

FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

September, 1979

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XV No. 1

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN - FALL SCHEDULE

- September 17 POWERS THAT BE
by David Halbertstam
Reviewer: Harry Rosenfeld
- September 24 THE BODY IN QUESTION
by Jonathan Miller
Reviewer: Dr. Thomas Oram
- October 1 CRAZY FOR GOD
by Christopher Edwards
Reviewer: Dr. Leslie Downing
- October 8 FREE. Library Closed
- October 15 TRAVELS WITH HENRY
by Richard Valeriani
Reviewer: Dr. Fred Jonas
- October 22 THE ANARCHISTS' CONVENTION
by John Sayles
Reviewer: Nancy Thornton
- October 29 A STREAK OF LUCK
by Robert Conot
Reviewer: Larry Hart
- November 5 SLEEPLESS NIGHTS
by Elizabeth Hardwick
Reviewer: Marjorie Crary

Katie Rich, the first president of The Friends, 1966-67, was committee chairman and will be coordinator for the series.

About the Speakers

Henry Rosenfeld is Editor-in-Chief of the Knickerbocker News-Times Union. Dr. Oram, senior pathologist at Ellis Hospital, is also Associate Professor at Albany Medical College.

Two of the reviewers are from the Union College Faculty. Dr. Downing, a psychologist, is presently making a special study of religious cults; and Dr. Jonas is a Professor of history.

Larry Hart is well known as a local historian and Gazette columnist.

Two women reviewers complete the list. Nancy Thornton, an instructor at the College of St. Rose, has for two years conducted an evening course in creative writing at the library. Last year Marjorie Crary reviewed Poirier's book about Robert Frost.

These will, as usual, be noon-hour meetings at Central Library.

YES, THERE WILL BE A BOOK SALE THIS YEAR...
9:00 to 5:00, OCTOBER 20

The reason there will be a sale is that since last October some 20 volunteers who knew how to roll up their sleeves and pitch in have put in many hours, week after week, sorting, shelving, boxing, and stacking thousands of hardcovers, paperbacks, magazines, pamphlets, and phonograph records: cookbooks, poetry, Russian, Hebrew, child care, automotive repair, espionage...You name it. We probably have it.

But, the job is not done. We're nowhere near ready for that 9:00 AM opening.

On Wednesday and Thursday before the sale lots of muscle power will be needed to load, transport, and set up thirty heavy tables from the YMCA and from several churches. Diagrams of locations and signs for each table must be arranged; then hundreds of boxes must be brought down from the second floor of the library and put in place. This work will take all of Wednesday afternoon and evening and most of Thursday. Early Saturday morning more tables must be set up on the two patios for the paperbacks, fiction, children's books and magazines.

When the sale starts, teams of cashiers and salespeople will be needed to work in two-hour shifts through the day. Again, a group of workers will be needed from 4:30 to 7:00 to dismantle everything -- return tables to the YMCA and the churches, load the leftover books on the City Mission truck and return all our equipment to The Friends' upstairs storage area.

If you feel you can help in any capacity -- sorting during these remaining few weeks, helping set up the sale or working on sale day, please volunteer NOW. Call Marjorie Woods 377-6986. Don't wait to be called.

Special Privilege to Workers

On Friday from 10:00 to 4:00 members of The Friends who have worked at least twelve hours may come to the McChesney Room and have first choice to buy their books. This opportunity to make early selections applies to all members of the library staff also. Absolutely no early shopping will be allowed on Saturday morning until the doors are open to the public.
Continued on page 4

Second Annual Library Fair
Saturday, September 15
(Story page 4)

to a story read by one of the librarians.

The children are captive; they beam their interest and excitement. When the stories end, they choose a book to take home and read for a week. The youngsters experience the pride of choosing their own book and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of borrowing.

At the Jail

Twice a week inmates of the Schenectady County Jail have an opportunity to borrow books from a small library in the jail staffed by volunteers from The Friends and one paid librarian from the public library.

Since it is not funded by the county, the library collection depends on donations, including a generous donation from The Friends. The library fills an important need for those who have nothing but time on their hands. In recent weeks circulation has averaged 25-30 books per library session.

Volunteers in the program have been regularly providing this service. They are Marie Pletenik, Patricia Jones, Fred and Nell Tromel, and Jane Wyler. Bertha Kriegler from the staff has worked in the jail for many years.

Substitutes are needed to replace the regular volunteers. If interested please contact Jane Wyler 377-7698 or Bertha Kriegler at the library.

For the High School Crowd

One hundred young people crowded the McChesney Room for the film Gimme Shelter featuring the Rolling Stones. Friends paid the \$125 rental for the popular ninety-minute movie. This was the sixth and final program which the library offered young adults during the summer. Other meetings considered such topics as bicycle care and registration, hair styling, and karate, with local professionals donating their time.

Near the end of the school year The Friends donated prizes for a county-wide poetry-writing contest for junior and senior high school students. More than ninety pupils entered the competition, six of whom became winners of gift certificates at the Open Door bookshop.

SCOTIA BRANCH MARKS 50 YEARS

A golden anniversary proved to be a perfect reason for a party, held at the Scotia branch library the last Saturday in May. More than 150 Scotians, staff members, and friends signed the guest register.

A highlight of the afternoon was an hour of reminiscing by villagers who remembered well what life was like during the 1920's, when two local women's groups - Scotia Book Club and Scotia Study Club - alerted the citizenry to the need for a village library. A

WE ENTER THE COMPUTER AGE

Schenectady County Public Library has been selected by the boards of trustees of both the Schenectady unit and the Mohawk Valley Library Association to provide centralized ordering and processing of books and other library materials. This will streamline the cataloging and classification of books, pamphlets, and records.

