and hobbies, cookbooks, mysteries, better books, and phonograph recordings. At one p.m. all items were reduced to half price, and at three everything still unsold was priced at one dollar a shopping bag. Many of the volunteers were still working at five, when to the disappointment of latecomers, the sale closed; and Louis Navias, our cashier, was ready to deposit to The Friends' account the astonishing sum of \$4,094.09. In making his report later at a meeting of The Friends he gave figures for the preceding years as well:

1973	\$1,779.50
1974	1,946.15
1975	2,886.10.

This year's sale (our fourth) took in, in other words, about forty-two percent more dollars than last year's. Barbara Beverley and Betsy Potts, book sale chairman and co-chairman, extend their sincere thanks to all volunteers whose time and energy made the day a success. Thanks are also due the Unitarian Society, who supplied the tables on which the books were displayed.

The Friends owe especial gratitude to Mrs. Beverley and Mrs. Potts for their skill in organizing a complex enterprise, and to Dr. Navias, who to our regret, after serving four years, wishes to be relieved of the job of cashier.

Miss E. Leonore White writes: "The valiant efforts of The Friends of the Library to save the library budget from drastic cutting were appreciated to the full. There seemed to be no way in which to convince the Board of Representatives to save library services from such cuts. In the 1977 budget, which was passed on October 28, \$150,000 was eliminated from the county manager's budget request for library personnel and \$75,000 from the contractual services section. Included under contractual services are such fixed costs as light, heat, rent, service contracts for air conditioning and heat control, elevator servicing, and the like. Within these areas there is little possibility of finding 'free' money. The only item in this section of the budget which can be cut is the book budget.

\$135,000 was requested originally, from which the county manager cut \$10,000, leaving \$125,000 for books for all library units for 1977. This amount has now been reduced to \$50,000--barely enough to take care of periodical subscriptions already placed and some standing orders for such items as encyclopedia annual yearbooks and other reference-type publications published annually or semi-annually. The progress of the 1977 library budget is as follows:

1977 budget request to county manager:	1,625,442.
County manager's reduction	49,166.
County Board's reduction	225,000.
Final library budget as approved	1,351,276.
1976 library budget	1,464,454.
Cutback from '76 to '77	-113,178."

ANNIVERSARY

Just one hundred years ago, in October 1876, Melvil Dewey introduced to some of his fellow-librarians meeting together as a group for the first time, in Philadelphia, his new decimal system for classifying and shelving books. It is still in wide use, for instance at SCPL. Dewey was a native upstater, who founded the Columbia University Library School and advocated adoption of the metric system.

GIFTS: Mrs. Poller, chairman of The Friends' committee on gifts and endowments, reports that Literature Group 6 of the AAUW has recently made a gift to The Friends. In doing so, the members wrote: "We all appreciate the fine library facilities available and also the kindness of those librarians who came to our first fall meeting to tell us about new books." Mrs. Poller reminds us that The Friends welcome gifts from groups and organizations as well as from individuals.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Liberty & Clinton Streets
Schenectady, New York 12305

The public hearing on the county budget was held on the evening of October 28. Some three hundred citizens attended, filling the Board's chambers on the sixth floor of the county building, with standees spilling over into the hallways. Ronald Dixon, president of the library board, made a thoughtful presentation of the library's case; and it was apparent throughout the evening, to judge by the applause greeting expression of the various points of view, that the crowd was sympathetic to the library. In the board session which followed, however, frustrated spectators saw the proposed cuts sustained. The critical vote came on an amendment by Mrs. Bean (Niskayuna) proposing to limit the cut to \$150,000 (instead of \$225,000) with implementation in the hands of the library administration. This was defeated by a vote of seven to eight, with the following representatives voting for the larger cut: Chase (Schenectady), Daly (Rotterdam), De Blasio (Schenectady), Featherstonhaugh (Duanesburg), Keating (Niskayuna), Lasak (Schenectady), McGuire (Schenectady), and Wright (Glenville).

Despite the disappointing result, much commendation goes to The Friends who, in the few days before the hearing, called and wrote their representatives to urge restoration of the cuts.

