

September 1977

VOL. XIII No. 1

Mrs. Raymond Sigsbee, President
 Mrs. Charles Fenimore, 1st Vice-President
 Mrs. William 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
 Miss Mildred Parkinson, NEWSLETTER Circulation

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOKSALE
 Saturday, October 1
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Central Library, Liberty and Clinton Streets
 BOOKS! MAGAZINES! RECORDINGS!

THE BOOK SALE

Buyers at the sale will find hundreds of donated items, as well as some Library discards. More donations are needed and welcome, and The Friends are urged to canvass their friends for contributions, which may be turned in at any of the branches as well as at the central library.

Volunteers have spent many hours sorting, arranging and boxing books for the sale, and this work will continue through September. In addition, many more helpers will be needed during the week before the sale. On Thursday, September 29, tables must be trucked from the YMCA and set up in the meeting room. One or two trucks and several strong-armed people are required. On Friday, boxes of books must be brought downstairs to be arranged on and under the tables. As in other years, non-fiction of all kinds will be in the meeting-room, children's books on the patio on Liberty Street. If you can help on either Thursday or Friday, or can provide the use of a truck, call Marjorie Woods, 377-6986. On the day of the sale, Saturday, October 1, many workers will be needed in two, three, or more hour shifts from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. People are wanted to staff each table, to serve as cashiers, to attend to the coffee urns and the donuts, which will be provided for the workers, and to help with the final clean-up. At 5:00 p.m. the City Mission will send a truck with two men to cart off the leftovers. Tables will be trucked back to the YMCA. Everything must be cleared away by 6:00 p.m. If you can help for any part of the sale day, in any capacity, call Dorothy Mahar, 374-1046, so that she can assign you a place in the schedule.

We cannot have too many helpers! It means a pleasant activity with interesting people and the accomplishment of something worthwhile. Plan to take part!

FROM PRESIDENT SIGSBEE

"I am looking forward to another busy and productive year for The Friends. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

"The County Board of Representatives were invited to the Library Tuesday evening, August 9, to meet our new Director, Mr. Lagasse, and to tour the Library. I thank Mrs. Ann Stamm and Mrs. Margaret Watrous for planning an interesting reception and tour.

"Mrs. Marjorie Woods needs the help and encouragement of all of us in getting ready for the October 1 Book Sale. Contributions and volunteers are still needed.

"At our last board meeting, on June 28, the officers and directors of The Friends accepted the following goals for 1977-78:

1. To increase our membership by twenty percent,
2. To inform county residents of the services and facilities of the Library,
3. To provide a wide selection of programs for all age and interest groups.

"If you have any ideas which may help us in reaching our goals, please contact me (346-2729).

"Our membership is now 710 men and women."

FAMILY FILM SERIES

(Funded by Friends of the Library)

Call the Library for times of showing.

October 6: TOBY TYLER
 October 13: HUGO & JOSEFIN
 October 20: POPI
 October 27: WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
 November 3: LASSIE COME HOME
 November 10: TIME MACHINE

MEMBERSHIP

Don't neglect to renew your membership in The Friends. When you renew, you might want to consider upgrading your membership, according to the schedule:

- \$ 2. Individual membership
- 4. Family membership
- 10. Contributing
- 15. Organizational
- 25. Supporting
- 25. Business
- 100. Patron

Make your checks payable to The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library. Mail them to our treasurer: Mr. Frank Maginniss, 1454 Lowell Road, Schenectady, New York 12308.

WHERE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLAR GOES

The Friends sponsor many library programs. For instance, the current budget (for 1977-78) breaks down as follows:

Programs:

Table Talks	\$ 25.
Adult Programs	200.
Books-Sandwiched-In	200.
Films	300.
Special Programs/Exhibits	150.

Services:

Outreach ("Doorstep")	2000.
Jail Library	175.
Gifts to Library (for professional travel)	300.
Honorary Book Donations (for retirees, etc.)	200.
Other Gifts to the Library	500.
Special Projects	500.

We budget also modest sums for administration, but it should be emphasized that virtually all of what we collect from our members goes to the Library.

A CURRENT "SPECIAL PROGRAM"

On three Thursdays (September 8, 15, and 22) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Library, Nancy Lou Thornton, under the sponsorship of The Friends, will conduct a CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP. Registration forms are available at the Library and the branches. Mrs. Thornton, whose articles and short stories have appeared in various periodicals, has a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. She is now teaching at St. Rose, and has taught at Union and at SCCC.

FROM THE DESK OF Ronald L. Lagasse

"My deepest appreciation to The Friends as a group and as individuals whose greetings and good wishes have made my arrival so pleasant.

"I am sure that all of you, but especially those who use the Scotia branch, are pleased to know that this branch will receive long-needed roof, porch, and foundation repairs. Following this work, members of the Scotia-Glenville Volunteer Services will paint the building. I had a behind-the-scenes tour of the branch recently, and I was delighted by the warmth and colorful history of the building.

"Special thanks to The Friends who sponsored the very successful visit to the Library on August 9 by members of the County Board of Representatives and candidates for that office. It was an excellent opportunity for me to meet these people and for the staff to demonstrate and explain to them the many services available at the Library.

