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REMEMBER BSI SEPTEMBER 19 - SEE P. - 2

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### BOOK SALE TIME AGAIN

When? Saturday, October 1, 9:00 - 5:00

The Friends Annual Book Sale becomes more famous every year, and with good reason. Our Chairman, Marjorie Woods, reports that there are hundreds of boxes of books, all sorted and ready to go, with more coming in every day. If you have books to donate, PLEASE, don't delay - get them in NOW. Don't worry about whether they are suitable - the committee workers can decide that.

The work schedule for Book Sale Week is being made up now. Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 28 and 29 to set up, Friday to run the pre-sale, and for Saturday, more than one hundred workers to serve as cashiers, sales people and clean-up crew.

To you loyal regulars who have worked so faithfully in the past: we are counting on you to serve again. We also need to recruit new volunteers each year to assure a continuing cadre of experienced personnel.

People will be asked to serve in two-hour or four-hour shifts Wednesday after 1:00 P.M. or Saturday starting at 9:00 A.M. Friday, from 10:00 to 2:00 will be the pre-sale for library staff and for Friends who have worked at least sixteen hours during the year.

It's great fun, good fellowship, and a real contribution to the library's book budget. If you can help, call Marjorie Woods, on 377-6986 (home) or 382-3500 (library).

### HALF-PRICE FEATURE AT BOOK SALE CANCELLED

This year there will be no half-price sale late in the day. This system has been tried for several years, and has proven to be unsatisfactory. Therefore, prices will be uniform throughout the day, until 4:30, when patrons may buy a bag of books for \$1.00. The bags will be supplied at that time.

Hardcover books and large paperbacks will be priced at 50 cents, better books and phonograph records will be individually marked, children's books and standard size paperbacks will be 25 cents, and magazines 10 cents.

These are the biggest bargains in town. Come and be a part of it!

### DOORSTEP PROJECT

The Doorstep Project, a summer program of lending books and reading to children in the Hamilton Hill area, was again funded entirely by the Friends, and is still our largest budgeted item. Nancy Gifford and Sarena Butch, both veterans of the program, were the main story tellers, with Beverly Provost and Diane McDougal from Scotia filling in as needed. Three teen volunteers, Jennifer Ott, Joan Bristol and Sasha Strelka, were on the project last year, while Kim Maxwell and Cassandra Boyd were two new volunteers.

In the eight weeks of doorstepping, three days each week, weather permitting, more than 2000 children were reached. However, this is about 20% under the number reached last summer, so Nancy Gifford and her team will consider ways to adapt the program to try to meet the changing needs and location of the population.

We thank the Central Brown Transportation System for donating the taxi service needed by the Doorsteppers.



## COMPLETE BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN PROGRAM

COORDINATORS: Katie Rich and Janet Sills

NOTE: All interested Friends are invited to stay for a short planning session after the BSI meeting on September 28 for the Fall Table Talks, and on October 3 for the winter Books-Sandwiched-In series.

Sept. 19: THE EUROPEANS by Luigi Barzini

Reviewer: Professor Joseph Board

Barzini, author of "The Italians", profiles the "national character" of the five principal Common Market nations - Britain, Germany, France, Italy and Benelux - in terms of what propels each toward, or away from, a unified Europe, taking a different approach to each country. Our reviewer, Prof. Joseph Board, is unusually well qualified for this assignment. Now Professor of Government at Union College, he knows most of the European languages, and has both studied and taught in two European countries.

Oct. 17: DANGEROUS CURRENTS: The State of Economics by Lester Thurow

Reviewer: Mark Ferreira

What are the "Dangerous Currents", and what is "the state of economics"? Who better to answer these questions than one of the most popular and widely read of present day economists, Lester Thurow? He gives his analysis of why economists fail so often in their predictions, and what should be done about it. And who better to review Thurow for us than Mark Ferreira, who is not an economist, but as a stock broker is both interested in and affected by the predictions of economists?

Sept. 26: ELENI by Nicholas Gage

Reviewer: Athena V. Lord

Nicholas Gage resigned his job as a reporter for The New York Times to track down the communist guerilla killers of his mother in his native village in Greece, and avenge her death. This true story is a mixture of thriller, history and memorial to a mother's love for her children. Athena Lord, a teacher of writing and author of books herself, has other qualifications as a reviewer of this book: she comes from a Greek family, whose roots are in the same part of Greece as Nicholas Gage's, and she speaks the language fluently.

Oct. 24: F. SCOTT FITZGERALD: A Biography by Andre Le Vot

Reviewer: Janet Sills

Though far from the first, this is the best biography of Fitzgerald in the opinion of at least one review writer. This is in spite of, or because of, its being written by a Frenchman (and professor of American Literature), and translated by an American. Le Vot does not treat Fitzgerald as Americans do - as a myth, to be supported or torn down - but rather sees him as a truly significant modernist American writer, coincidentally destroyed by drink. Our reviewer, Janet Sills, while new in this role, is a former editor and copywriter, former adult educationist, and long-time student of expatriate American writers of Fitzgerald's era.

Oct. 3: ANCIENT EVENINGS by Norman Mailer

Reviewer: Professor Carl Niemeyer

This is a complete change of style for Mailer, to one that a less published and less successful author might have trouble selling. You may not want to plough through the 700 pages yourself, in which case there is probably no better way to get the flavor of this bizarre sounding account of the lives and reincarnations of Egyptian pharaohs of 1100 B.C. than to hear Prof. Niemeyer's review. We are indeed fortunate to have former Thomas Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature Niemeyer reviewing this book for us. All but the newest Friends will recognize him as a frequent BSI reviewer and Literature Series Lecturer at Central Library.

Oct. 31: THE COLOR PURPLE by Alice Walker

Reviewer: Professor Ruth Stevenson

An epistolary novel, this is a compelling portrait of rural black life in the South, in the thirties, and a richly affirmative story about the endurance of love. It has been called a "lovely, painful book: Walker's finest work yet". Dr. Stevenson, our reviewer, is Assistant Professor of English at Union College, and a book author herself. In addition to these professional attributes, she brings to this task the interest and knowledge of southern culture that one might expect of a native of Virginia.

Oct. 10: Library Closed (Columbus Day)



## BRANCH NEWS

Last issue we reported on the happy news about the coming new Duanesburg Branch. We can now report that architectural drawings have been completed and sent out for bids. Construction should start this fall.

We also reported that a search was on for a new location for the Woodlawn Branch. Three possible sites have been located, and negotiations are under way for purchasing one of them.

The Summer Reading Club, reported on elsewhere in this issue, was even more enthusiastically received in the branches. In total, 766 kids were registered in the six branches, including 40 in the tiny Quaker Street Station (the Duanesburg branch-to-be). The total is more than 50% over last year's.

## A DRIVE FOR NEW MEMBERS

The basic purpose of The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, enriching our community through helping the library, can only be accomplished through membership. Our success in accomplishing this purpose is a function of the number of members, and this is not what we feel it could and should be. Only about one out of every 50 adult card-holders is a member of The Friends.