The new computer-based operation means entering into a contract with a concern called OCLC -- the largest on-line bibliographic data-based system in the world.

The first foreseeable benefit to the local library and readers both here and in the MVLA territory is that new books will be catalogued more quickly and more efficiently and will get into the hands of the readers earlier.

Since MVLA serves all libraries in the Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, and Schoharie counties, the effect of this new move to data processing can be far-reaching.

FALL PROGRAM OFFERS 3-HOUR CREDIT

COURSE IN OPERA AND LITERATURE

If you are interested in learning more about the relation between literature and opera, two SUNY faculty members, Thomas Cully and Mary Beth Winn, are conducting a course carrying three undergraduate or graduate credits called "Literature As Opera." The course may also be taken on a non-credit basis.

Classes are meeting on Monday evenings, seven to ten, in the McChesney Room, beginning September 10. The course will examine certain French stories used as sources for operas, including Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro," Puccini's "Manon Lescaut," and Verdi's "Rigoletto."

The first hour of each lecture (from seven to eight) is open to the public. For further details contact Mrs. Ochs at the library.

charter was granted by the Regents of the State of New York on May 16, 1929, creating the Scotia Free Library, which became a branch of the Schenectady County Public Library system January 1, 1949.

Through the foresight of the Scotia Village Board, the library has, since its beginning, been housed in the historic Abraham Glen house, dated 1730.

Scotia branch librarians, Mrs. Dorothy Schell, Mrs. Nita Turner, and Miss Yvonne Teitsworth, planned the anniversary observance, with current members of the original sponsoring clubs assisting with refreshments. Several members of The Friends were also on hand to assist.

FIVE PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR FALL

COME TO THE FAIR

COMBINE MUSIC, HISTORICAL LORE

A series depicting various aspects of American folkways and history has been scheduled for five performances this fall, starting with a musical evening on Friday, September 14, in the McChesney meeting room.

For the opening program a trio of singers will present "New York State in Folk and Historical Songs." This promises to be a combination of the humor, music and character of the Empire State.

Second in the series is "A Native American Tapestry of Songs, Legends and Dance" listed for October 26. Later dates are November 16, December 7, and December 27.

The programs fall under the heading "Performances for the Community; Echoes of Our Heritage" and are made available in part by the state Council on the Arts and by The Friends of the Library.

Saturday, September 15, has been set as the library's second Fair Day. Morning events will start at eleven o'clock, and once again the day will offer something for everyone.

The following program has been planned especially for the children:

- 11:00 - Balloon Sculpture Demonstration
- 12:00 - Fowler's Magic Show
- 12:30 - Clown Make-up
- 1:00 - Puppet Show
- 1:30 - Bookstacking Contest
- 2:30 - Juggling
- 3:00 - Puppet Show

Adults will be treated to a variety of musical entertainment and educational displays. From one o'clock until four will be a Country Music Afternoon, provided by Silver Strand, who will call a contra dance; Sweet Cider, a bluegrass group; and Charley Rhynhart and Terri Roben, folksingers.

During the day a number of community groups will be on hand to explain their services to fairgoers.

BOOK SALE - Continued from page 1

No Inflation

Prices will be the same this year!

- 35¢ for hardcovers or three for \$1.00
- 15¢ for paperbacks
- 25¢ for children's books
- 10¢ for magazines
- 50¢ to \$1.00 for records

Some of the special, better books are individually marked.

PROTECTS YOUR BOOKS

&

PROMOTE THE LIBRARY

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20 Cents

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Schenectady, New York 12305

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Sept 79

THIS LIBRARY IS A HAVEN

Because I read and deplored the facts described in Suzette Pruit's "Public library: no longer a haven," I'd like to introduce your readers to what is a library in every sense of the word; the Schenectady County (NY) Public Library, one of the 10 largest public libraries in New York State.

For several years it has been my "haven" at least twice a week, never failing to meet my diverse and complex needs in an atmosphere of quiet and certainly friendly helpfulness on the part of the librarians. As far as I know, no "hoods" or other undesirables molest the people; and definitely, no "noise" characterizes the welcome hum of busyness.

People who frequent our library are "gentle, intelligent souls," who do want to "improve their minds." No doubt the many services offered by our library, along with the very frequent "Friends of the Library" programs after library hours, contribute to Schenectadians' appreciation of the excellence of its operation.

As final evidence of our library being what, apparently, Suzette Pruit's isn't, I'd like to quote the library director, Ronald L. Lagasse: "One central theme...pervades all aspects of library services." That is "reaching out to the adults, teenagers, and children of our community, reaching out to the handicapped, to neighborhood groups, to the aged in nursing homes and to children in daycare centers..."

Schenectady, N.Y.

Lieber Anker

(The above was taken from The Christian Science Monitor, as it appeared in their "Readers write" column on October 17, 1979)

NOT TOO BRIGHT...NOT TOO DIM

The meeting room is going to have more light from now on. This is not the kind of light that comes from rubbing two ideas together; that kind brings high quality illumination week after week. But the kind of light that comes when you push a button has, since the beginning, failed to meet requirements.

The two rows of track lights have been the villain. They were the only way of lighting the main portion of the room, but more times than not they have so blinded people that they had to be turned off, leaving the room in something near semi-darkness.

During a board meeting last spring Rufus Wheeler brought this situation to the attention of the Friends, and a committee of Mr. Wheeler and Ann Stamm, with the support of the director, Ronald Lagasse, went to work on the project.