"The Library's proposed budget for 1978 has been submitted to the County Manager. It calls for the restoration of branch hours that were cut in 1977 and an increase in the book budget, which is very austere this year."

(NOTE: Mr. Lagasse assumed his duties in Schenectady on August 1, coming to us from a successful tenure of the head librarianship at the Troy Public Library.)

GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS

We are very pleased to have closed our fiscal year with gifts for the Books and Endowments Fund of more than three thousand dollars. Now we start anew. As our first gift, our Endowment Fund has received a most welcome contribution from a former member who no longer lives in this area. She congratulates us on our continuing this committee, on which she was active some ten years ago. Call Mrs. Herbert Poller, 393-1902, if you would like further information about gifts or endowments, or send your check to The Friends' treasurer, Mr. Frank Maginniss, 1454 Lowell Road, 12308, made payable to The Friends of the SCPL, if you or a group to which you belong wish to participate. The Friends' bookplates are inserted into each volume, and, if you give a memorial gift, the name of the person is added. Your friend will be memorialized as long as the book lasts.

Gifts to the fund can be made, as were many last year, without being a memorial. As you know, the Library needs books badly, since its book fund recently was cut so drastically.

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN (Fall Series)

Eight reviews are scheduled for September, October, and early November. As usual, they will be in the meeting-room of the Central Library, beginning at noon on Mondays, from September 12 to November 7 (but there will be no review on October 10, when the Library is closed for Columbus Day). Reviewers include three members of the present Union faculty: Professor Schick (physics), Professor Kershner (economics), and Mrs. Jernakoff (languages); and Professor Blodgett, emeritus professor of English. Sr. Katherine Hanley is Dean of Graduate Studies at the College of St. Rose. Bruce McQueen is in Personnel in the New York State Department of Transportation. Marjorie Cray is the author of a master's dissertation on King Arthur.

September 12

THE ACTS OF KING ARTHUR
by John Steinbeck
Reviewer: Marjorie Cray

October 17

FALCONER
by John Cheever
Reviewer: Sr. Katherine Hanley

September 19

THE LETTERS OF E. B. WHITE
edited by Dorothy Lohrano
Reviewer: Harold Blodgett

October 24

THE AGE OF UNCERTAINTY
by John Kenneth Galbraith
Reviewer: Thomas Kershner

September 26

DRAGONS OF EDEN
by Carl Sagan
Reviewer: Kenneth Schick

October 31

THE GENTLE BARBARIAN, a biography
of Turgenev
by V. S. Pritchett
Reviewer: Nadja Jernakoff

October 3

THE GAMESMAN
by Michael Maccoby
Reviewer: Bruce McQueen

November 7

HAYWIRE
by Brooke Hayward
Reviewer: Al Zink

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES AND THE LIBRARY

On the evening of August 9, seven members of the County Board of Representatives were guests at the Central Library for an open house arranged by Mrs. Stamm and Mrs. Watrous of The Friends. In attendance as well were eleven candidates for the Board and some wives and supporters. A slide talk was given by Miss Bornt on the branch libraries, and tours of the Library were provided under the guidance of the staff. The occasion was an opportunity for Board members to meet Mr. Lagasse, who was himself one of the tour guides.

Present were Representatives, Bean, DiBlasio, Fowler, Guthinger, Lasak, Lewis, and McGuire; and candidates Borom, Comanzo, Drago, Hogan, Kaplan, Kelly, Murphy, Palmer, O'Malley, Van Schaick, and Zanta.

Earlier, on May 23, at a meeting at the Library of the Physical and Environmental Planning Committee of the Board, Representatives Chase and Daly also toured the Library.

CAPITAL DISTRICT LIBRARY COUNCIL

A behind-the-scenes organization of great service to all libraries in the capital district, including SCPL, is the Capital District Library Council. Its executive director, Mr. Charles Custer, provides for readers of the NEWSLETTER the following account:

The Capital District Library Council for Reference and Research Resources (CDLC) is the local library organization which ties together the library resources that are found in the 10 counties surrounding the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. It is one of 9 such library systems (3R's) in the state that enable library users, no matter where they live, to have use of the more than 90 million volumes found in the academic, public, and special libraries of New York State. On a more immediate level, it gives the patrons of the Schenectady County Public Library access to the 7 million volumes located in the CDLC service region. In addition, its courier delivers material to and from the New York State Library and SCPL on a daily schedule.

The Council was organized in 1966 at Union College, and in June was chartered by the Board of Regents. On March 18, 1967, the first general meeting of the Council was held, at which time it was announced that there were 18 member institutions and a delivery service of 18 stops would be inaugurated. Ten years later, the Council has 42 institutional members serving over a hundred libraries and a delivery system which stops at 37 member libraries. This growth has occurred through the good will and cooperation of Capital District librarians (e.g., MVLAs deliver to SUNY-Cobleskill and Fulton-Montgomery Community College) and the modest static funding provided by the State Education Department. An effort is being made to obtain statutory funding for the 3R's systems so that they can deal on a long range basis with the problems that arise in this era of cut-backs in library funding.

(This is the first of a two-part series. Look for part 2 in the November NEWSLETTER).