In an effort to improve this ratio, President Marty Wallender has asked Board Member Gloria Petterson to head a drive for new members. Some of its purposes will be to increase awareness of library service problems, and how The Friends help. It will also serve to provide more funds for projects, programs, and gifts of materials and equipment to supplement the library's hard pressed budget.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Even before the membership drive has started we are glad to be able to report an increase of 25 members over this time last year. Probably more important is the addition, over the summer, of nine new members:

Paul M. Callahan  
 Claire J. Friguletto  
 Geri Gallagher-Lopez  
 Emily Mercoglan  
 John J. Randazzo, Jr.  
 Jean Rettie  
 Louise Waterman  
 Ben and Sharon Wiles

We welcome you all!

## SUMMER READING CLUB

The Summer Reading Club (SRC), initiated by the library last year, was so successful it was continued this year. All summer the children's room bustled with readers excited about this year's "Into the Future" theme. A total of 167 first through seventh graders contracted for the number of books they thought they could read during the eight weeks of the program. As the titles were read, the kids entered them on their "computer log" and added a star to their universe. Weekly programs were held to promote the club and keep the members reading. In addition to stories, librarians Sarena Butch, Diane McDougall and Lois Foight Hodges experimented with draw-and-tell stories, songs about robots, creative dramatic plays and participation stories. Each week a craft was made to tie into the future theme. The children had fun with paper airplanes, flying saucers made from cookies, rocket ships made from paper towel rolls and thumb-print Martian scenes.

In addition to all the fun, they read books. Nearly two-thirds of them completed their contracts, most reading at least ten books. How many adults can make that claim?

Although basically a project of the library, The Friends helped out with the kick-off and finishing parties.

## PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE INDEX UPDATE

The last Newsletter contained an article about the People-to-People Index, a file (at the library, of course) which lists the names of people interested in sharing their skills and knowledge. The Index is about to be computerized, thanks to Robert Peters of Mohonasen High School. Mr. Peters learned about the Index at the People-to-People Open House held this spring. He teaches gifted children and felt that they could benefit from the talents of the people listed in the Index, so he offered to put the entire Index on an Apple computer. This will provide other Mohonasen teachers access to the list and make it easy to update the list.

Mr. Peters is an electric car owner and builder, and has listed himself in the Index as a source of information on this subject. He is also encouraging other Mohonasen teachers to list their skills in the Index.

If any of The Friends would be interested in volunteering to work on the fledgling People-to-People Index Committee, please call Phyllis Ochs at the library, 382-3500. If an active committee can be formed it should generate a lot more interest in and activity for the Index.

## PLAY READING AGAIN

By popular demand, Irma Hamilton's play reading group will meet again this year on alternate Thursday afternoons at 3:00 P.M. in the Blue Room, starting Oct. 27. Anyone interested in some informal fun, requiring no special talents, is invited to join in.



## TEEN VOLUNTEERS

SUMMER 1983

We are again thankful to the group of teenagers who volunteered their time and talents at the Library this summer. They did a variety of useful jobs, from typing, filing and clerical work to checking phonograph records and taking inventory. Five of them helped with the Doorstep Project (see separate article), and five helped in the branches with the Summer Reading Club (also covered separately). Altogether, there were 22, nearly three times as many as last year.

Listed below are the names of the Teen Volunteers not mentioned elsewhere. The \* indicates those who worked last summer also:

Adult Dept. - Michele Cusano, Sheila Repice

Circulation - Walter Jewell\*, Kathleen Wolfe

Duane Branch - Maureen Curran, Kim Davis,

Kathy Fitzmaurice\*, Barbara Stewart, Mark

Weatherwax

Reference Dept. - Aileen Tang, Kathleen

Wertman, Suzanna Wertman

Switchboard - Donna Des Bois, Melissa Reeves

Scotia Branch - Debbie Gordon\*

Technical Services - Grace Namkoong, Laura

Niedbalski

A party was held on September 1 to recognize these volunteers.

## VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

Central Library has need for the following volunteers:

CLERICAL HELP (filing and typing) in Technical Services and Adult Departments

AIDE in Circulation Department to shelve and retrieve books from stacks.

There is also need for a VOLUNTEER to help with a community library in the Hamilton Hill area.

For all volunteer jobs, training will be given. Call Naomi Bristol, 382-3500.

## RESERVE SYSTEM - UPDATE

As we have reported, the Reserve System was reinstated this year with the help of volunteers and an increase in the fee to one dollar. Procedures have been streamlined, so that books are obtained for patrons more quickly. If you don't receive the reserved book within three months your dollar will be refunded, but that has seldom been necessary.

In spite of the good service, the demand has dropped way down, from a former 25-30 reserves per day to about five. Unless this increases, it may be necessary to discontinue the service again. We encourage you to make all the use of the Reserve System you can, if you would like to see it continued.

## Friends of SCPL

Marty Wallender, President  
Dorothy Settle, 1st Vice-President  
Jill Titus, 2nd Vice-President  
Mary Dunham, Recording Secretary  
Fred Tromel, Corresponding Secretary  
Audrey Weidler, Treasurer  
Richard Sills, Editor, NEWSLETTER  
Eleanor Belniak, Circ., NEWSLETTER

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

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## 1983 BOOK SALE

We did it again! The Friends of SCPL had another successful used book sale on Saturday, October 1, making a grand total of \$6,324, about 12% more than last year. This money, as in the past, will be used to buy books and library materials for the branches, to supplement the county library budget.

Thanks are due to the many Friends who worked throughout the year, sorting and boxing, and to all those working during book sale week, setting up and clearing away, and as sales people, cashiers and general helpers during sale day.

We are also very grateful to several organizations - to Entenmann's Bakeries for donuts for our workers; to the County Engineering Department and to individuals from the Work Relief Program and from the Law, Order and Justice Center for help in transporting tables; and for the loan of tables from the YMCA, YWCA, First Reformed Church, The First Unitarian Society, Scotia Reformed Church and Beukendaal Fire Department.

And last, but far from least, we are thankful to Marjorie Woods, Chairman of the Book Sale. This is the seventh successful book sale Marjorie has run for us. This is not a one week job, but an all year project. Books are already being collected for next year's sale.

## ONE TALE TO ANOTHER

In case you (or your children) haven't noticed it, you should know that there is a new (started October 5) locally produced radio program for older children every Wednesday at 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. on WAMC-FM, 90.3.

Produced by Brin Quell and introduced by Schenectady's Christopher Holder, SCPL's Nancy Gifford and Lois Foight Hodges are among five area storytellers who will weave their magic during the half-hour. Ms. Quell provides the concluding segment with conversations with children on topics of interest to them.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We welcome all of the following new Friends who have joined since August 23. With renewals sent in, total membership is now up to 850, 57 more than a year ago.

Mr./Mrs. Arnold Adler  
Mr./Mrs. William F. Albers  
Velma B. Carlson  
Ruth Cotton  
Mr./Mrs. Robert J. Cottrell  
Sylvia R. Curley  
Ida R. Engle  
William Fischer  
Patricia M. Gibbons  
Mrs. Thomas Kochem  
Agnes R. Livingston  
The Meyer Family  
Susan Ness  
E. D. Reilly  
Muriel B. Roberts  
Mrs. Arthur Robinson  
Yvonne Teitsworth  
Ruth Turner  
Robert and Ruth Varley

## A PROJECT FOR EVERYONE

In our last NEWSLETTER (September) we explained why our membership is so important, and announced a drive for new members. In this endeavor, as in so many others, our membership itself is our most important asset. That is, you, as a member, can help by suggesting to your friends that they join. Be sure to point out to them that membership does not obligate them to do volunteer work, or, in fact, to do anything other than pay the very nominal dues once each year. They might find they would like to do more, but no-one will urge them.