After consulting several area lighting experts and concentrating on both lighting efficiency and energy efficiency, the committee recommended that the Friends make a gift to the library of the fixtures for the new system. Consequently 44 fluorescent overhead fixtures were recently installed.

Continued on page 3

TABLE TALKS--FALL 1979

November 19 Educational Exchange between SUNY and China
Speaker: Dr. John Shumaker

Dr. Shumaker is Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at SUNY in Albany. Last spring he was one of a group of educators who visited China in a foreign exchange he had helped to organize. His field is the classics, with Latin the principal concentration.

November 26 Grants, What They Are and How to Get Them
Speaker: Elliott Masie

Mr. Masie has worked as a consultant to numerous funding agencies, including the J. D. Rockefeller 3rd Fund, HEW, The Ray Glass Fund, The New York State Board of Regents Research Fund and others. He has conducted The Grants Workshop in more than 30 cities.

Continued on Page 3

\$\$\$ BOOK SALE \$\$\$

We did it again! The seventh annual Used Book Sale of the Friends of SCPL, cleared \$5400.00, an increase of 20% over last year's \$4500.00 figure.

If you weren't there on October 20, you missed the best show in town; if you didn't work on the project, you missed a great deal of fun and camaraderie. More than one hundred people worked in one capacity or another: sorting books all through the year, setting up during sale week, working as salespersons or cashiers at the sale, dismantling and cleaning up at the end. Sincere thanks go to all those volunteers; to Price Chopper for the gift of \$40.00 to buy coffee, tea, and donuts for our workers; to the YMCA, the Hellenic Center, the First Reformed Church, and the Unitarian Society for the loan of tables; and to the City Mission and to Hector Carrion for trucking.

This is the third year that Marjorie Woods has been chairman of the book sale, which has been increasingly successful financially each year and is the only fund-raising project that the Friends undertake. The money from the sale will be used to buy library materials not possible through the regular county budget.

FIGURES TO BE PROUD OF

The total number of library cards in force at the end of last year -- the last full year recorded -- was 55,589. That figures to be close to one-third of the population of the county at the time. The circulation desk reports that to be a very high percentage compared with other library systems.

During the same period 905,695 books were circulated.

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- X FRIENDS OF S C P L
- X Chrysoula Fenimore, President
- X Ann Stamm, First Vice-President
- X Fred Tromel, Second Vice-President
- X Martha Wallender, Recording Secretary
- X Dorothea Brown, Corres. Secretary
- X Elizabeth Taylor, Treasurer
- X Mildred Parkinson, Editor NEWSLETTER
- X Mary Dunham, Circulation NEWSLETTER
- X

IF YOU WANT TO RESERVE THE McCHESNEY ROOM, BETTER MAKE APPLICATION EARLY

"The finest community room in this town!" That is the way a patron described the meeting room (now McChesney) back when the new library was first opened to the public. To give his off-the-cuff appraisal some substance, let's consider the multiple attractions that have brought people together here this fall: films, lectures, reviews, musicals, workshops, college credit and non-credit courses, forums, a library fair, and a "bargain basement" book sale--to name a few.

Many of these are part of the regular library program, but 25 groups or individuals have reserved the McChesney Room to enjoy music; to share ideas on city and county matters, school problems and concern for the aging; or to explore such practical matters as how to invest money, get a job, or write a resume.

Certain days of the week have come to mean certain features: Monday noons are for Books Sandwiched In or Table Talks; Wednesday noons are for short-subject adult films; one Thursday morning each month pre-schoolers have the 10:30 time slot for their film fare, and Friday evenings bring Family Films, interspersed this season with five musical interpretations of American lore called Echoes of Our Heritage. For Monday nights there is the college level course Literature as Opera, and on five Saturday mornings Great Books discussions include Don Quixote, King Lear, Chekov's short stories, and Sophocles' Antigone.

The McChesney Room may seat only 150 people, but it is serving many interests of many area residents.

SURVEY SHOWS VARIED PATTERNS FOR USING LIBRARY TO ADVANTAGE

Results of the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce-Public Library questionnaire indicated generally positive attitudes toward library services and quality. Students appreciated the wide range of research materials and listed the public library as a prime source of information for their studies. Forty-six percent of the users, however, indicated that they read mainly for pleasure and came to get books rather than to use reference material.

Branch libraries appear to serve the public well, several people noting that it is occasionally rewarding to check more than one of the branches for certain information. At Quaker Street, especially, the library appeals not merely for books but also as a friendly meeting place. Users generally appreciate the library as a quiet place to read.

A HAPPY START FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dr. Harold Blodgett will present a lecture series on poetry beginning January 4, called Four Poets to Return To. Each program will present a different American poet, as follows:

- January 4: Lanier and His World
- January 11: Longfellow Rediscovered
- January 18: The Search for Emily Dickinson
- January 25: Whitman's Other Self

These are scheduled for Friday mornings, 10:30 to 11:30.

Shifting to English poets, Dr. Carl Niemeyer will use the same time frame for Four Victorians in February.

GOOD NEWS FOR TWO BRANCH LIBRARIES

Getting ready for winter means making some permanent improvements in both the Woodlawn and Scotia branches. Woodlawn will be warmer this winter with new storm windows which are being installed. The stair-well there is also being painted.

At Scotia the alterations are somewhat more extensive. To cut down on heat loss in the 160-year-old house, not only will storm windows and doors be installed but the exterior walls will be insulated.

Crowded conditions will be somewhat alleviated by putting available space to use for library purposes. A storage area in the back of the building will be converted into a children's story-hour and activity room, and a large second floor room will become a meeting room.