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

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Dr. & Mrs. Charles F. Stamm
1547 Wendell Ave.
City 12308

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TABLE TALKS: FALL SERIES

November 14

"Ancient Monuments of Great Britain"
 Speaker: A. T. Goble, Professor
 Emeritus of Physics
 (Union College)

November 21

"Afro-American Folklore"
 Speaker: Constance Durant, Doctoral
 candidate in African Studies
 (SUNY Albany)

November 28

"Solar Energy"
 Speaker: James Healey, Research
 Associate, Atmospheric
 Sciences Research Center
 (SUNY Albany)

December 5

"Lake Restoration: A Local Case History"
 Speaker: Carl George, Associate Pro-
 fessor of Biological Sciences
 (Union College)

December 12

"The City as a Collection of Strangers"
 Speaker: Mark La Gory, Assistant Pro-
 fessor of Sociology
 (SUNY Albany)

All talks are scheduled for the meeting room
 in the Central Library, at 12:00 noon on
 Mondays.

NEXT YEAR'S LIBRARY BUDGET

Many of The Friends may wish to follow the
 budget-making process of the County Board.
 On Tuesday, October 4, Ronald Dixon and Rob-
 ert Carpenter, library trustees, and Margare-
 t Foley, assistant library director, met
 with the Ways and Means Committee of the
 Board of Representatives to discuss the
 1978 library budget request. Thomas Wright,
 chairman of the Ways and Means Committee,
 and other members asked questions about in-
 dividual budget items, including the in-
 creased amounts requested for part-time
 help and books. Miss Foley explained that
 an increase for part-time help would be
 needed even for the same number of hours as
 as used in 1977, because the contract be-
 tween the Civil Service Employees Associa-
 tion and the county calls for an increase in

ONE MORE SUCCESSFUL BOOK SALE

The fifth annual used book sale, held at the
 Central Library, October 1, may be consider-
 ed a real success. Net profits, with all
 bills paid, came to \$4,341.14 -- a fine
 achievement. Over one hundred of The Friends
 gave generously of their time and efforts,
 some beginning last April with the sorting
 and boxing of books, paperbacks, magazines,
 and records, others working at a feverish
 pace during the final week, setting up tables
 and signs, and transporting books from the
 second floor stacks to the meeting room,
 while others worked in shifts on the day of
 the sale as cashiers, salespeople, or clean-
 up crew. Many thanks to all for a job well
 done.

Special thanks are in order for a group of
 high school students, members of the Junior
 Red Cross, who gave enthusiastic and valu-
 able help transporting books to the meeting
 room. We are much indebted to the Hellenic
 Center and to the YMCA for their generous
 loan of tables. Price Chopper very generous-
 ly gave us a gift certificate of forty doll-
 ars with which we purchased coffee, tea and
 donuts for our workers on the day of the
 sale. The City Mission helped assure our
 success by transporting tables to and from
 the library and by carting away the leftover
 books. Members of the Library staff were
 unfailing in their generous help in all
 phases of the project. Our book sale seems
 to have become an annual institution, with
 the entire community giving its enthusiastic
 support. It was indeed a pleasure for all
 who took part.

-- Marjorie Woods

(Mrs. Woods modestly makes no mention of her
 own devoted work as general manager of the
 sale, but she has the warm thanks of all The
 Friends. Like so many recent autumn days,
 Saturday, October 1, saw heavy rain. The
 profit, equal to last year's record intake,
 thus becomes the more remarkable.)

1978 salaries. Additional funds are also
 needed in order to lengthen the hours of
 opening at the Pleasant Valley and Wood-
 lawn branches. Mr. Dixon asked that the
 book budget be raised, so that the Schenec-
 tady County Public Library would once again
 be able to maintain a level of book purchas-
 ing equal to other libraries of comparable
 size. There was a public attendance at
 this meeting of about twenty-five persons.

QUAKER STREET COOPERATIVE CLUB, INC.

Probably many Friends of the Library have never heard of the Quaker Street Cooperative Club, a small group of women in the westernmost reaches of the county. Yet this group is a mini-version of The Friends, devoted to the support of the Quaker Street Branch of the SCPL. Founded by Quakers in 1941, the group began with plans for many community projects in the Quaker Street area, but soon narrowed its attention to the need for a local library. The "Co-op" has always welcomed members of all creeds, races, and social classes, and at one time men also belonged. There are no male members at present, although men of the community often lend their time and money to the group's efforts.

The Co-op eventually secured a permanent building for the library, which is located on Farby Hill Road in Quaker Street, and brought the library into the county system. Mainly serving the Township of Duanesburg, which includes the Mariaville area, Quaker Street, Duanesburg, and the village of Delanson, the branch has the highest circulation of books per capita of all the SCPL branches and is open nine hours a week. Mrs. Blanche Boone, the library clerk, also holds a story hour on Tuesday mornings.