One of the easiest ways to interest others in the Friends is to bring them to one of our activities - a Monday noon-time meeting, for example. While there, be sure they get one of our brochures (always on the table by the door).

Instead of, or in addition to this approach, you could pick up brochures at the library and simply send or hand them to your friends, explaining that you think they would enjoy belonging if they don't already. People like to be asked!



## COMPLETE PROGRAM FOR FALL TABLE TALKS

Coordinators: Dorothy Settle and Mildred Maras

NOV. 7 - THE RELATIVES' VIEW OF MENTAL ILLNESSSpeaker: Ann Bartlett Lemmond

Those of us without any experience with a mentally ill family member may have little understanding of the problems or the prevalence of these afflictions, but we are not immune to them. Ann Lemmond, Chairperson of Relatives of the Mentally Ill Support Group in Schenectady County and member of three other related organizations does have this experience. She will tell us about it, and what these organization are trying to accomplish.

NOV. 14 - SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGESSpeaker: Liese Mahler

SOS Children's Village, founded in Austria in 1949, is, for many children in need, a better answer than a foster home. Its acceptance is indicated by the fact that today there are more than 200 SOS Children's Villages in 74 countries that have affected the lives of over 20,000 children of all races. Liese Mahler, a former Schenectady Community Ambassador to Brazil, will describe the background, concept and growth of SOS Children's Villages and and her own experiences in visiting the child she is sponsoring in Austria.

NOV. 21 - SUPPLEMENTAL WAYS FOR IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL STABILITY (SWIIS)Speaker: Dr. Harold Chestnut

Hal Chestnut is a past president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and the International Federation for Automatic Control (IFAC), and in 1981 was awarded the first Honda prize for promoting international cooperation in the field of engineering. As an internationally known systems engineer, and author of several books on this subject he has the idea that some of the methodologies and techniques that have been effective in developing contemporary weapons systems can be used to help develop more effective peace systems. To promote this idea internationally he has set up the SWIIS Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization of which he is president. Under its auspices, several international symposia have been held. Dr. Chestnut will tell us more about the idea and the operation of the foundation.

NOV. 28 - THE USE AND ABUSE OF BANKRUPTCYSpeaker: Martin J. Goodman

Bankruptcy isn't something that happens just to giant corporations. Small business and even individuals can legally use it to wipe out part or all of their debts. When and why this should be done will be described by Mr. Goodman, whose Albany law firm has specialized in bankruptcy cases of all types for over ten years.

DEC. 5 - EDUCATION IN THE U.S. - ARE WE CHANGING THE RULES AGAIN?Speaker: Dr. Raymond Colucciello

The title may be a rhetorical question, since continual rules changes seem to be the rule in education. Dr. Colucciello will review three recent studies of the American education system and then give his ideas of curriculum changes we (that is, our children) can expect as a result. As Director of Curriculum (Grades K-12) for Schenectady City School District Dr. Colucciello supervises curriculum development, among other related activities, so he should be in a position to know about these things.



## A BOOST FOR RÉSUMÉ EVALUATION SERVICE

In September the Friends' board voted to contribute \$1,000 towards reinstating the Resume Evaluation Service of the library's Educational and Job Information Center. Since this is, for us, a substantial sum, and many Friends may be unaware or only vaguely aware of the EJIC, some background is in order.

Educational and Job Information Centers, which are in part Federally funded, and which provide help in all aspects of finding a job, are a regular feature of at least 56 New York libraries. Ours has been operating for six years, and has generated more letters of appreciation than any other service we have. It has also attracted many new users to the library.

The Resume Evaluation Service was an important part of EJIC for five years, until May of this year when Gladys Karlin, who provided the service as part of her library job, retired. She served a total of 2860 people, including one hour interviews with 1244 of them.

The gift provided by the Friends will enable EJIC to hire Mrs. Karlin part time for the rest of this year. Starting next year a Federal grant of \$2,400 is expected to be received, and will keep it going for a while. Additional monies are needed, and Board members Thomas DeWan, Bertha Kriegler and Robert Liebers are working with Ronald Lagasse and Phyllis Ochs of the library towards obtaining additional funding. Any Friends who are involved with social, labor, religious or community organizations which might be in a position to provide some funding are asked to contact Mr. Lagasse for more information. Please help to make the Resume Evaluation Service a permanent part of what our library offers the community.

## THE RED CROSS BUS

New members, or others who may have missed previous notices, should note that THE RED CROSS BUS has offered to provide transportation to the library for Monday noon meetings or on Thursdays, for those who are elderly or handicapped or have no other means of transportation. If you are in one of these categories, we urge you to give it a try, for at least two reasons. First, we want to see you at the library, and second, if the service is not used enough, we could lose it to other groups.

To make a reservation, you can either call Mildred Maras on 393-5068, or call Rick at THE BUS, on 374-9180. You can call the same day, but you are less likely to be disappointed if you call the day before.

## NEWS FROM THE JAIL LIBRARY

You may recall that the jail library had some problems stemming from lack of space and the necessity of sharing space with other activities. This was partially solved through the use of a special cart, serving as a mini-bookmobile.

The Jail Library Committee, Bertha Kriegler and Fred Tomel, are glad to report that the planned renovation of the County Jail has begun in earnest, as the massive foundations going up around it testify. Adequate space for a library in the renovated jail has been promised to us.

In spite of the limitations imposed by the present space problem, a recent survey of usage by jail inmates disclosed that, during just July and August, a total of 340 books were borrowed. Not bad.

## PROBLEM PATRON MANUAL

Although Friends are not involved in any way (we hope), they may be interested to know about a 65 page booklet published by Schenectady County Public Library titled PROBLEM PATRON MANUAL. This was compiled by the Problem Patron Committee, whose members are Marion Brown, Wonja Brucker, Timothy McGowan and Melinda Myers.

Problem patrons are those who, consciously or unconsciously, disturb other patrons, or disobey library rules. They can, and at times do, present the staff with some of its most difficult problems. The booklet discusses a wide variety of problem behaviors and describes clearly what staff members should and should not do in response.

The booklet has been offered for sale to other libraries, with considerable success. Well over 1000 copies have been sold at \$5.00 each. Many of the largest libraries in the country have purchased it although it is intended mainly for intermediate-sized libraries such as ours.

We congratulate the committee for a job well done and for providing what has proven to be a much needed library aid.

A closely related item is the news that a bill introduced by Senator Farley (S6017, which extends to libraries the right to detain and hold, for police arrival, anyone for whom there is reasonable ground for suspecting an act of larceny, has been passed into law and is in effect.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Carmella Grandy

Meet Carmella Grandy, the vivacious, friendly volunteer typist you may have seen in the switchboard area. Carm has been typing letters, booklists, putting together posters, and eagerly helping wherever needed since January of this year.