NOT TOO BRIGHT... NOT TOO DIM
Continued from page 1

These lights follow the ceiling pattern with three alternatives. Each lights the entire room, but with different intensity: a switch which lights eight fixtures, one which lights ten other fixtures, or one which gives maximum brilliance by leaving both switches on.

VARIED PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR YOUTH

Book Week programs, in keeping with the 1979 International Year-of-the Child theme, include such variety as a photography contest, magic carpet story-telling, an evening of African music, and the Saturday Special series. These were scheduled for the week of November 11 to 17.

The children's rooms at all branches and at Central have been decorated with appropriate hangings and posters, and young library borrowers receive bookmarks

suggesting how happy a thing it is to read a book.

Entries for the photo contest were to feature a child either using the library or simply reading a book. Winners, announced November 12, received gift certificates at the Open Door Bookstore for \$10 or \$5, with the first prize also carrying a one-year membership in the Schenectady Photographic Society.

The magic carpet has been rolled out for story-telling at the Carl Company department store on three afternoons during the week. For this project the library cooperates with local schools.

Friday evening of Book Week was family night, when the third in the series of Performances for the Community presented a musical program highlighting drums and percussion in the African tradition.

Saturday Special winds up the busy week. Since mid-September children ages six to ten have been entertained each Saturday morning from 11:00 to 11:45 with stories, puppet shows, crafts, films and songs. The series ends November 24.

TABLE TALKS - Continued from page 1

December 3 Water Pollution
Speaker: Dr. William Stigliani

Dr. Stigliani is research associate at the Atmospheric Science Research Center at SUNY in Albany. Specializing in toxic substances, he recently co-authored a course in environmental chemistry and has two other books to be published next August.

December 10 Multinational Corporations and the Third World
Speaker: Dr. Joseph Finkelstein

Professor of history and economics at Union College, Dr. Finkelstein was recently guest lecturer at the Center for International Management, Henley-on-Thames, England. His special professional interests include the development of American enterprise abroad, the social aspects of American capitalism and government in business.

December 17 Environmental Effects of the Olympics on Lake Placid and the Area
Speaker: David Shaffer

Mr. Shaffer is Capitol Correspondent for Associated Press at Albany and is their chief political writer for New York State. Until recently he managed coverage of the preparations for the Olympics at Lake Placid.

SCHEENCTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
SUGGESTIONS FOR LIBRARY PROGRAMS

We would appreciate your response to this questionnaire to help in planning programs for teenagers and adults.

Answers may be returned to the Reference Desk at the Central Library or to any branch.

I. What kinds of programs would you like to have at the library? (check)

- A. Book reviews _____
- B. Talks on current affairs _____
- C. Lectures _____ Literary _____ Other topics _____
- D. Films _____ (subject)
 - Feature length _____
 - Family film _____
 - Travel _____
 - Documentary _____
 - Other _____
- E. Group discussions of books _____ special types _____
- F. Other group discussions _____ (mystery, women writers, etc.)
- G. Local history and local writers _____
- H. Continuing education _____
- I. Job and career related programs _____
- J. Workshops _____ Handicrafts _____ creative writing _____ other _____
- K. Programs on how to use the library _____

II. What time is best for programs? (check)

- 1. Morning _____
- 2. Noon _____
- 3. Afternoon, early _____ late _____
- 4. Evening _____

III. Would you be willing to help with programs by: (check)

- 1. Helping to plan _____
- 2. Being a discussion leader _____
- 3. Being a speaker or instructor on _____ (subject)

Please sign below if you would like to help in any way.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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Nov 79

SAVE MONDAY NOONS, FRIDAY MORNINGS FOR WINTER LECTURE SERIES

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Books Sandwiched In will resume noon-hour book reviews next Monday. The schedule follows:

Jan. 14 THE VIEW IN WINTER by Ronald Blythe

Sally Hume, the opening speaker, served as a trained specialist for the New York State Office for the Aging, 1974 - 1976, and is currently an assistant professor at SCCC, teaching psychology, sociology, gerontology, and human services.

Jan. 21 TEACHING AS A CONSERVING ACTIVITY by Neil Postman, and SMALL FUTURES by Richard de Lone

Erma Ruth Chestnut, who will review these books, serves as Director of Continuing Education at SCCC and has long been active in community affairs.

Jan. 28 EVERGREEN by Belva Plain

Miles J. Martin was in charge of Technical Communication at the General Electric Research Laboratory for 16 years. He is best known locally as a world traveler, photographer, lecturer, artist and poet.

Feb. 4 ONWARD AND UPWARD IN THE GARDEN by Katherine S. White

Gilbert Harlow, well known for his talent with things that grow, is a professor of civil engineering at Union College and is responsible for the beautiful plantings in Jackson Garden and owner of Korel Gardens in Pattersonville.

Feb. 11 ENERGY FUTURE by Robert Stobaugh and Daniel Yergin

Peter Stewart is an energy systems analyst at the GE Research and Development Center. He has worked in the nuclear industry and in energy companies in England and Canada.

Feb. 25 TELLING LIVES by Marc Pachter, ed.

Scheduled for this review is William M. Murphy, the Thomas W. Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature at Union College. His biography of John Butler Yeats, Prodigal Father, won national recognition.

Mar. 3 THE LONDON YANKEES by Stanley Weintraub

Carl Niemeyer is the reviewer. The fact that Dr. Niemeyer is a frequent visitor to the British Isles and that he gave the first course of lectures on American literature at St. Andrews University in Scotland are two good reasons for his assignment.