The SCPL system pays the heat and utilities bills and Mrs. Boone's salary, and provides books on a rotating basis. The Cooperative Club maintains, insures, and improves the building, supplies refreshments for the story hour, and donates used books, mainly paperbacks, to the collection. This year the Club also plans to purchase new paperbacks for the collection. A ham dinner, held the first Saturday in May, is the Co-op's principal fund-raiser, though other activities, such as raffles and book sales are conducted. In 1976 the Co-op made and raffled a bicentennial quilt depicting Duanesburg area history. Most recent improvements to the library made by the Club include painting and carpeting the building, purchasing book shelves and paperback racks, and replacing the library steps. At present, the branch is overcrowded and lacks toilet facilities and running water; so the group is exploring the possibility of obtaining a grant for expansion and the digging of a well. The Club welcomes visitors and new members to its meetings, held at 7:30 p.m., the first Monday of each month at the Quaker Street Library. - Margaret Watrous (Mrs. Watrous is currently president of the Quaker Street Cooperative Club.)

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

CAPITAL DISTRICT LIBRARY COUNCIL

(In our September Newsletter Charles Custer executive director of the Capital District Library Council, wrote of the founding and the aims of the CDLC. Here he concludes with an account of some of the programs for which it is responsible.)

In order for CDLC libraries to cooperate in the use of regional resources, the Council operates or sponsors a number of programs. A few of these are: DIRECT ACCESS PROGRAM (DAP) - Over 49 academic, public, and special libraries participate in DAP. Several thousand adults and students in the Capital District have these CDLC cards, which enable them to check out books directly from libraries other than their own. INTERLIBRARY LOAN- CDLC libraries agree to the free exchange of library materials, including, when necessary, gratis photocopies. To support this inter-library loan activity, the Council maintains a Union Catalog for monographs and a master Serials Data Bank; it also operates a daily delivery system (32 daily stops), a telecopier network, and OCLC and teletype terminals. In 1975/76, 66,415 items were borrowed, 44,009 were loaned, and over 300,000 pages of photocopies were exchanged. The value of this gratis activity is estimated to be worth at least \$600,000. MAINTENANCE OF INDEXED SERIALS SUBSCRIPTIONS (MISS) - Member libraries work together to see that at least one library in the region subscribes to periodicals covered by the more popular indexes, such as Readers Guide. ORDER AWARENESS FILE (CAF) - In order to prevent duplication of expensive purchases, this service alerts member libraries to materials ordered by other CDLC libraries. In 1975/76, 600 items worth \$35.00 or more were listed. CDLC's relationship to its member libraries is analogous to mortar and stones. As mortar enables individual stones to be made into a structure quite different from their own character, the Council enables a single library to offer a scope of service far beyond what is possible with its own resources.

MRS. SIGSBEE TO LEAVE THE BOARD

Members of The Friends will be sorry to learn that the Sigsbees will soon be leaving Schenectady, and that Mrs. Sigsbee must resign as our president. She wishes to take this opportunity to thank all The Friends for their help and hard work. The Friends, in turn, regret the loss of a quietly efficient and conscientious officer, who will not easily be replaced.

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PUBLIC LECTURES ON THE SHORT STORY AND THE DRAMA

The Friends are again sponsoring two winter lecture series in the meeting room of the Central Library, open without charge to the general public. The speakers will be Professors Harold W. Blodgett and Carl Niemeyer. Both are professors emeriti at Union College, and each before his retirement held the Thomas W. Lamont chair of ancient and modern literature. Both have appeared in similar series sponsored by The Friends in past years. Details of both series are given below.

* * * * *

FIVE LECTURES
 ON
 "THE HERITAGE OF THE
 AMERICAN SHORT STORY"

(by Professor Blodgett, on Fridays at 10:15 a.m., beginning January 6, through February 3, in the meeting room of the Central Library)

- January 6 - A Tradition Established
 (Irving, Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Bierce)
- January 13 - The Regionalists and the Realists
 (Harte, Mark Twain, Jewett, Howells, James, Garland)
- January 20 - The Naturalists and Beyond
 (Crane, London, Norris, Dreiser)
- January 27 - A New Age
 (Anderson, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Lardner, O'Hara, Salinger)
- February 3 - The Century Grows Older
 (Welty, Faulkner, Steinbeck, Cheever, O'Connor, Updike)

Reading lists of specific short stories will be distributed at the lectures. For general reading Professor Blodgett suggests: Kenneth Kempton, The Short Story; Frank O'Connor, The Lonely Voice; and R. B. West, The Short Story in America.

* * * * *

NEW OFFICERS

At its November meeting, the board of The Friends accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Sigsbee as president and voted Mrs. Fenimore, first vice-president, to the vacant position. Mrs. Day moves up to the first vice-presidency, but will continue to be in charge of publicity. Usually, the first vice-president does the work of programming, but Mrs. Fenimore had already arranged for many of the 1977-78 programs, and no replacement for the function was thought necessary. At the annual meeting in the spring, The Friends will vote on officers for the year 1978-79.

FIVE LECTURES
 ON
 "DRAMA IN THE WESTERN TRADITION"

(by Professor Niemeyer, on Fridays at 2:30 p.m. -- note the different time - beginning March 3, through March 31, in the meeting room of the Central Library)

- March 3 - It Began with the Greeks
 (Sophocles, Oedipus the King; and Euripides, Medea)
- March 10 - Not of an Age, But for All Time
 (Shakespeare, Twelfth Night, Hamlet)
- March 17 - The Theatre Restored
 (Congreve, The Way of the World; Sheridan, The Rivals; Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest)
- March 24 - From Norway and Russia
 (Ibsen, A Doll's House; Chekhov, The Cherry Orchard)
- March 31 - With a Modern Accent
 (Beckett, Waiting for Godot; Pinter, The Birthday Party)

* * * * *

A NEW ADDRESS FOR MISS HODGES

Miss Bernice Hodges, who preceded Miss White as head librarian, has sold her house on Ferry Street, and is resident at the Highland Retirement Center, 297 Ballston Avenue, Scotia, 12302, where she would welcome visitors or cards from her friends. Miss Hodges is eighty-eight years old.