She has had wide experience as a secretary at GE, as advertising consultant at the Gazette, and at Union College. She is also trained as an EKG technician. Her father, the head of Schenectady Fine Arts Mold Shop in Scotia, interested her very early in ceramics, which she used to teach. Carm made the greenware and had her students finish the pieces which she then fired in her kiln.

Carm lives in Scotia with her husband. Their recently married son lives in Newburgh. For fun Carm enjoys reading, traveling, and, of course, working at the library.

She volunteers because she "likes to be useful and supportive to a worthwhile organization, and to keep my hand in doing clerical work." Mrs. Rose Korbin, staff member with whom she works, said enthusiastically, speaking for herself and others, that "Carm does excellent work, and is very pleasant to have as a volunteer". We are happy to salute Carm Grandy as our VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

The Volunteer Program is alive and well - in September 47 volunteers contributed 465 hours - but help is still needed for several specific jobs, described below:

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

Two Volunteers are needed for temporary work assisting in evaluating the periodical collection. Duties will consist of filling out forms from information found in a file. No typing required. Will require 3 or 4 hours a week for two months.

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

An Aide is needed to assist librarian in decisions on lost books by checking a file to determine the number of copies remaining, and checking catalogs for reordering information. No typing required.

Fine Clerk to check microfilm for over-due books, look up addresses of borrowers and type bills.

Stock Attendent to retrieve books and periodicals from the stacks and send them to the main floor. The job also involves replacing books in stacks and keeping shelves in order.

CIRCULATION AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

Inventory Aides to work in pairs checking books on shelves against the shelflist (file) to identify missing books.

ADMINISTRATION

Typists, to type a variety of material - letters, bibliographics, press releases, etc.

If you would like a rewarding winter activity, enjoy working in the pleasant surroundings of the Library, and will share your talents with us, please call Naomi Bristol, 352-3500, or leave your name and telephone number with the switchboard operator.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

- Marty Wallender ..... President
- Dorothy Settle ..... 1st Vice-President
- Jill Titus ..... 2nd Vice-President
- Mary Dunham ..... Recording Secretary
- Fred Tromel ..... Corresponding Secretary
- Audrey Weidler ..... Treasurer
- Richard Sills ..... Editor, NEWSLETTER
- Eleanor Beinak ..... Circulation, NEWSLETTER

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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR! START IT WITH BOOKS SANDWICHED IN MONDAY NOON, Jan. 9 See Page 2

### NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE 80'S

This is the title of an 88 page report that is sub-titled "Long Range Planning for the Schenectady County Public Library". The report is the culmination of the work of a Planning Team formed by the Library Trustees in March, 1982, to develop a long range plan for the library that would provide a frame-work for managing the system in the 80's. The 14 member team included representatives from community organizations, the Friends, SCPL staff and trustees and the County Board of Representatives.

Naturally, we can't do justice to such a monumental work in a short Newsletter article, but we'll do our best. Perhaps future articles can be written to elaborate on various important areas of the report.

#### User Survey

One of the first tasks undertaken was to conduct community and library user surveys. These did not produce many surprises - most of the survey findings were known or expected by the staff and trustees. However, they are valuable in that they document the findings.

The surveys showed that 57% of county residents use the library (vs. 44% nationwide), and 82% of these do so at least once or twice monthly (90% for Branch Users). At Central, 84% of users have some college education, although only 34% of the population does. Also at Central, users are evenly divided between men and women. The Branches have a lower percentage of college people and higher percentage of women, as one might guess.

The majority of users are generally satisfied with the library hours, service and materials, but by far the changes most often suggested were for more books. Consistent with this, if funding were to be reduced, the highest number, by far, would reduce duplicate copies and have fewer records and cassettes. The smallest number of votes were for fewer books, reference works and reference services. These results are interesting, since presumably most respondents were unaware that our budget for library materials (chiefly books) is less than half, and the number of volumes only 73%, both per capita, that of ten comparable libraries in New York State. On these counts, we rank ninth out of ten.

Of course the report covers a great deal more than the user and community surveys, but space doesn't permit us even to summarize these parts. Each section includes recommendations, and we will summarize some of them.

#### Recommendations

INCREASE FUNDING through -  
Fees for certain services, such as rental of current popular fiction titles, microcomputer, typewriters.

### (New Directions Continued)

Endowment Funds and Gifts, with a major community drive, to be used only for programs and personnel incremental to those funded by the county.

Additional County Support, to keep up with inflation, and maintain and improve services based on demonstrated need. In particular, expenditures for library materials should be improved in steps from the present 7% of operating budget to 15% by 1988.

#### STRENGTHEN STAFF RESOURCES by

Correction imbalance in professional/clerical ratio by increasing the latter.

Temporary Personnel to serve as substitute employees to maintain services.

Restoring position of Children's Librarian.

Increasing Volunteer Help from about 4300 hours/year now to 8000 hours by 1986.

#### IMPROVE PATRON USE by

Improving Publicity to better inform users about services available.

Redesign of Reference Area to improve services, and encourage self help through improved signage.

IMPLEMENT AUTOMATION with computers for a system-wide catalog, for circulation, collection control, book reserves, interlibrary loans and discrete library functions.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES to explore:

Low User Groups (non-college at Central, men at branches) should be encouraged.

Strengthen Collection in newer subject areas such as computers, health care, etc.

Electronic Data Bases for reference use.

Microcomputers for patron usage.

An Ethnic Heritage Center to be funded through community sources and grants.

### THE NEW BUDGET

Late fall is the time of year when the Director, the Trustees, the County Manager and the County Board of Representatives have to huddle over, and decide on, a budget for the new year. This represents a lot of work for all of them, which we can't do justice to, but we can at least report some of the results that are of most interest to the Friends.

Several of the intermediate goals named in the NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE 80'S report (see story at left) have been achieved in the new budget, which is heartening. For example, the book budget has been increased this year, by 10%, which is a real gain, considering inflation. Other gains are restoration of Wednesday evening hours and approval of several staff promotions.

We did not get back Friday evening hours, which were requested, or a Children's Librarian. No new staff positions were approved, but at least none were deleted.

We hope, and believe, we have passed the nadir, and from now on the direction will be UP, following the NEW DIRECTIONS report.



COMPLETE BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN  
PROGRAM

Coordinators: Marie Shore, Adele Brown

Jan. 9: BLUE HIGHWAYS

by William Least Heat Moon

After the break-up of his marriage, and a lay-off from his college teaching position, this part Osage Indian embarked on an 11,000 mile journey along the two lane roads of America, stopping at such towns as Nameless, Tenn. and Dime Box, Texas to meet and talk to the people he met along the way. Our reviewer, Dr. Peter Stewart, as a transplanted Englishman who has reviewed many books for BSI, should certainly give us an objective view of this very American book.