BLODGETT - NIEMEYER LECTURES

Professors Harold Blodgett and Carl Niemeyer will present the winter lecture series, this year concerning poets, American and English, on Friday mornings at 10:30.

Dr. Blodgett opened his four-part series on American poets last Friday with Lanier and His World, stressing the Southern poet's place in the post-war South.

Later programs include January 11, Longfellow Rediscovered; January 18, The Search for Emily Dickinson; and January 25, Whitman's Other Self. Each of the lecture titles suggests that Dr. Blodgett will not be giving the routine treatment of these classroom poets, but rather will explore their less known literary qualities and contributions.

Both of these mentors will include reading from the poems of each writer as well as critical and biographical material.

A Shift to English Poets

Under the title Four Victorian Poets Dr. Niemeyer will start with Thomas Hardy on February 8, allowing us to enjoy Hardy as the poet that he was rather than only as a novelist. On February 15 will come Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit priest who wrote perhaps the finest religious poems in English since the poets of the 17th century. A. E. Housman, February 22 left a small legacy of verse, altogether English in form and inspiration and expressed in a classical elegance that suggests the poet's Latin interests. Rudyard Kipling, February 29, closes the winter lectures with "the poet of the Empire,"

SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES

The following is a list of films that Andy Kulmatiski and Gladys Karlin have selected for the International Film Series entitled Have You Read That Movie? This program is sponsored jointly by the Library Friends and the Young Film-maker's Foundation. The films will be shown on alternate Friday evenings at 7:30.

Antigone (Greece)	February 1
Joan of the Angels (Poland)	February 15
Hunger (Sweden)	February 29
Ugetsu (Japan)	March 14
Pather Panchali (India)	March 28
Bicycle Thief (Italy)	April 11
Mandabi (Senegal)	April 25

Last spring a package arrived at Duane Branch Library from Margate in Kent, England. In it was a paperback, "The Magnificent Century", belonging to SCPL, Duane Branch. A letter accompanied the book:

4 Grove Gardens
Westbrook, Margate, Kent
Monday, 12th March, 1979

Dear Sir/Madam,

I found the enclosed library book whilst travelling to London last Saturday, 10th March 1979 and felt that the least I could do was to return it to the library.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. B. W. Puttock

#

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

The library has received a \$1500 grant through the NYS Council on the Arts, Capital District Decentralization Program, for a series entitled "Performances for the Community: Characters Come to Life." These performances will be dramatic presentations of literature and will show audiences the rich, imaginative realms which are available to the person who reads. The title and dates of specific programs will be announced as soon as known.

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- X Friends of SCPL X
- X Chrysoula Fenimore, President X
- X Ann Stamm, First Vice-President X
- X Fred Tromel, Second Vice-President X
- X Martha Wallender, Recording Secretary X
- X Dorothea Brown, Corres. Secretary X
- X Elizabeth Taylor, Treasurer X
- X Mildred Parkinson, Editor NEWSLETTER X
- X Mary Dunham, Circulation NEWSLETTER X
- X

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

The book had been left on a train by a Duane patron on vacation, who had subsequently paid for the lost book. She was amazed and delighted to learn of the book's return, and Wonja Brucker, Duane librarian, sent a letter of appreciation to Mr. Puttock and, of course, a refund to the borrower. More recently Chrysoula Fenimore, president, sent Mr. Puttock an honorary membership in the Friends of SCPL and an invitation to come to see our country and our "beautiful library of which we are very proud."

GREAT DECISIONS

SCPL and the World Federalists will again host the Great Decisions Series at the main library for eight weekly sessions starting Tuesday noon, January 29, led by Kathryn Rich and Katherine Kaiser. The eight topics follow:

- The World in 1980: America's Basic Options
- The Mideast & the Gulf: U.S. Policy in Ferment
- The United Nations at 35: Illusions and Realities
- Eastern Europe: Emerging from Moscow's Shadow
- Humanity on the Move: How Migration Affects the U.S.
- Brazil's Rising Power: What Weight in the World Scale?
- Vietnam and Its Neighbors: Big Powers and Little Wars
- The World Energy Crunch: America's Choices

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Jan 80

TABLE TALKS START NEXT MONDAY

Shifting from book reviews to discussions of current situations and problems, The Friends have planned a five-part series of Table Talks for the Monday noon-hour programs. Each speaker has been invited to take part in the program because his professional experience gives him special knowledge in the assigned field.

March 10: The Modern History of Iran: 1910 to the Present

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Pelletier

Adjunct Professor of Middle East History at Union College, Dr. Pelletier is currently writing a book on the political history of the Kurds. He has been a foreign correspondent in the Middle East and has worked as a journalist for Newsweek and other publications.

March 17: Serious and Terminal Illness

Speaker: Sally Knutson

Mrs. Knutson, a graduate of Wellesley College, with graduate courses at Yale, is working with the hospice plan at the Haven of Schenectady.

March 24: Trust in the Information Media

Speaker: Ed Dague

A popular personality on the Channel Six evening news, Ed. Dague is a newscaster for WGY AND WRGW.

March 31: Probation Work--Release Or Recognizance, a New Thrust

Speakers: William C. Pausley and Bernard Salad

Mr. Pausley is Director of Probation for Schenectady County and Mr. Salad is Probation Officer and an ROR specialist.

April 7: The Pine Bush - Albany's Last Frontier

Speaker: Donald Rittner

Mr. Rittner is Archeologist of Historic Sites for the City of Albany and Director of the Pine Bush Historic Preservation Project. He is currently preparing a television documentary on the history of the Pine Bush and an educational resource package for secondary schools.