WANTED - VOLUNTEER HELP

If you have two or three hours available once or twice a week, there are some interesting jobs you can do for the Library. Help is needed with the pamphlet collection, in the periodical stacks, and for general clerical work. Other possibilities exist as well. Our library needs the help of all of us. For more information call Naomi Bristol, 374-0447. Mrs. Bristol is chairman of the volunteers.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN: WINTER SERIES

- January 9
 DANIEL MARTIN
 by John Fowles
Reviewer: Carl Niemeyer
- January 16
 DAY BY DAY
 by Robert Lowell
Reviewer: Elizabeth Mansfield
- January 23
 A FINE OLD CONFLICT
 by Jessica Mitford
Reviewer: Janet Seery
- January 30
 CHINESE SHADOWS
 by Pierre Ryckmans
 (Simon Leys, pseud.)
Reviewer: Susan Blader
- February 6
 ESSAYS OF E. B. WHITE
 by E. B. White
Reviewer: Frank Lindsay

Janet Seery, Mr. Lindsay, and Mr. Niemeyer are familiar to the BSI audience, having appeared before it in the past. Elizabeth Mansfield, onetime assistant professor of English at Union, now lives in Charlton. Susan Blader is at present assistant professor of Chinese at Union

All the dates fall on Monday. The talks are scheduled for noon in the meeting room. Bring your own sandwiches. Coffee and tea will be available at a modest charge.

* * * * *

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS FOR FRIENDS

All numbers of the Central Library and its branches begin with 382.

Central Library (Switchboard)...	382-3500
Reference Desk	3511
Circulation	3538
Head Librarian (Mr. Lagasse)	3543
Assistant Librarian (Miss Foley)	3545
Children's Room	3540
Inter-Library Loan.....	3518

Branch Libraries

Duane	3504
Pleasant Valley	3505
Scotia	3506
Wingate	3507
Woodlawn	3508

Bookmobile

Quaker Street Library 895-2719

Officers of The Friends

President (Mrs. Fenimore)	372-7960
Publicity Chairman (Mrs. Day) ..	374-0421
Recording Secretary (Mrs. Woods)	377-6986
Corresponding Secretary (Mr. Goble).....	393-8825
Treasurer (Mr. Maginniss)	393-3030
Newsletter Editor (Mr. Niemeyer)	377-8065
Newsletter Circulation (Miss Parkinson) ..	346-8670
Membership Chairman (Mrs. Connelly) ..	393-5674

* * * * *

TABLE TALKS

A series of Table Talks will be sponsored by The Friends on Monday noons from March 6 through April 3. The Friends in charge of arrangements are: Mrs. Ilse Wolff and Mrs. Christopher Jones. Announcements of speakers will be made later. The spring BSI series will begin on Monday, April 10. There will be five or six reviews in all, with the series ending May 8 or May 15. Look for details in future issues of the NEWSLETTER or in the Library bulletins.

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12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
 Tuesday, April 4
 Guest Speaker
 Roland L. Lagasse
 Director, Schenectady County Public Library
 Details on Pages 2 and 3

TABLE TALKS: SPRING SERIES

The series has been arranged by Mrs. Jonas Wolff and Mrs. Christopher Jones.

March 6 - Dr. Robert Sharlet (Professor of Political Science, Union College)

Topic: "Amnesty International and Human Rights in Europe"

March 13 - Mr. George Weinheimer (Supervisor of Art in the Schenectady City Schools)

Topic: "A Six Week Experience in India"

March 20 - Mrs. Helene Turner Smith (Executive Director of the Albany International Center, Albany, New York)

Topic: "New Immigrants in Our Midst"

March 27 - Mrs. Kathryn Rich (charter member and first president of The Friends), Moderator; Mr. T. M. Linville and Mr. Allen Townsend, Panelists

Topic: "Compulsory Retirement"

April 3 - Mrs. Virginia Davidson (Case Supervisor, Child Welfare, Child Protective Service, Schenectady)

Topic: "Child Abuse"

All these talks are given on Mondays at noon, in the Community Room of the Schenectady County Public Library, under the auspices of The Friends. Bring your own sandwich lunch. Coffee and tea are available at a small charge.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN - SPRING 1978

A committee of The Friends, chaired by Mrs. T. A. Rich, has planned the following series for April and May. All meetings are at noon on Mondays, for six weeks beginning April 10, in the Community Room of the Library. A wide range of recent books will be covered by a group of distinguished reviewers. James Riedel is a professor in the Graduate School of Public Affairs at SUNY Albany. Jeffrey Berman is an assistant professor of English at the same institution. Alan Nelson, associate professor of English at Union, has been serving as acting chairman of the department. P. M. Narsu has had a long association with public housing in Schenectady. Hester Shapiro is already well known to The Friends as a reviewer and as one time author of the "Book Bound" column in the Gazette. Bernard Carman is editor of Adirondack Life Magazine.