OUTREACH: FRIENDS OF THE COUNTY JAIL LIBRARY

Mrs. Isabella Dewhurst is the new chairman of the Outreach Program. She notes that since July 1970, volunteers have provided library service to the County Jail. Visits are bi-weekly, at present on Mondays and Thursdays, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Books are obtained through donations, with some financial assistance provided by The Friends. Many subjects are available: general fiction, westerns, mysteries, and poetry, to name a few. Special requests may also be obtained. A professional librarian, Mrs. Bertha Krieger, has aided the service since 1973. Mrs. Pat Jones is co-ordinator of volunteer services.

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Dr. & Mrs. C.F. Stamm
1547 Wendell Avenue
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January 1977

VOL. XII NO. 3

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BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN SERIES

The six reviews for the winter 1977 series include an interesting variety of recently published books. Fiction, biography, current controversy, and contemporary history are all represented, in a program put together by Mrs. Roger Yepsen. Dates, titles, and reviewers are named below. As usual the hour is NOON; the day Monday, beginning January 10; the place the Community Room of the main library. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be available at a modest charge in the vestibule of the Community Room. The first review is of the most recent work of fiction by Saul Bellow, winner of the 1976 Nobel Prize For Literature.

JANUARY 10

F HUMBOLDT'S GIFT
 By Saul Bellow
 Reviewer: Nancy Thornton

JANUARY 17

B THE WOMAN WARRIOR
 K556 By Maxine Hong Kingston
 Reviewer: Janet Seery

JANUARY 24

817 THE DEFINITIVE BIOGRAPHY OF
 S33d P.D.Q. BACH, 1807-1742?
 By Peter Schickele
 Reviewer: Frank Lindsay

JANUARY 31

B EZRA POUND: THE LAST ROWER
 P876h By C. David Heymann
 Reviewer: Carl Niemeyer

FEBRUARY 7

B TWENTIETH CENTURY JOURNEY
 \$5579 By William L. Shirer
 Reviewer: Manfred Jonas

FEBRUARY 14

333.7 POVERTY OF POWER
 C734 By Barry Commoner
 Reviewer: Jean Schutt

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Once again The Friends, with Mrs. Andrew Pletenik acting as co-ordinator, are sponsoring two series of lectures, by two professors emeriti of Union College: Harold Blodgett and Carl Niemeyer, both former chairmen of the Union department of English. The common theme of the two courses will be humor and comedy, and each lecturer is suggesting some books to be read in connection with the talks, although the reading is not a requirement. The first series, by Professor Niemeyer, will begin on Friday, February 4; the second, by Professor Blodgett, starts Tuesday, March 15. Both series will be given in the Community Room. The complete schedules are given below.

FOUR CLASSICS OF COMIC FICTION

(four lectures given by Professor Niemeyer,
 on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. NO LECTURE ON
 FEBRUARY 11)

February 4 - Gulliver's Travels (1726)
 (Other suggested reading: Denis Donoghue,
 Jonathan Swift, A Critical Introduction, 1969)

February 18 - Jane Austen's Emma (1815)
 (Other suggested reading: J. F. Burrows,
 Jane Austen's Emma, 1968)

February 25 - The Posthumous Papers of the
 Pickwick Club (1836)
 (Other suggested reading: Edgar Johnson,
 Charles Dickens, His Tragedy and Triumph,
 2 vols., 1952)

March 4 - Lolita (Paris, 1955; New York
 1958)

(Other suggested reading: Andrew Field,
Nabokov His Life in Art, 1967)

FOUR CHAPTERS IN CLASSIC AMERICAN HUMOR
 (four lectures by Professor Blodgett,
 on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.)

March 15 - The Predecessors of Mark Twain

March 22 - Mark Twain Revisited

March 29 - The Era of the Columnists

April 5 - Satire in Our Era--Mencken
 and Others

For reading, Professor Blodgett suggests
 browsing in some of the many anthologies of
 American humor, such as: W. Blair, Native
 American Humor; A.P. Dudden, The Assault
 of Laughter, A Treasury of American Political
 Humor; S. Leacock, The Greatest Pages of
 American Humor; F. J. Meine, Tall Tales
 of the Southwest; H. Allen Smith, Desert
 Island Decameron; E. B. and K. White, A
 Subtreasury of American Humor. Also rec-
 ommended are Constance Rorke, American Humor,
A Study of the National Character; and H. W.
 Thompson's chapter on American humor in the
Literary History of the United States (vol.2).

GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Last April, Telford Taylor, the Schenectady native who was chief U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremburg War Crimes Trials after World War II, and is now professor at the Columbia University Law School, spoke at The Friends' annual dinner meeting. He returned his lecture fee to The Friends, asking that it be used to buy books for the Library in memory of his mother, Mrs. John Bellamy Taylor. The gift is devoted to the purchase of books in the field of music.

A contribution was made recently by friends of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Lucas in memory of their daughter, Marjorie. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas are giving it to the Library, through the intermediary of The Friends, for the purchase of books, the choice of titles being left to the Library. Their purpose, as Mr. Lucas explains, is to "help maintain Schenectady's most useful cultural asset."

A gift of particular interest comes from Miss Bernice Hodges, head librarian from 1941 until her retirement in 1955. She has placed a sum of money in the Endowment Fund of The Friends of the Library. Since endowments are forever, only the income being available for use, by her gift she has testified to her confidence in the future of our Library.

Miss Hodges came to Schenectady from Rochester, and during her twelve-year tenure started the bookmobile service, saw the Library through the War years, and began work on the new building, which, however, was not to be completed and occupied until 1969. Now at eighty-six, from her home in the Stockade Area, she retains her concern for the Library and the community.

The Friends and others interested are reminded that gifts to the Endowment Fund are always welcome. So, too, are gifts earmarked for immediate and specific projects, such as book purchases, supplies, and needed furnishings. The deep cut in the county budget makes these gifts even more welcome. Checks should be made out to: THE FRIENDS OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY and sent to The Friends' treasurer, Mr. Frank Maginniss, 1454 Lowell Road, 12308. Such gifts are tax-deductible.

PARTIAL RESTORATION OF THE BUDGET CUT

As the Library board faced the task of implementing the \$225,000 cut voted by the county board in late October (see the November Newsletter), it became evident that the future of three of the branches (Pleasant Valley, Scotia, and Woodlawn) was in grave jeopardy. Hostile public reaction to closing the Scotia branch (which had once been an independent library) was particularly strong, both from those who had opposed budget cuts in the first place and from those who supported the cuts but believed they should not entail losing any branches. After a joint meeting of the two boards, the county representatives reconsidered their position. On December 14, at a regular meeting, the county board voted, thirteen to two, to restore to the Library budget the sum of \$75,000, with the primary aim of easing the impact of the cuts on personnel. One fortunate consequence is that the threatened branches will remain open, though with curtailed service hours. (See below.)

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Miss E. Leonore White, Director of the Schenectady County Public Library, has announced new library hours, consequent upon the budget cuts made by the county Board of Representatives. They are effective January 3, 1977. Keep this schedule for future reference.

CENTRAL LIBRARY (Liberty and Clinton):

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

DUANE BRANCH (1331 State); SCOTIA BRANCH (14 Mohawk Ave.); and WINGATE BRANCH (2558 Guilderland Ave.):

Monday through Thursday 2 p.m.-9 p.m.
Friday 2 p.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

PLEASANT VALLEY BRANCH (1006 Crane Street):

Tuesday 2 p.m.-9 p.m.
Friday Noon -5 p.m.

WOODLAWN BRANCH (3002 Albany Street):

Monday 2 p.m.-9 p.m.
Thursday 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

The bookmobile schedule is available at the Central Library or at any of the five Branches.

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11TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
 Wednesday, April 20
 Special Guest Speaker
 Professor John C. Gerber
 Details on Page 3

SCPL STAFF RETIREMENTS

SCPL will suffer a number of crippling losses of personnel in 1977. Miss E. Leonore White, director since July 1953, has announced her retirement, which will be effective May 1. Miss Ruth Adams, head of the children's department, will retire on April 16 after thirty-two years of service. Mrs. Dorothea T. Browne, librarian of the Scotia Branch, retired March 4 following thirty-four years with SCPL. Mrs. Asilda Dube, principal library clerk and head of the order division, will retire April 13 after twenty years of service. Mrs. Beulah Brady, senior library clerk in the Children's Department for twelve years, is retiring March 19. The combined years of service to the Library of these staff members totals 122! The Friends thank them for their devoted, selfless service, and wish them well in their retirement.

RECENT GIFTS

A Friend, who prefers to remain anonymous, has responded to the cut in the Library book budget by contributing \$500.00 to be used by the Library staff for the purchase of contemporary fiction.