National Library Week -- April 12 - 19

"An afternoon with Jean Van Leeuwen," author of books for children and young adults, as well as a signing party in conjunction with the Open Door bookshop, scheduled for two o'clock Saturday, April 12, at Central Library will initiate observance of National Library Week. The Year-of-the-Family theme will be stressed in a wide range of programs at both Central and branch libraries during the week.

Social service agencies will exhibit family-oriented material each afternoon in the library lobby. Good nutrition for everyone (Tuesday noon) and job prospects in the 1980's (Tuesday at 2 P.M.) emphasize the general theme.

Branch libraries also suggest family awareness in their April 12-19 plans. Another Meet-the-Author session will bring Carol Adler, a Schenectady writer of fiction for children and young adults to the Duane branch April 14 at 3:30; and April 19 at 2:00 Charlotte Sterns will give a multi-media program on Laura Ingalls Wilder at Woodlawn.

"New Games," a film showing how families can play together; kite flying in the park (Scotia); films on family life and on birds and bird calls are among the topics to be featured during National Library Week.

Science Round the Table

The success of last year's series of talks on science and technology has led The Friends to plan a similar program for the coming weeks. Under the name "Science Round the Table" four technical discussions will be presented, beginning April 10. These will be Thursday lunch-hour meetings in the McChesney Room, as follows:

April 10: Energy from Biomass and Waste
Speaker: John Coffman

April 17: An Expanding Universe - Forever?
Speaker: Dr. Ivan Linscott

April 24: The Immune System - An Overview
Speaker: Dr. George D. Vlahides

May 1: The Four Lives of a Butterfly
Speaker: Dr. Gerald R. Dievendorf

Continued on page 3

Kurzweil Coming to SCPL this Spring

Did you ever hear tell of a Kurzweil?!? Then let me introduce you; because very soon a Kurzweil is to take up quarters at Schenectady County Public Library.

Now Kurzweil, as described by Director Lagasse, is not exactly human -- but getting a little too close to it for comfort. It is, of course, no trick for a mechanical device to make perfect copies of a book, page after page; but when he (can't quite bring myself to refer to Kurzweil as "it," and I'm dead set against "or she") starts reading his copy aloud, its time to applaud - or shake Kurzweil's hand.

This is all on the level. A Kurzweil reading machine, which is also a mini-computer and can convert printed material into synthetic speech, will be installed at Central Library sometime this spring. This comes as a special grant from New York State to the Mohawk Valley Library Association, as a special benefit to the handicapped.

Sen. Hugh Farley was active in promoting state legislation allowing this grant to each of the 22 separate library systems in the state. Area people with sight problems are urged to contact the library to learn about the availability of the new reading machine.

N. B. This writer has not had the privilege of hearing Kurzweil himself read aloud, but has enjoyed a rendition by Ronald Lagasse, which the director claims to be a fair imitation.
M. P.

First Memorial Fund Program

The first of several programs in memory of Mrs. Clara Connelly will be slides and displays about Laura Ingalls Wilder at Woodlawn branch library, April 19, as part of Library Week observance. The Friends board decided that the memorial fund should be used to enrich children's programs at the neighborhood library nearest Mrs. Connelly's home.

A Call for Helpers

Volunteers are needed for various Friends' projects. Usually these jobs can be done in a few hours during a single morning or afternoon.

Help is needed in getting the newsletter ready for mailing, drawing simple illustrations for the newsletter, sorting books for the annual book sale, helping with noon-time programs and films, and helping with outreach programs.

If you are interested, please contact Naomi Bristol, 374-0447.

Meeting with County Board

Schenectady County Board of Representatives were guests of the librarians and Friends Monday evening February 25 for a get-acquainted session and a tour of the library plant. The program was of special interest to the physical and environmental committees and afforded opportunities to discuss library services with members of the Board of Trustees and the staff. The Friends served refreshments.

Science Round the Table (Continued from P. 1)

Mr. Coffman, an industrial chemist, is Manager of the gasification-power program of the Wright-Malta Corporation. Dr. Linscott is a member of the Dudley Observatory staff, with radio astronomy as his speciality. The third speaker, Dr. Vlahides, is on the Ellis Hospital staff; his specialty, hematology. Dr. Dieven-dorf is President of the Tri-City Entomological Society. He is a member of the New York State Department of Health

Dr. A. T. Goble, Board of Directors of The Friends and Dr. Harold Plumley arranged the science series.

The review of Telling Lies scheduled for February 25 was postponed until Friday Noon March 7.

SCOTIA BRANCH LIBRARY IS ROTARY 'BUILDING PROJECT' FOR 1980

A second-floor section of the Abraham Glen house (1730), home of the Scotia branch library and one of the village landmarks, is rapidly becoming something more than empty, unused attic space, thanks to the financial support and the energy of volunteer Rotarians turned house renovators.

Not that the library can ever expand into a full two-story facility--that at first glance is impracticable; but the upward expansion will afford much-needed breathing space, storage space, and meeting space for both librarians and Scotians. It will also bring to life the charm of a portion of an early 18th century historic residence. Although the use for the additional space has not been fully determined, it promises to become a friendly, attractive meeting room for small committees and larger local groups.

As the Rotary workmen started chipping away at walls and ceiling in the large front room, they found hand-hewn ceiling beams that will now be exposed. The four small-paned recessed windows add another note of beauty to the room, as will the stair railing when refinished. Alterations are at present limited to the front room, the stairway, and bath.