April 10 THE MAN WHO BROKE PURPLE
 by Ronald Clark
Reviewer: Dr. James Riedel

April 17 CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF WORDS
 by K. M. Elisabeth Murray
Reviewer: Dr. Alan Nelson

April 24 SIX MEN
 by Alistair Cooke
Reviewer: Bernard Carman

May 1 SONG OF SOLOMON
 by Tony Morrison
Reviewer: Dr. Jeffrey Berman

May 8 INDIA . . . A WOUNDED
 CIVILIZATION
 by V. S. Naipaul
Reviewer: P. M. Narsu

May 15 ELIZABETH BOWEN
 by Victoria Glendinning
Reviewer: Hester Shapiro

Bring your own sandwiches. Coffee and tea will be available at a nominal charge.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As always, the chief item of business at the Annual Meeting, this year on April 4, will be the presentation of the report of the nominating committee for officers and board members. It will then be voted on by the membership of The Friends. The report follows:

- President - Mrs. Charles Fenimore
- 1st Vice-president (Program)
 - Mrs. Charles Stamm
- 2nd Vice-president (Public Relations)
 - Mr. Fred Tromel
- Recording Secretary - Mrs. J. R. Woods
- Corresponding Secretary - Mr. A. T. Goble
- Treasurer - Miss Elizabeth Taylor

DIRECTORS (for a three-year term):

- Mrs. Stanley Brown
- Mr. Earl Bucci
- Mrs. R. J. Dunham
- Mr. Frank Lindsay
- Mr. Owen South
- Mr. Fred Tromel
- Mrs. Kenneth Wallender

DIRECTORS (renominated for a second three-year term):

- Mr. A. T. Goble
- Miss Elizabeth Taylor

RETIRING DIRECTORS:

- Mr. Owen Begley
- Miss Ruth Anne Evans
- Mrs. William Day
- Mrs. William McColl
- Mr. Frank Maginniss

CONTINUING DIRECTORS (with year of retirement)

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| Mrs. George Connelly | 1979 |
| Mrs. Isabella Dewhurst | 1979 |
| Mrs. Charles Fenimore | 1979 |
| Mr. Carl Niemeyer | 1979 |
| Mr. Rufus Wheeler | 1979 |
| Mrs. J. R. Woods | 1979 |
| Mr. Richard Raymond | 1979 |
| Mrs. William Bristol | 1980 |
| Mrs. Christopher Jones | 1980 |
| Mr. R. H. Norris | 1980 |
| Miss Mildred Parkinson | 1980 |
| Mrs. Charles Rouault | 1980 |
| Mrs. Charles Stamm | 1980 |
| Mrs. Peter Watrous | 1980 |

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

- Mr. Frank Maginniss
- Mrs. Leonard Niedrach
- Mr. Rufus Wheeler
- Mrs. J. R. Woods
- Mrs. William McColl (chairman)

ABOUT THE NOMINEES

Mrs. Stanley Brown (Dorothea) before her retirement was a thirty-four year member of the staff of the Schenectady County Library. During her tenure she has been in charge of the Scotia and of the Duane branches. She is looking forward to continued service of the Library as a Friend.

Mr. Earl Bucci, a long-time Schenectady resident, besides his interest in the Library, is interested in the improvement of the Schenectady downtown area. His considerable legal experience should be useful to our organization.

Mrs. R. J. Dunham (Mary) has been a user of the Library for twenty-five years. She has also been an elementary school librarian in Scotia.

Mr. Frank Lindsay is professor emeritus of French at Russell Sage College. He serves as a tutor at the Albany Institute for the Blind and has taught writing to the sightless. He himself is a reader, who finds a good mystery relaxing.

Mr. Owen South as a special education teacher at Van Antwerp School is deeply concerned about young people and their reading habits.

Mr. Fred Tromel, a native of Vienna and a descendant of three generations of book binders, editors, and sellers, was, before his retirement, a designer of Diesel engines for ALCO for many years. Having inherited a love of books, he likes to be active in efforts to help get them read (the Jail library, the book sale). He is married to another bookworm.

Mrs. Kenneth Wallender (Martha), a graduate of Vassar and of SUNY, has been a thirteen-year librarian at Scotia-Glendale. She began the ministry of books at the First Reformed Church. She is a longtime resident of Schenectady.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Andrew Kulmatiski, public relations coordinator of the Schenectady County Public Library, has announced a photography contest, whose title "Picture Your Library" suggests the subject matter for the entries. Pictures should be of some aspect of the library buildings (outside or inside), of the services of the central library or its branches, or of the bookmobile--past or present. The three categories are: 1) 35mm color slides, 2) color prints, and 3) black and white prints. First prize in each category is a copy of The Photographer's Handbook (Knopf, 1977) by John Hedgecoe. The awards are made possible by a grant from The Friends. Entries must be received by March 24, and some will be displayed in the Central Library and the branches during National Library Week, April 2-8, 1978. Judging will be done by members of the Schenectady Photographic Society. Further information about submission of entries is available at the Central Library and the branches.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

When: April 4, 1978

Where: Unitarian Church, 1221 Wendell Avenue

Time: 6:00 p.m. - Sherry in the Great Hall

6:30 p.m. - Dinner (Chicken)

8:00 p.m. - Mr. James Lazenby and Miss Elizabeth Roben on the piano

8:15 p.m. - Slide presentation by Miss Phyllis Bornt. (Topic: "The Branch Libraries")

8:30 p.m. - Speaker: Mr. Ronald Lagasse

RSVP: Use the tear-off at the bottom of this page. The deadline for reservations is March 24.