Ditte and Derek Sayers have made a gift to the Endowment Fund of The Friends, in honor of Mrs. Laura V. V. Trumbull, who is celebrating her ninetieth birthday this year. Mrs. Trumbull, a charter member of The Friends, was for many years librarian at Nott Terrace High School; she is now living at Teresian House, Albany. The contribution to community life of such persons as Mrs. Trumbull cannot easily be measured.

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN (Spring Series)

This season's list ranges from a book about the American Indian to one by the distinguished Colombian novelist now resident in Spain. Of the reviewers, Paul Dromagos is a psychologist in the East Greenbush schools. Dr. Rotundo is a member of the Schenectady School Board and professor at SUNY Albany. Drs. Lichterman and Valdes are on the Union College faculty.

APRIL 1

THE NAMES: A MEMOIR
 by N. Scott Momaday
 Reviewer: Erma Ruth Chestnut

MAY 6

AMERICA IN OUR TIME
 by Godfrey Hodgson
 Reviewer: Dr. Martin Lichterman

APRIL 18

THE WOMAN WARRIOR
 by Maxine Hong Kingston
 Reviewer: Janet Serry

MAY 16

MARGARET FULLER'S LIFE AND WRITINGS
 by B. G. Chavigny
 Reviewer: Dr. Barbara Rotundo

APRIL 25

BUBBLES
 by Beverly Sills
 Reviewer: Marjorie Woods

MAY 23

THE AUTUMN OF THE PATRIARCH
 by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
 Reviewer: Dr. Jorge M. Valdes

MAY 2

IS THERE LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?
 by Ralph Keyes
 Reviewer: Paul Dromagos

SCHENECTADY AND THEIR LIBRARY

During the week of February 21, according to a recent Gazette story, SCPL's daily circulation totaled 4,751, the second highest since the new library building opened. In fact, only on the opening day (April 1, 1969) was this figure exceeded. On February 22, 256 reference questions were handled, a record figure. Library use

continued heavy throughout the week, in part at least because this was vacation week in the public schools. SCPL still must live with the budget cuts it has suffered; but the staff are glad to serve the public in such gratifying numbers. With more support they could serve even better.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Business at the Annual Meeting on April 20 will be consideration of the report of the nominating committee for officers and board members. The following slate will be presented:

- President - Mrs. Raymond Sigsbee
- 1st Vice-president (Program)
 - Mrs. Charles Fenimore
- 2nd Vice-president (Public Relations)
 - Mrs. William Day
- Recording Secretary - Mrs. J. R. Woods
- Corresponding Secretary - Mr. A. T. Goble
- Treasurer - Mr. Frank Maginniss

Directors (for a three-year term):

- Mrs. William Bristol
- Mrs. Christopher C. Jones
- Mr. R. H. Norris
- Miss Mildred Parkinson
- Mrs. Charles Stamm
- Mrs. Peter Watrous

Director (renominated for a three-year term):

- Mrs. Raymond Sigsbee

Continuing Board members are:

- Mr. Owen Begley, Mrs. John Beverly, Mrs. George Connelly, Mrs. William Day, Mrs. Isabella Dewhurst, Mrs. Charles Fenimore, Mr. A. T. Goble, Mr. Frank Maginniss, Mrs. William McColl, Mr. Carl Niemeyer, Mr. Richard Raymond, Miss Elizabeth Taylor, Mr. Rufus Wheeler, and Mrs. J. R. Woods.

Retiring Board members are:

- Mr. Edgar Batzell, Mrs. Thomas DeWan, Mrs. Leonard Niedrach, Mrs. Andrew Pletenik, Mrs. David Potts, Mrs. Carmen Sabatello, and Mrs. Roger Yepsen

Members of the nominating committee presenting the report are:

- Mrs. DeWan, Mrs. Dewhurst, Mr. Maginniss, Mrs. Niedrach (Chairman), and Mrs. Potts.

SCPL TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS

Director E. Leonore White announces that Mrs. Alice Burns of Schenectady and Robert Carpenter of Scotia have been appointed to five-year terms on the Library Board of Trustees. Other trustees, continuing to serve, include Mrs. John F. Brown, Jr., Philip S. Coyne, Ronald C. Dixon, Jonathan Pearson III, Frank Rapant, Jr., John P. Reimherr, John F. Toppeta, Mrs. Donovan F. Wade and Roger B. Yepsen. Officers for 1977 are Mr. Dixon, President; Mr. Pearson, Vice-president; Mrs. Wade, Secretary; and Mr. Yepsen, Treasurer.