As one drives by 14 Mohawk Avenue these evenings, it is not just the downstairs lights of the library that he sees, but he may notice that the upstairs is also lighted. Those lights are for the Rotary crew--at work. Among the workers have been James Garguilio--chairman of the project, Rod Rowledge, Donald Hosier, Tony Dorazio, Donald Stavely, David Montana, Joe Hathaway, and Nelson Austin--Rotary president.

Other Recent Improvements

Before winter set in, County support added storm windows and doors and complete exterior wall insulation, making the building much more comfortable for both staff and patrons. By installing heat, a shed-like storage space added another room to the children's section. During late summer the CETA employees gave the library an exterior paint job.

The Friends of SCPL - Annual Dinner Meeting

Place: The First Unitarian Society
1221 Wendell Avenue

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 1980

Time: 5:30 - Sherry

6:00 - Complete Dinner, Featuring
Chicken Parmigian

8:00 - Address: Dr. John S. Morris,
President of Union College

Cost: Six dollars (\$6.00) per person

RSVP: Please make reservations promptly, using
the tearsheet below. The final deadline
is April 1, with payment.

Dr. Morris, a native of Wales and a graduate of The University of South Wales, holds a B.A. and an M.A. degree from The University of Cambridge, an M.A. from Colgate and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. He came to Schenectady from Colgate where he was provost and dean of faculty. He was inaugurated sixteenth president of Union College and tenth chancellor of Union University October 13, 1979.

His nineteen years at Colgate were marked by frequent promotions from assistant professor to include director of The Division of Humanities, Colgate Professor of Humanities and director of the division of University Studies. In 1977 he was acting president of Colgate. He is the author of a number of books on the philosophy of religion.

His address will be presented in the Great Hall immediately following a brief business meeting.

Please reserve _____ places for The Friends of the Library dinner on Tuesday, April 8, at 5:30.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ at \$6.00 per person.
(Make checks payable to The Friends of S.C.P.L.)

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: Mr. Carl Niemeyer
1380 Valencia Road
Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

FINAL RESERVATION DEADLINE - WITH PAYMENT - TUESDAY, APRIL 1.

LOCAL ARTISTS BRING BOOKS TO LIFE

Parts 3 and 4 of a five-part series called "Literature in Performance: Characters Come to Life" are booked for mid-April when Irma Hamilton, Martin Barr, Ed Plogg, Marion Stewart, and Fulvia Hickman will give dramatic interpretations of selections from the fiction of Walter D. Edmonds and the poetry of William Seaver and Robert Frost. Time and Place:

Monday, April 14, 7:30 P.M., Senior Citizens Center

Friday, April 18, 7:30 P.M., SCPL McChesney Room

The final performance, scheduled for May 8, 7:30 P.M. at the library, centers around the works of William Blake. Dorothy Koenig will direct a company of eleven readers and musicians in a dramatization entitled William Blake: Poet, Painter, Philosopher. This program serves as an opener for a symposium on Blake, "With Corroding Fires," jointly produced by Skidmore and Union Colleges, May 9 & 10.

Early in February Mars Hill and Verona Barnes of the Black Experience Ensemble of Albany presented two programs of interpretive readings of House and Field, a play by Mr. Hill, the Book of Daniel, and selections from recent Black poetry.

This five-part presentation, entirely the work of local artists, experienced in theater and music, was funded by The New York State Council on the Arts under The Decentralization Program, and also sponsored by the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees.

BSI ALREADY PLANNED FOR APRIL--MAY

Six recent books have been selected for review during the spring Books Sandwished In series beginning April 14. Haven in a Heartless World by Christopher Lasch deals with relationship and was selected as an opener because it relates to this year's Library Week theme, the Year-of-the Family. Reviewing the book will be Dr. Lloyd Thomas, Director of the Mental Health Clinic in Montgomery County.

Norman Cousins's account of his own struggle with serious illness, Anatomy of an Illness, will be reviewed by Dr. Leonard Ochs, April 21. Dr. Ochs is a psychologist whose private practice includes work with children, adults, and couples; family therapy; and stroke patients.

April 28 Dr. Harold Blodgett, Professor Emeritus of Union College, will discuss Edmund Wilson's The Thirties. To the Friends and their audiences Dr. Blodgett might be described as an ever-productive gold mine.

Hester Shapiro, whose talents are well known through library appearances, television, her "Book Bound" column and poems and stories for children, will talk about The Ghost Writer by Philip Roth May 5.

Speaker for The Brethren by Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong, May 12, is Prof. Francis Anderson, who teaches both criminal and constitutional law at SUNYA.

For the last of the year's book talks, on May 19, Sister Katherine Hanley will consider Mary McCarthy's recent novel Cannibals and Missionaries. Sister Hanley is a member of the English department at the College of St. Rose and is Dean of the Graduate School there.

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

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HELPING TO MAKE THE FRIENDS CLICK

June, July and August are the most important months for the success of the fall book sale, So bring in your books NOW. And don't forget to bring along lots of cardboard boxes -- not too large. (They get heavy when full of books.) For convenience use the loading dock and ring for custodial help or make your request for assistance at the switchboard.

The Friends sponsor the book sale and take genuine pride in the financial success of the project each year. That income, however, is entirely allotted to the purchase of books. For all other services to the library the Friends must depend upon membership fees.

The Friends need that money. It is not without some expense that the noon-hour lectures and Blodgett-Niemeyer literary series drew audiences totaling more than 2500.

The Friends contribute money for student cartoon and poetry prizes; for programs where children can meet a favorite author; for film rentals; for outreach to nursing homes and day-care centers; toward the cost of improved lighting; for a typewriter for public use at Central library last year and for four tape player cassettes this year; and to help initiate programs such as Reading Is Fundamental with starter or matching funds.