Jan. 16: DEAR BESS by Harry S. Truman

Only recently uncovered and now compiled and edited by a distinguished scholar, these letters to Bess are a historic - and often touching - document of Harry Truman's life and times, his political career, his views of other leaders, and his lifelong love affair with his wife. Our reviewer, Katie Rich, whose name is almost synonymous with Books Sandwiched In, needs no introduction, but perhaps a few regulars do not know that she writes the quarterly "Comments of a Confirmed Book Browser" for the Open Door. Yes, she reviewed "Dear Bess" for it, but her review for us should be even better.

Jan. 23: POLAND by James Michener

This newest best-selling novel by a popular and successful author interweaves more than 700 years of history with believable fiction, in which the hero is a nation, resulting in a course in East European history which helps a lot in understanding how things as they are came to be. Reviewer Kjersti Board, a native of Sweden, has a close neighbor's understanding of how they came to be. As the translator of a Swedish novel, she also has some first hand understanding of this medium.

Jan. 30: NAME OF THE ROSE

by Umberto Eco

This is a medieval mystery story concerning a series of murders at a Benedictine abbey, as told by a young monk and apprentice sleuth, and has been first on the best seller list. Our reviewer, Dr. Patricia Barker has taught at a number of universities, and is now Professor and Coordinator of the Department of Humanities and Social Science at Schenectady County Community College.

Feb. 8: LIVING WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

by the Harvard Nuclear Study Group

This is a committee report on the basic facts about nuclear arms control which sorts out the various issues and proposals and attempts to give the arguments for and against each position. Our reviewer, Dr. William B. Martin, Jr., Professor of Chemistry at Union, last summer took a course on nuclear weapons and arms control taught by the authors of this book. He is also a board member and past president of the World Federalists Association in Schenectady.

COMPLETE SCIENCE ROUND THE TABLE  
PROGRAM

Coordinators:

Dr. A. T. Goble, Dr. H. J. Plumley

Feb. 27: GENETIC ENGINEERING  
AND CANCER

Speaker: Dr. Ivar Giaever

Through the study of genetics it has been learned that cancer is associated with errors in only a few places in the DNA chain, which indicates its study may be much simpler than had been thought. Dr. Giaever, Schenectady's Nobel Laureate, is currently doing research on cells in tissue cultures at the General Electric Research and Development Center.

Mar. 5: PARASITES - THEIR WORLD  
AND OURS

Speaker: Dr. Twitty J. Styles

The world of parasites is considerably more complex than most of us may realize, and these organisms which live in our bodies are not confined to tropical climes. Dr. Styles is a parasitologist and Professor of Biological Science at Union College, and has done extensive field work in Central America and elsewhere.

Mar. 12: NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDICAL  
DIAGNOSTICS

Speaker: Dr. Rowland W. Reddington

One of the new developments is NMR, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, which can be used to produce cross-section images of soft tissues, and also to make chemical analyses at the cellular level. Dr. Reddington, Manager of the Medical Diagnostics Systems Program at the GE Research and Development Center, is leading an effort to develop applications of NMR.

Mar. 19: OBSERVING WITH THE SOVIET  
UNION'S 6 METER REFLECTOR

Speaker: Dr. A. G. Davis Philip

The Soviet Union possesses the world's largest optical telescope, the 236 inch (6 meter) reflector at Zelenchukskaya. Dr. Philip, an astronomer and Research Professor at Union College, is the only American to have used this instrument. He will tell us what he saw and how this telescope compares with ours.



## MEMBERSHIP

One of the ideas suggested for the membership drive announced in the September Newsletter was to include application forms in the otherwise blank spaces on the backs of flyers used for other activities. This was first done on the Book Sale notices last fall, and has resulted in 17 new members. This has added to the total of 59 new members this fiscal year (since May 1) swelling our ranks to 904, an all-time high.

We are happy to acknowledge and welcome the following new members who have joined since the November Newsletter went to press:

Patricia Goins  
 Stuart L. Horton-Billard, III  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Jackson, Jr.  
 G. and J. Karlin  
 Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Marsh  
 Montgomery Co. Assoc. for Retarded  
 Children  
 Laura Neal  
 Christy Multer  
 Delanne Stageman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Weber

## BOOK SALE

No this is not a continuous event, although you might think so from the number of news articles you read here. However, it is our most important activity in terms of effort and results, so perhaps you will excuse us for devoting so much space to it.

We thought you would be interested to know that, in addition to the \$6,324 raised this year, all of which is used to buy books for the Branches, 151 books from those contributed to the Book Sale were ear-marked directly for the new Duanesburg Branch. What this means is that, if contributed books are in good enough condition, and are suitable titles, they are not put on sale, but go directly to the library. So don't hold back any books because you think they're worth more than fifty cents. Altogether this year, 927 books were added to the library as gifts, not including 348 memorial books. Some of these were donated by the Friends.

Incidentally, the 1984 Book Sale will be held on September 22. It's not too early to start taking your books in.

GREAT DECISIONS  
TIME AGAIN

This is the 30th year that GREAT DECISIONS has been offered to interested citizens by the Foreign Policy Association. If you have not participated in the past, this might be a good year to do so. Something new this year: The meetings in the McChesney Room will be at 10:00 - 11:30 AM, on Tuesdays starting Feb. 7, in the hope of attracting mothers who take their children to Story Hour at the same time. The second location, also an experiment, will be at Union College Wednesday evenings at 7:30 starting Feb. 1, in hope of attracting students. Everyone is welcomed at either meeting. The discussion subjects this year will be:

1. **USSR UNDER ANDROPOV**  
Hard Choices for Moscow and Washington
2. **MEXICO AND THE US**  
Discord over Immigration and Central America
3. **US SECURITY AND WORLD PEACE**  
Allies, Arms and Diplomacy
4. **SOUTH AFRICA**  
Can US Policies Influence Change?
5. **INTERNATIONAL DEBT CRISIS**  
Borrowers, Banks & the IMF
6. **SAUDI ARABIA & JORDAN**  
Kingdoms at the Crossroads?
7. **CHINA AND THE US**  
Five Years After Normalization
8. **INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC**  
Can It be Stopped?

The highly informative 96-page magazine-sized paperback book (still \$6.00) will be available at the Senior Citizens' Center, the Jewish Community Center, at our Monday noon meetings, and of course at the place and time of each meeting.

## MICROCOMPUTER

Over a year ago we reported that The Schenectady Rotary Club Foundation had given the Friends of SCPL \$1,000 towards purchase of a microcomputer. Subsequently, the Friends' board voted to reserve a separate unrestricted gift of \$1,000 for this purpose also. More-or-less independently, Mr. Lagasse included in his budget, and received approval for, an item to cover a microcomputer for use by library patrons on a fee basis. The Friends' computer was intended for use by the library staff. You might well ask at this point "What has come of all this talk?" Well, a task force was set up, last spring, to study the uses for a microcomputer (for staff use) and consider which (of a couple of hundred models) should be purchased. The task force went about this job, and after several meetings made two decisions: to purchase the Patron-use computer first, and make this an Apple IIe.

This computer was duly ordered, and after some frustrating delays, did arrive some weeks ago. It has been set up, and at present the staff are getting training and experience with it as a preliminary to deciding on a computer for themselves and to initiating the patron usage, which will commence this spring. We'll have more to say about it at that time.