NOTES ON THE NEW NOMINEES

Mrs. William Bristol (Naomi) has taught for eleven years in the Schenectady city schools and is at present substituting at the elementary level. As a member of the League of Women Voters, she serves on the board and is chairman of the United Nations study group.

Mrs. Christopher C. Jones (Pat) is a volunteer-co-ordinator at the Schenectady County Jail library. The mother of two daughters she is active in the Van Antwerp School media center.

Mr. R. H. Norris is a charter member of The Friends, and is now a library volunteer. A retired G. E. engineer, he has been a resident of Schenectady County since 1932.

Miss Mildred Parkinson retired from teaching at Scotia High School, where she chaired the department of English, in 1967. She has since worked seven years in the Library, both in Scotia and at the central branch. She has also taught in Hawaii.

Mrs. Charles Stamm (Ann) sings in the choir of the First United Methodist Church and is a student of the organ. She is on the Board of Directors of the Schenectady Concert Association and has recently been membership chairman of the Linton High School PTSO.

Mrs. Peter Watrous (Margaret) lives in Duaneburg and is secretary of the Quaker Street Library Co-operative Club. She is mother of a pre-schooler.

FROM PRESIDENT SIGSBEE

The Friends now number 797, and we should all encourage friends of our own to become Friends of the Library. Only by your financial support can we continue to sponsor library programs such as "Doorstep," and "Outreach," the Table Talks, and Books Sandwiched In.

The Book Sale this year will be October 1, Marjorie Woods (377-6986) and Polly Rouault (374-7017) are this year's co-chairmen. They ask you to donate books, and to help sort books that have already been given. Book donations can be made at the Central Library.

Dr. Blodgett's lecture series, "Four Chapters in Classic American Humor," begins on Tuesday, March 15, at 10:30 a.m. The last of four talks will be April 5. The spring Table Talks series, Monday noons from February 28 through April 4, was arranged by Mrs. Fenimore. The spring Books Sandwiched In series, Monday noons from April 11 to May 23, was planned by Mrs. Rich.

We hope to see all our membership at the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

When: Wednesday, April 20, 1977

Where: First Reformed Church of Schenectady (Church Street entrance)

Time: 6:30 p.m. - Crackers and Cheese (Appreciation time for Miss White)

7:00 p.m. - Dinner (Chicken rosemary and a home made dessert are featured on the menu)

8:00 p.m. - Speaker - Dr. Gerber

RSVP: Use the tear-off at the bottom of this page. The deadline for reservations is April 10.

The business meeting after dinner will be brief to allow time for our speaker. The report of the nominating committee is given elsewhere in this issue.

Professor John Gerber, chairman of the department of English at SUNY Albany and one-time chairman of the department at the State University of Iowa, is the guest speaker. He is an authority on Mark Twain, now serving as general editor of the Iowa-California edition of Mark Twain. He is the author of Studies in Huckleberry Finn (1971) and received the distinguished service award of the National Council of Teachers of English in 1972. He has taught in overseas universities in Korea and Egypt. His topic will be "Midsummer Night's Madness; Collecting First Editions of Mark Twain."

TABLE TALKS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Two lectures in this series will have already been given by the time the NEWSLETTER is in your hands. Mr. Roger Yepsen, Manager of Strategic Planning, General Electric Company, spoke February 28 on "The Middle East." On March 7, Ms. Ann Eskesen, a SUNY Albany doctoral candidate in anthropology, discussed "The New Migration to the United States." Dates for the remaining four lectures are:

March 14 - Professor John A. Peke, department of economics, Cobleskill State College, will speak on "Inflation and Unemployment."

March 21 - Professor William Bristol, department of history, Union College, will speak on "The Role of Business in United States-Latin American Relations."

March 28 - Mrs. Helen Sun, a member of the SUNY Albany faculty in the field of Chinese literature, will discuss "The Role of Women in Chinese Literature."

April 4 - Dr. Ibrahim Gamari, Professor of African Studies at SUNY Albany, will speak on "Economic Development in Africa."

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Please reserve _____ places for The Friends of the Library dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 20.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ @ \$4.75 per person. Make checks payable to FRIENDS OF THE S.C.P.L.