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.

PUBLIC LECTURES ON DRAMA

During March, on Friday at 2:30 p.m. Carl Niemeyer, Professor Emeritus of Ancient and Modern Literature at Union College, will present a series of five lectures in the Community Room of the Library, under the sponsorship of The Friends. The topics and the plays to be covered in each lecture are given below:

March 3 - IT BEGAN WITH THE GREEKS
(Sophocles, Oedipus the King; Euripides, Medea)

March 24 - FROM NORWAY AND RUSSIA
(Ibsen, A Doll's House; Chekhov, The Cherry Orchard)

March 10 - NOT OF AN AGE, BUT FOR ALL TIME
(Shakespeare, Twelfth Night and Hamlet)

March 31 - WITH A MODERN ACCENT
(Beckett, Waiting for Godot; Pinter, The Birthday Party)

March 17 - THE THEATRE RESTORED
(Congreve, The Way of the World; Sheridan, The Rivals; and Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest)

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Please reserve _____ places for The Friends of the Library dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday April 4.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ @ \$4.50 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 MARCH 24

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

NAME

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

NAME

BOOK AUCTION AND BOOK FAIR

ACTOR AS STORYTELLER

The Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, 12210, will be the site on April 14 and 15 of the Fourth Antiquarian Book Auction (Friday, 8 p.m.). The three dollar ticket charge includes the auction catalogue, which is available also before the auction by mail at the charge of one dollar. Mail bids will be accepted. On the following day, Saturday, from ten to five, 27 book dealers from several states will offer selections from their stocks of prints, books, and maps. The admission charge to the fair is one dollar. Proceeds from the two events will benefit the McKinney Library, the only library specializing exclusively in the history, arts and crafts of this part of New York State. The Library uses the funds to sustain a document conservation program. Further information may be obtained by writing the Institute at the above address, or by calling the Library at 463-4478.

Among the events sponsored recently by The Friends was the appearance in two performances on February 22 of Christopher Holder. His program, "The Actor as Storyteller," is designed for children and presents in dramatic form the actor as a person, using his tools (voice, movement, and imagination) to create an illusion in telling stories. Holder, a director of the Schenectady based Children's Performance Tours, has had experience with the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and Sir Tyrone Guthrie's Touring Company. An audience of about 142 attended the afternoon performance and 70 in the evening.

* * * * *

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

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VOL. XIII No. 5

Mrs. Charles Fenimore, President
 Mrs. Charles Stamm, 1st Vice-President
 Mr. Fred Tromel, 2nd Vice-President
 Mrs. J. R. Woods, Recording Secretary

Mr. A. T. Goble, Corresponding Secretary
 Miss Elizabeth Taylor, Treasurer
 Mr. Carl Niemeyer, Editor, NEWSLETTER
 Miss Mildred Parkinson, Circ. NEWSLETTER

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN - FALL 1978

Mrs. Peter Watrous and Mrs. Charles Rou-sult are in charge of the fall series, which will open on September 11, the Monday after Labor Day. Friends will be able to hear seven books reviewed on the series. Of the reviewers, Robert Fichenburg is editor of Knickerbocker News, Dr. Len Ochs is a psychiatrist in private practice, who is a specialist in bio-feedback. Sister Katharine of St. Rose College has appeared previously before The Friends. Manfred Jonas is professor of history at Union College. Both Ted Goble and Carl Niemeyer are emeritus professors at Union, the former in physics, the latter in English. Francis Anderson, an expert on constitutional law, is a professor at the Albany Law School.

- Sept. 11 BILLY PHELAN'S GREATEST GAME
 by Jay Riedell
Reviewer: Robert Fichenburg
- Sept. 18 MIND CONTROL
 by Peter Schrag
Reviewer: Dr. Len Ochs
- Sept 25 THE STRANGE RIDE OF RUDYARD
 KIPLING
 by Angus Wilson
Reviewer: Carl Niemeyer
- Oct. 2 BLOOD TIE
 By Mary Lee Settle
Reviewer: Sister Katharine Hanley
- Oct. 16 THE YOUNG HAMILTON
 by James Thomas Flexner
Reviewer: Manfred Jonas
- Oct. 23 PERJURY: THE HISS-CHAMBERS CASE
 by Allen Weinstein
Reviewer: Francis Anderson
- Oct. 30 SOFT ENERGY PATHS
 by Amery Lovins
Reviewer: A. T. Goble

All reviews are at noon. Bring your own sandwiches. Coffee and tea will be available at a nominal charge. Please notice that no review is scheduled for Oct. 9, Columbus Day, when the Library will be closed.