It is because the Friends have assumed these roles that the Membership Committee, Margaret Dickson, chairman, is currently conducting a campaign to add 200 new members to Friends of SCPL.

Latest report showed a total of 389 renewals for 1980-81.

The Children's Department

That's where the action is during July and August, at all branches and at Central. For the younger set there are bedtime and sleepy time stories scheduled for early evening at Duane and Woodlawn. Films are listed for all facilities; puppet shows are popular; and at Woodlawn, Wingate and Central creative writing workshops are planned for grades 3 - 6.

Back to the Doorsteps

Of course that good old cowbell will be ringing again this summer, to call children living in the Hamilton Hill, Foster Avenue and Upper State Street areas to their doorsteps to listen to stories and to choose books to keep until the next week's doorstep "gala" comes around. The "foot-soldiers" who will push the carts and read the stories will be Serena Butch, Diane McDougall, Nancy Gifford and Mary Richard.

OUTREACH PLANS FOR SUMMER

Without benefit of last year's Mediatrek van service, the Outreach program for summer 1980 plans to continue regular visits to such health facilities as the Baptist Retirement Center and Glendale, Hallmark, Kingsway Arms and Silver Haven, bringing readings, slides and music to the shut-ins.

Jane Somers, coordinator for this project, hopes -- with the help of volunteers from the Friends of SCPL -- to make it feasible for many of the visually impaired to make occasional visits to the Library.

RIF -- Reading Is Fundamental -- will probably be rescheduled to begin in July. Lois Hodges, Coordinator of Children's Services, and Mrs. Somers are presently writing a RIF grant proposal. If final agreements are signed, this will be a year-round procedure associated with the Reading Motivation Program, a plan to provide free paperback books to disadvantaged and handicapped children ages three to eighteen. These books would be delivered to four sites in the county. To accompany these distributions the Children's Department plans story hours with special themes.

Can You Help?

Would you like to help a visually impaired person become a library user? Naomi Bristol, Coordinator of Volunteers for the Friends and Jane Somers, Outreach Consultant SCPL/MVLA, are asking the Friends and the community for drivers to bring the blind to the Library.

When a list of drivers has been compiled, a workshop will be held at Central Library, with assistance from the Northeast Association for the Blind, to introduce the volunteers to common sense ways of walking with and assisting a blind person. To volunteer please call Naomi Bristol at 374-0447, or Jane Somers at 382-3500.

In recent meetings with the Schenectady Braille Club and the Jolly Doers, a crafts group, Mrs. Somers found that most of the members wanted to come to the library but couldn't get there alone.

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*
* RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE *
*
* The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at *
* SCPL on Monday June 2 from 10 A.M. to *
* 4 P.M. The Friends are urged to donate *
* blood, if possible. *
* * * * *

No Letter... Call Circulation

Summer Film Series

In spite of Circulation's best efforts, occasionally we hear rumblings -- not grumblings, we hope -- that some good Friend has not received his NEWSLETTER. For several years the Letter has been distributed five times a year: September, November, January, March and June. The exact date is difficult to predict. However, if you believe you have been by-passed, blame U. S. Postal Service, of course, but call Bertha Kriegler Newsletter Circulation, at the library, 382-3500.

Movies will be shown each Monday during July and August at 2 and 7:30 P.M. in the McChesney Room.

- Duck Soup, July 10
Meet Me in St. Louis, July 17
The Lady Vanishes, July 24
Lavender Hill Mob, July 31
20th Century, August 7
Fall of the House of Usher, Aug. 14
Lawrence of Arabia, August 21
Dodge City, August 28.

New Board Members and Officers

Friends of the Library added three new names to its board of directors this spring. Fred Grimm, a former owner of the Shaffer-Grimm building supplies company, now retired, is associated with Blake Realty. He became interested in the Friends by Attending their Monday noon programs. Bertha Kriegler is a reference librarian at Central and also works with the county jail library program. Frank Maginniss is rejoining the board after an absence of several years. As the current treasurer of the Friends, he refers to himself as "a professional engineer who has become a professional treasurer." He serves four groups in that capacity.

Along with new board members are shifts in officers for the coming year as indicated by the following staff list.

- Friends of S C P L
Ann Stamm, President
Marty Wallender, 1st Vice-President
Mary Dunham, 2nd Vice President
Robert Moore, Recording Secretary
Dorothea Brown, Corres, Secretary
Frank Maginniss, Treasurer
Mildred Parkinson, Editor, NEWSLETTER
Bertha Kriegler, Circulation, NEWSLETTER

Appealing to Young Adults

More varied entertainment fare will be offered on Wednesday evenings beginning July 16, when it is hoped to feature the film The Rolling Stones at Hyde Park. For July 23: High school Film and Video Producers. Under consideration for July 30 is the Albany Comic Book Club display, with illustrator Frank Hembeck, August 6 brings Roller Skating Stars -- James Manning, Laurie Navilis & Company. Magical Mystery Tour with the Beatles, a 60 minute film, August 13: and August 20 Frank Babcock, Arm and Wrist Wrestling Champion, ends the season.

Cable T.V. at Scotia Branch Library

Under the terms of the current franchise with Schenectady Cablevision, the Scotia Branch Library is entitled to free cable service from the company. The library has been promised two cable installations, one upstairs in the new meeting room and one downstairs for the handicapped people and for anyone who doesn't want to walk up the stairs.

Television sets are needed at the library to be used with the cable installation. Anyone who wishes to donate one should call the Scotia Branch Library.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - to work on SCPL's People-to-People Index, interviewing and updating files. Contact Gladys Karlin, 382-3500.

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

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