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: Connie McColl
1380 Clifton Park Road
Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

RESERVATION DEADLINE APRIL 10

P.S.: We are looking for volunteers for this year. Would you like to sort books for the Book Sale? _____

Name

Would you like to help with Friends' activities? (Hostessing, typing, program planning)? _____

Name

KNOWNING YOUR LIBRARY

As you walk into the Library building on Liberty and Clinton, you pass a bulletin board covered with announcements of community events scheduled for the Library building and elsewhere. Just beyond the board is a rack of pamphlets and leaflets telling you how the Library may serve you better. You will find booklists for instance, one on the Erie Canal, one entitled "Women in Focus," one a guide to books on child care, one for the "wise buyer," which lists books that tell you how to get the most for your dollar and how to proceed if you believe you have been cheated in a purchase you have made, and finally one called "Damsels in Distress Gothic and Otherwise," second edition (!), which lists with brief summaries ("something was terribly wrong at Larchwood. . .", "An ancient curse is apparently operating. . .", etc.) reading that will interest but not involve you. All these brochures are dated in the early seventies, suggesting that budget cuts affect more than just book-buying, personnel, and maintenance. You can pick up schedules for the Table Talks series, for the Wednesday noon film series (noons on March 16, 25, and 30 for the remainder of the current season), and a leaflet about The Friends, which answers questions about what we are and what we do. You, as a member, can tell those who are not that there are seven categories of membership, ranging from the modest two-dollar a year dues for an individual to one hundred dollars for a patron. (Incidentally, you might like to know, or be reminded that The Friends' fiscal year is from May to May --i.e., now is a good time to renew your membership without having to be notified by the treasurer.) The rack will also supply you with a Bookmobile schedule, valid until June 17 of this year, and a list

of the branches, with their hours and locations. There is a leaflet about the Learners' Advisory Program, "designed especially for those who want to learn more about specific interests without enrolling in a formal study program." If none of these supplies your needs, the information desk is just a few steps farther on.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

If you have a skill or an expertise that might be of use or interest to others, give your name to the Library, which is now compiling a "People to People Index." This is a project on which the Library and the Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce are collaborating in an effort to make a comprehensive list of local "human resources." The Index is looking for those knowledgeable (and willing to share their skill) in such a variety of areas as playing musical instruments, building a speaker cabinet, Chinese brush painting, training pets, weaving, origami, birdwatching, and other activities. Application forms are available at the library reference desk. If you have a question, call Wonja Brucker on 382-3500.

ORAL HISTORY OF SCHENECTADY

The Friends are considering the feasibility of compiling an oral history of Schenectady. This involves taking down on tape the recollections of older persons who remember the town as it used to be. If you would be interested in serving as a recorder or in providing material for a recorder to take down, call Betsy Potts (374-2133), or Professor Goble (393-8825). Before undertaking the project, The Friends would like to find out if there is general community interest in it.

* * * * *

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
 Liberty and Clinton Streets
 Schenectady, New York 12305

Non-profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Schenectady, N.Y. Permit No. 7

DATED MATERIAL

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VOL. XII NO. 5

Mrs. Raymond Sigsbee, President
 Mrs. Charles Fenimore, 1st Vice-President
 Mrs. William H. Day, 2nd Vice-President
 Mrs. J. R. Woods, Recording Secretary

Mr. A. T. Goble, Corresponding Secretary
 Mr. Frank Maginniss, Treasurer
 Mr. Carl Niemeyer, Editor, NEWSLETTER
 The William McCall Family, Circ. NEWSLETTER

REMEMBER SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1!

The annual book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library has been scheduled for Saturday, October 1, according to Marjorie Woods, who is managing the sale this year. She reports plans well under way, with volunteers already sorting the hundreds of books that have been donated thus far. Friends are urged to bring into the Central Library as soon as possible any books they may wish to donate, and to encourage their own friends and neighbors to do the same.

Volunteers are needed to give a few hours of their time during the summer to the task of sorting books. The more done during the summer, the less pressure in late September.

"Especially needed," says Mrs. Woods, "are some strong high school boys who can lift boxes of books during that last week before the sale. We will also need a great number of people to work on Saturday, October 1, as salespeople, stock personnel, and cashiers."

Consider offering your services! Mrs. Woods will be glad to hear from you at 377-6986.

Mrs. Woods noted that last year's sale made more than \$4,100, with some bargains going at three for a dollar. This year's sale has something to live up to.