NEW BROCHURE

For your friends who are not also Friends of the Library pick up at the Library a copy of our new brochure. It is an updating of the old one, with some new pictures and a concise statement of just what The Friends do. There is also a list of the Membership categories. This new brochure was prepared by a committee of Friends chaired by Miss Elizabeth Taylor, our new treasurer.

BOOK SALE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

The book sales of 1976 and 1977 were so successful, with each bringing into The Friends' treasury more than four thousand dollars, that we want to do even better in 1978. This is a project on which all The Friends can collaborate. First: look over your bookshelves for books you would like to donate. Also very welcome are magazines and recordings. Turn these in at the Library and explain they are for the sale. Second: volunteer to sort and arrange books for the sale. We receive many volumes, and this work of sorting must go on throughout the summer. Finally: offer your services at the time of the sale itself. Books must be taken to the Meeting Room and the plaza and arranged on tables. On the day of the sale volunteers are needed to restock the tables and to guide the public, as well as to serve as cashiers. Once again the sale is under the management of Mrs. J. R. Woods. If you wish to volunteer, or if you have questions about the sale, call her at 377-6986. Remember the date, Saturday October 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ABOUT SCPL

At a meeting in April of the Mohawk Valley Library Association, Ronald Lagasse, Director of SCPL, gave an informative talk about our library and what it has been accomplishing. SCPL is the only county library in the capital district and as such it is the largest public library in the area, being chartered to serve 160,000 people. Policy is set by an eleven-member board, nominations to which are made by the county manager and approved by the Board of Representatives. SCPL is served by 72 full-time and fifty part-time employees. Its budget this past year was \$1,600,000, with \$100,000 going for library materials. Circulation in 1977 was 920,000, with 57,000 borrowers, and 358,000 volumes. The work of SCPL is carried on at the central building, in five branches, one station, and the bookmobile. Pointing out that public libraries must serve a much more diversified clientele than academic libraries. Mr. Lagasse drew attention to the Library's new combined adult learning and job information center, staffed by trained librarians. The Library also continues to develop its Outreach program, which includes among other projects "Doorstep" and the jail library. SCPL also supplies audio materials and is at present developing a collection of audio-tapes. Of course the Library is always seeking from the general community suggestions for better and further necessary services.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES - DOORSTEP

The SCPL "Doorstep" project is celebrating this year its tenth anniversary. As usual, the Library story-tellers will be traveling in the Hamilton Hill area during July and August (look in the local papers for the dates and the day of the week), but this year a federally funded Promotion Project makes an innovation possible. A Van carrying paperbacks will be stopping at such community centers as the boys' clubs, day camps, and parks. Besides the books, it will offer a showing of 16mm. films and possibly provide a games program. The SCPL Co-ordinator of Children's Services, Mrs. Lois Foight Hodges, proposes stops for the Van in the same areas as the Doorstep story-tellers' routes, thus providing more attention to children who may not yet be Library users. Mrs. Hodges hopes that the Van Project, which still lacks an official name, will prove as big an attraction "as local ice-cream trucks." Personnel and a schedule of stops are still indefinite, but will be announced in late June or early July.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER NY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Although you may not be aware of the change, since April 1 your SCPL library card enables you to charge out books from other participating public libraries in the state of New York. This means, as Andrew Kulmatiski, SCPL Co-ordinator of Public Relations, explains, that residents of Schenectady county will be able to borrow from these participating libraries without payment of a non-resident user fee. Most public libraries in the Capital District have joined this program, which was initiated through the encouragement of Harold Hecker, Director of the Rochester Public Library. If you are temporarily resident elsewhere in the state, you will find this program useful. Take the precaution, however, of checking the list of participating libraries, available at SCPL. Some public libraries, notably those on Long Island and in the City of New York, do not participate.

SERVICES FOR MISS HODGES

A memorial service for Bernice Hodges, director of the Schenectady County Public Library from 1941 to 1953, was held at the Unitarian Society on June 3. Miss Hodges died, at the age of eighty-nine, at the Highland Retirement Center in Scotia on May 21. Tributes were read by Rufus Wheeler, Mrs. Stanley Brown (formerly librarian at Scotia), and Louis Navias. The service was conducted by the Reverend Rudolph Nemser. Miss Hodges came to SCPL after being assistant director of the library in Rochester. She was an innovator, starting the Bookmobile and the Library's collections of recordings and pictures for circulation. She also began planning for the new building, although she retired before it was built. She herself was particularly proud of taking the branch libraries out of school buildings and setting them up in quarters of their own. During her tenure, on January 1, 1949, the Library passed into the control of the County. After retirement, Miss Hodges lived in her home on Ferry Street, until her health made necessary her going to the Highland Retirement Center. She was, for a brief time after retirement, consultant to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and taught for a short while at Geneseo. She was always interested in Community affairs, was a World Federalist, and a member of the NAACP. Contributions in her name may be made to the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, the special staff and gift fund of the Schenectady County Public Library, and the World Federalist Association, organizations to which she herself had made generous gifts during her lifetime.

* * * *

DON'T FORGET THE BOOK SALE OCTOBER 7.
GIVE BOOKS (HARDCOVERS AND PAPERBACKS
EQUALLY WELCOME) !
GIVE YOUR TIME FOR SORTING AND SELLING!

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Liberty and Clinton Streets
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305

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