## THE POWER OF THE PRESS

As many Friends no doubt noticed, on November 25 the Schenectady GAZETTE ran, on the the Section page, an article by Rich Heldenfels, with two good pictures, and the headline LIBRARY IN SEARCH OF VOLUNTEER HELP. The photos showed Naomi Bristol, Coordinator of Volunteers for SCPL and four of her volunteers (including the November "Volunteer of the Month").

Well, the GAZETTE has a somewhat larger circulation than this little Newsletter, and the difference paid off. Within two weeks of the appearance of that article eight new volunteers had started work in various jobs in the library, three more were awaiting assignments, and five had appointments with Naomi Bristol for interviews.

That's why there is no volunteer ad in this issue. That's only temporary, however. We'll be back, and you can call Naomi at the library without waiting for an ad to appear.

### FRIENDS OF SCPL

Marty Wallender ....President  
 Dorothy Settle .....1st Vice-President  
 Jill Titus .....2nd Vice-President  
 Mary Dunham ..... Recording Secretary  
 Fred Tromel.....Corresponding "  
 Audrey Weidler ....Treasurer  
 Richard Sills .....Editor NEWSLETTER  
 Eleanor Belniak.....Circulation "

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

## MARY GILLETTE

### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Mary Gillette likes to use the Scotia Branch of SCPL because of its "excellent selection", and for the last three years, since she retired from banking and returned to Schenectady, has generously volunteered her time and energy to help keep it that way.

She does everything that needs doing - processing magazines and paperbacks, typing and filing. Mary volunteers to keep her hands busy and also because she enjoys working with the kind and friendly staff at Scotia.

After growing up in this area, she moved to Long Island, where she worked in a bank. She moved to Durham, N.C. when two of her sons opened an Italian restaurant, which became an instant success. It is to her credit that her sons learned to cook in Mary's own kitchen and now do the cooking for their highly successful establishment. She still spends Christmas in North Carolina with her sons and their families.

Mary has 7 children (6 boys and 1 girl) and nine grandchildren. Besides her library work, she enjoys knitting, sewing, reading and doing crossword puzzles.

As you can see, Mary Gillette leads a busy life, and we are very grateful that she has made a place in it for the Scotia Branch, which gains a very great deal from that happy association.

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Mr. & Mrs. K. C. Wallender  
 1100 Fernwood Avenue  
 Schenectady, N.Y. 12309



## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The week, plus a day or so, from April 7 through April 14, is being celebrated as National Library Week, and our library, like others, is celebrating it with a number of special events to which you are invited. The listing below does not include regular library events, which are as numerous as usual, nor does it include some Friends' events (like the annual meeting) which are covered elsewhere in this issue. So, read the Newsletter carefully, get the library's calendar, and note the following activities on your calendar:

Saturday, April 7

Newbery Award winner Nancy Willard ("A visit to William Blake's Inn") will present two programs in the McChesney Room:

- 10:00 - 11:30 Writing workshop for children, grades 5 - 8
- 3:00 - 4:30 A talk on the creative process (funded by Friends)

Tuesday, April 10

- 3:15 PM: Create-a-Movie, for children six and up. Drawing directly on film, the finished product will be shown at the end of the program.

This will be presented by the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum and funded by the Friends, at Duane Branch.

Wednesday, April 11

At 3:45, Charlotte Stearns will present a family program "A Visit to the Little House on the Prairie", with slides, stories and exhibits about Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Sponsored by the Friends, at Scotia Branch

Thursday, April 12

At 7:00 - 8:30 PM, all entrants in the Fable Contest will be honored, and winners will read their fables aloud and be videotaped. Entertainment and refreshments will be offered. In the McChesney Room at Central.

Saturday, April 14

At 2:00 - 3:00 PM Friends' board member Francis Poulin will give a slide show "A History of Schenectady's Library - Its Past and Future". McChesney Room at Central.

## STAFF APPRECIATION PARTY

As one small way the board of the Friends of SCPL could show its appreciation to the library staff for their cooperation and help, even while they are hard pressed in their daily activities, it was decided to hold a party for this purpose. This was done, in the Staff Lounge, on Thursday morning, January 26. All present enjoyed coffee and cookies, and a few minutes of relaxed conversation.

## WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR

One of the primary reasons for the existence of the Friends is to help and support the library in various ways. One of these is to underwrite programs that might otherwise not be possible. Following are some we are underwriting this spring. All are open to the public at no charge:

March 10, 17: A journal writing workshop, offered by the Educational and Job Information Center to help attendees record the dreams, memories and dialogues of their lives. No pre-registration required. Nancy Thornton, training specialist, will be the leader. Time: 10 - Noon.

April 25: Chris Holder will present CellarSongs - traditional American music accompanied by banjo, guitar and mountain banjo, including stories, sing-alongs and fun for all. Time: 8:00 - 9:00 PM in the McChesney Room.

May 16: Wednesday noon film series: "Emily Dickenson: A Certain Slant of Light", and "An Edwardian Childhood".

Others are listed under NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK.

## LITERATURE SERIES

Once again, as he has done for the last ten springs, Professor Carl Niemeyer is offering a series of three literary lectures drawing, as always, on his long and illustrious academic career.

The title of his lectures this year is William Golding - The Man and the Prize. The lectures will be on Friday mornings, 10:00 to 11:30, in the McChesney Room:

- March 16: The novelist as storyteller.  
March 23: The novelist as philosopher.  
March 30: The novelist as poet.

The series is sponsored by the Friends.

## MICROCOMPUTER

In the last issue we promised more news about the microcomputer situation when the service was to start. That time is almost here. It is planned to unveil the patron-use Apple IIe during National Library Week, April 7 - 14.

The computer will be installed in a nook along the wall near the Reference Desk. Charges will be \$3.00 per hour (minimum 1 hour), plus \$1.50 per half-hour additional. Each user will have to be validated in a one hour training session.

Volunteers are needed to help with the validation training. Volunteers do not need any prior experience - only an interest in microcomputers and in teaching. The validation training will cover only the basic mechanics of operating our computer and the library's procedures necessary for using it. Those interested should contact Andy Kulmatiski at the Reference Desk or on 382-3500.



## TABLE TALKS

Coordinator: Harry Langworthy

March 26: THE ADIRONDACK PARK AND THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

Speaker: **Norman J. Van Valkenburgh**,  
Director, Division of Lands and  
Forests, N.Y. State Department of  
Environmental Conservation

Mr. Van Valkenburgh, with nearly thirty years in a variety of management positions in the Department of Environmental Conservation, should be able to answer all of our questions relating to the Adirondacks.

April 2: DRIVING THE DRUNKS OFF THE ROAD

Speaker: **Doris Aiken**, President, RID - NYS,  
Coordinator, RID-USA

We are all familiar with the problem of intoxicated drivers. This will be an opportunity to learn what is being done about it from someone who should really know. Mrs. Aiken has much experience in this as well as in journalism, television and public affairs.

April 9: LAKE PLACID FOUR YEARS LATER

Speaker: **Donald Krone**, Director, Public Relations, The Olympic Regional Development Authority

We all know that the 1980 Winter Olympics wrought great changes to the sleepy little town of Lake Placid. How many of these changes were permanent, and were they for better or worse? Donald Krone is the man who should know, and will tell us.