THE NEW DIRECTOR

Mr. Ronald L. Lagasse, who takes over from Miss Margaret Foley, acting director, on August 1, is experienced in the work of public libraries. For the past several years he has been director of the public library in Troy. He is enthusiastic about the work of The Friends in Schenectady and looks forward to meeting with them soon after his arrival.

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN: FALL SERIES 1977

The program chairman for the year to come is Chris Fenimore. She has already come up with seven interesting titles, to be discussed by seven interesting reviewers. There may be an eighth as well. If so, it will be scheduled for November 7. As usual, the programs will be at noon on Mondays in the meeting room of the Central Library, on Lafayette Street. Bring your own sandwich. Coffee and tea will be available at a modest charge. Notice that there is no review scheduled for October 10.

SEPTEMBER 12

THE ACTS OF KING ARTHUR AND
 HIS NOBLE KNIGHTS

by John Steinbeck

Reviewer: Marjorie Crary

SEPTEMBER 19

THE LETTERS OF E. B. WHITE

collected and edited by
 Dorothy Lobrano

Reviewer: Professor Harold Blodgett

SEPTEMBER 26

DRAGONS OF EDEN

by Carl Sagan

Reviewer: Professor Kenneth Schick

OCTOBER 3

THE GAMESMAN

by Michael Macoby

Reviewer: Bruce McQueen

OCTOBER 17

FALCONER

by John Cheever

Reviewer: Sr. Katherine Hanley
 (College of St. Rose)

OCTOBER 24

THE AGE OF UNCERTAINTY

by J. Kenneth Galbraith

Reviewer: Professor Thomas Kirschner

OCTOBER 31

THE GENTLE BARBARIAN: THE LIFE AND
 WORK OF TURGENEV

by V. S. Pritchett

Reviewer: Nadja Jernakoff
 (Union College)

One of The Friends' most successful summer projects is "Doorstep," a program that sends librarians into the community to gather together groups of children (adults too if they are interested) and tell them stories. The Friends voted two thousand dollars to fund this summer's program, a larger sum than last year. For ten weeks, beginning June 29, until September 2, on Wednesday afternoons and all day Thursdays and Fridays, three librarians will be covering the Foster and Van Vranken Avenues district and the Hamilton Hill district. Mrs. Gifford is the librarian in charge assisted by Mrs. Lindsley and Miss McDougall. This year, unlike last year, Mrs. Gifford and her helpers will be able to distribute paperbacks, an innovation made possible by a three hundred dollar appropriation from The Friends. Last year in less than ten weeks the project reached a total of 3599 persons. This year an even better response is hoped for.

OUTREACH

Another part of the Outreach is the jail library, which is visited by Mrs. Kriegler of the library staff, as well as by volunteers from The Friends. This year's budget includes \$86 to buy paperbacks for the jail library. Gifts of paperbacks are welcome, and Mrs. Kriegler points out there is a strong demand for poetry, particularly love poetry, which is not always easy to find in paperback editions.

Many Friends remember taking part in last year's discussions of the library budget when it was presented to the County Board. At a recent meeting of The Friends' board of directors Owen Begley, who besides being a board member has been mayor of Schenectady and a state senator, urged Friends to attend county board meetings throughout the year, not just at times of budget crises. Making financial decisions for the county (including the library) is an ongoing process, he pointed out, and to be effective citizens must be familiar with what the board is doing.

The board meets regularly on the second Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. in the board room of the County Building.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

The regular Wednesday noon film series continues at the Central Library during July, on July 6, 13, 20, and 27. The Thursday series, "Film Favorites," at two and at seven-thirty p.m. is showing films on July 7, 14, 21, and 28. These offerings are free to the public.

The Central Branch is open Mondays through Fridays during the summer (through September 8) from nine a.m. to nine p.m. Neither the Central Library nor any of the branches are open on Saturday during the summer. The libraries are also closed July 4 and September 5 (Labor Day).

FROM PRESIDENT SIGSBEE

"I'm sure you all noticed the beautiful centerpieces on our dinner tables at the Eleventh Annual Friends Dinner. The colorful flowers in these centerpieces were made by Brownie Troop 369 with their leader Sue Day and co-leader Cleo Andolina. Thank you, Brownie Troop 369."

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Mrs. Marjorie Woods
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