April 16: CHINA AND ITS STRUGGLE FOR MODERNIZATION

Speaker: **Dr. Jean M. Stern**, Ass't. Prof.  
Department of Political Science  
Siena College, Loudonville

Dr. Stern has travelled in and spoken and written about China today, and teaches a course on Chinese Government and Politics. This is our opportunity to hear a political scientist's views on a subject of great importance to us and the world.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THE FRANCO-AMERICAN AND QUEBEC HERITAGE SERIES

SUNY at Albany has received a large grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a series of programs to be conducted at libraries. The literature program is being conducted at SCPL Tuesday evenings, from 7:00 to 8:00 o'clock in the McChesney Room, from Feb. 28 through April 24.

The program is exploring literary works written in both French and English, and some of the writers will be guests on the program. The program will end in May with a festival of music and poetry readings by contemporary Franco-American poets.

For more information and a detailed schedule of meetings visit or call the library, 382-3500 or call 457-8584.

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Coordinators: Agnes Jackson, Malinda Myers

April 23: O ALBANY! An Urban Tapestry  
by William Kennedy

This is a collection of two dozen or so essays/reports/meditations on the people, politics and neighborhood-histories of our much maligned neighbor by the author of "Ironweed" and other novels about Albany. Our reviewer, **Prof. James Riedel** of SUNY, has reviewed a number of books for us as well as publishing many reviews in professional journals.

April 20: A FEELING FOR THE ORGANISM:  
The Life and Work of Barbara  
McClintock by Evelyn Fox Keller

This biography of the Nobel prize winning biologist, written with sensitivity and understanding by another biologist, will be reviewed by still another scientist, our own **Pearl Lichtenstein**, astronomer and physicist and former Union College professor.

May 7: THE TROUBLED CRUSADE:  
American Education, 1945-1980 by  
Diane Ravitch

**Ann Eldridge Choate**, our reviewer, is currently Assistant to the Commissioner, N.Y. State Education Department. Previously, she has taught and held administrative positions at the State Universities at Albany and New Paltz, all of which should be good background for reviewing this comprehensive view of America's educational upheavals since WWII.

May 14: LATE DIVORCE by A. B. Yehoshua

This well-told tale of marital calamity, madness, estrangement between the generations and exile, by one of Israel's most esteemed novelists will be reviewed by our own esteemed **Hester Shapiro**. Mrs. Shapiro, a writer, former book columnist, and Public TV producer will be remembered for a number of appearances on Books Sandwiched In.

May 21: SELECTED LETTERS OF E.M.  
FORSTER: Volume I: 1879-1920  
Ed. by Mary Lago & P.N. Furbank

Selected is the right word: about 200 letters from a collection of 15,000 by Forster. Our coordinators made a good selection too, in **Prof. Harold W. Blodgett** as reviewer. The former Thomas Lamont Professor of English Literature has been selected by the Friends to give so many literary lectures and reviews that we could not possibly name them all.

NOTE: TABLE TALKS and BOOKS SANDWICHED IN are both at noon, in the McChesney Room. Bring a sandwich - beverages available.

#### GREMLINS STILL HERE

As many of you have learned, the new phone system at the library has some quirks. The latest one to surface concerns the number shown in the blue pages for the Duane Branch, 1331 State Street. The published number 382-3200 doesn't work. Try 382-3504 when calling Duane.



ORGANIZATION CHANGES

Through no coincidence, National Library Week brings the annual meeting of The Friends of SCPL, and of course election of new board members and officers. The nominating committee, consisting of Dorothea Brown, Earl Bucci, Robert Liebers, Marie Shore and Katie Rich, Chairman, has proposed the following names:

Officers

- President ..... Richard Sills
1st Vice President ... Dorothy Settle
2nd Vice President ... Patricia Dumas
Recording Secretary • Gloria Pettersen
Corresponding Sec'y • Bertha Kriegler
Treasurer ..... Ruth Anne Evans

These will all be new to their jobs, except for Dorothy Settle, but are all present board members except for Patricia Dumas and Ruth Anne Evans.

New Board Members

- Mr. Robert Carpenter Miss Kathryn McCary
Mrs. Patricia Dumas Prof. Carl Niemeyer
Miss Ruth Anne Evans Dr. Robert Orr
Mrs. John Slater

See page 4 for biographical information

In addition, Audrey Weidler has been nominated for a second three year term.

Retiring Board Members

We hereby acknowledge with thanks the services of the following members who will be leaving the board in April: Dorothea Brown, Earl Bucci, Mary Dunham, Harold Plumley, Sam Roberts, Fred Tromel. Eleanor Belniak resigned in January. Thomas DeWan resigned in March.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

- Marty Wallender... President
Dorothy Settle .... 1st Vice-President
Jill Titus ..... 2nd Vice-President
Mary Dunham..... Recording Secretary
Fred Tromel ..... Corresponding Sec'y
Audrey Weidler .... Treasurer
Richard Sills ..... Editor Newsletter
Bertha Kriegler.... Circulation "

ANNUAL MEETING

- Place: First Unitarian Society
1221 Wendell Avenue
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 1984
Time: 6:00 Wine and Cheese
6:30 Dinner - Lemon Chicken
7:30 Business Meeting
8:00 Address, in Great Hall
"The Future of Libraries in New York State" by Laura Bradley Chodos, Board of Regents, The University of The State of New York, (see article below).

Entertainment: A surprise - don't miss it!

Price: \$8.00 per person

Reservations: Mail by Wednesday, April 4 to Dorothea Brown (see coupon)

LAURA BRADLEY CHODOS

Laura Chodos, our guest speaker at the annual meeting, is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York representing the IVth Judicial District. This large district stretches from the Mohawk River to the St. Lawrence and from Vermont to the western slopes of the Adirondacks.

Her committee assignments on the Board of Regents include the Vice-Chairmanship of the Committee on Cultural Education, which includes responsibility for policy development on libraries. She also co-authors an annual report on the state of the art on library and information services in 58 states and trust territories, and is Senior Editor of CLiC Quarterly, a journal on libraries, technology and culture.

Among her many other activities, Mrs. Chodos serves on the national board of Literacy Volunteers of America, an organization which the Friends support locally.

HELP WANTED

Because of the moving away of one of the committee members, the Jail Library Committee is in need of a member. The specific task needed to be done is to help at the jail regularly each Thursday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 o'clock, checking out books.

This is a very worthwhile activity that is not too demanding. Two members work together on it. If interested, call Fred or Nell Tromel on 374-1322.

MAIL TO: Mrs. Stanley H. Brown, 1450 Grenoside Ave., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at The Friends of SCPL dinner on Wednesday, April 11 at 6:30 PM.

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (at \$8.00 per person) made out to Friends of SCPL.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

All members of the Friends are urged to attend the annual dinner. Please reserve early.

FINAL RESERVATION DEADLINE - WITH PAYMENT - FRIDAY, April 6



## MEET THE NEW BOARD NOMINEES

For those who do not already know them, here is a little background on our nominees:

Bob Carpenter has recently retired as Vice-president and Comptroller/Treasurer of the Carl Company. He is a former trustee of Schenectady County Public Library and is currently a trustee of the Mohawk Valley Library Association.

Pat Dumas is a free-lance writer and does volunteer work on behalf of several local causes. She has worked as a journalist for Gannett News Service and as an educator in the North Colonie School System and for the N.Y. State Education Department.

Ruth Anne Evans is Assistant Director of the Union College Library. She has lots of good experience with the Friends, having served two terms several years ago, during which she was our Recording Secretary, and then filled out another unexpired term. This time she has also been nominated for Treasurer.

Kathryn McCary, although a native of Hawaii, has lived most of her life in Schenectady. After three years working for the Airline Pilots Association she entered the University of Chicago Law School, from which she graduated, and is now a practicing attorney in Schenectady.

Carl Niemeyer, Thomas Lamont Professor Emeritus of English at Union College, is no stranger to the Friends. In addition to his Literary Lectures (see separate article), and his many reviews for Books Sandwiched In, he has previously been on the board, where he served as editor of this Newsletter. This time he has been nominated to fill the term of Eleanor Beiniak, who has resigned.

Robert Orr, a native of Canada, took his medical degree from McGill University but is retiring from his practice as an anesthesiologist to do graduate work in English at SUNY. He is a volunteer fireman in Glenville, where he lives, and is reported to be an excellent carpenter and mechanic.

Jean Slater, until her retirement, was a teacher at Mohawk School in Scotia. Since then she has been an active volunteer at the Central Library, where she most recently has concentrated her efforts on the re-instated Reserve System.

## SCPL STAFF MEMBERS RECONGNIZED

We all know that we have a top-notch staff in our library, but it's nice to see them also recognized by their peers. The latest such honors have gone to these staffers:

Ronald Lagasse, Library Director, has been appointed a director of the newly formed Public Library Directors' Association of New York State. The new association was formed to give public libraries a voice in the state government on issues, legislation and policies of concern to them.

Bruce Adams, reference librarian, was elected a member of the 1984 Council of the New York Library Association and president of the reference and adult services section.

Andrew Kulmatiski, reference librarian was elected vice-president of the reference and adult services section of the New York Library Association. He is scheduled to be its president in 1985.

Lois Foight Hodges, coordinator of children's services at SCPL, has been named to the 1985 Caldecott Award Committee of the Association for Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. The committee is composed of 15 people throughout the country who select the most distinguished picture book for children published in the United States during the preceding year. Mrs. Hodges also served on ALA's Batchelder Award Committee for the best children's book translated from a foreign language.

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

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**A VERY GOOD YEAR**

With the aid of the Condensed Combined Expense Record shown in the box at the right we will attempt to summarize the highlights of what has been a very good year for the Friends (also, see article on page 2).

Books

The expense record is called "combined" because it combines budgeted and non-budgeted amounts. By far the largest non-budget figure is that for the Annual Book Sale, the proceeds of which, as reported in a separate article, were \$6,380. Almost all of the remaining amount shown for books came from the book sale account, which had accumulated in prior years. This has now all been used to buy books.

Outreach

The activities collectively called Outreach can be looked on as long-range efforts to increase the library's patronage. The most important of these, accounting for more than half of the total amount, has been the Doorstep Program.

Outreach expenses were swelled nearly fifty percent this year by a non-budgeted contribution to the Resume Evaluation Service, to enable it to continue for a few months until a federal grant and other funds were expected to be received.

Other activities included under this category are the Jail Library, Literacy Volunteers (financial support only), and Public Relations.

Gifts to Library

This item covers material gifts other than books, which are discussed above. A glass display case for the Woodlawn Branch, and new stereo record players plus \$100 each for records at Duane and Scotia branches were the major non-book gifts this year.

Library Programs

The Friends have underwritten a number of programs planned and sponsored by SCPL throughout the year, and these have been described in previous Newsletters. None of them were individually very expensive, but in total they helped the library conduct a more varied program and, it is hoped, introduced more people to it.

1983-84	
CONDENSED COMBINED EXPENSE RECORD	
Books.....	\$13,110
Outreach.....	3,101
Gifts to Library.....	1,094
Support of Library Programs.	1,134
Friends' Programs .....	526
Operating Expenses .....	<u>1,405</u>
TOTAL.....	\$20,370

Friends Programs

These are the programs organized and run by the Friends, but of course publicized and open to everyone in the community. They included some 29 Monday noon programs (Books Sandwiched In, Table Talks and Science Round the Table), plus the spring Literature Series, all of which have been covered in past Newsletters.

Operating Expenses

This is the only item of expense that does not go directly to the library or to support of programs at the library, but is essential to keep the others running. Most of it is for printing and mailing, for the Newsletter, membership drive, etc.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

It should come as no surprise to anyone that all of the officer and board member nominees listed in the last Newsletter were duly elected at the annual meeting, which was attended by some 82 members altogether. After a sociable wine and cheese half hour, an excellent dinner prepared and served by the First Unitarian Society ladies, some engaging musical entertainment by Lois Foight Hodges, and a minimum of business matters conducted smoothly by retiring President Marty Wallender, we listened to a very good talk by Regent Laura Chodos on "The Future of Libraries in New York State".

Due to unavoidable circumstances, one new board nominee was not listed in the last Newsletter, so we will rectify that omission now. Mary White has long been a library volunteer and is also a Literacy Volunteer (one of the organizations we support). For several years she handled circulation for the Adirondack Mountain Club's Newsletter, and we're happy to report that she will be doing that for the Friends.



## A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR MEMBERSHIPS, TOO

A special membership drive conducted by President Marty Wallender and Membership Vice-Chairman Gloria Petterson resulted in the largest number of new members ever in one month (138), and the largest total membership ever (1073). This seems to verify what we have said before: people like to be asked. Added to other new members since we last listed them we have some 154 to report now. If we've missed a few, we apologize and will try to include them later. Now, if each new member brings in another, wow!

M/M W. Altachuller	T. W. Hefferon	Laura Neal
M/M Samuel Anikstein	Mrs. W. Kirk Heilman	Dr. Robert R. Orr
Genevieve R. Archibald	Mary Jane Hindle	Anita P. Ott
Mrs. David Bain	Fred F. Holub	Mrs. Janet L. Otte
Kenneth R. Bendt, Jr.	Alane House	M/M Caleb Paine
Lillian M. Bertalan	Peter & Janet Houston	Daniel & Nancy Palmateer
Walter L. Blatz	Martha Huggins	Sunghee Park
Michael J. Bolevice	Ruth Y. Jandreau	David Parker & Family
Barbara Brassaw	Marybeth Kalweit	Ann Pierce
Alvin B. Briggs	M/M Ron King	Mrs. Helena B. Piotrowski
M/M Robert D. Brooks	Marvin W. Kushnet	M/M R. Rappaport
M/M Louis Carusone	Christine Laganis	Thomas Reynolds
Kou Chang	M/M Ned Landon	Gaylene Ricci
Margaret C. Clark	Dorothy G. Lauroesch	Max C. Richardson
Elfriede Clough & Family	Marc A. Laymon	Janice Rose
E. D. Collins	M/M Clarence Linder, Sr.	Mrs. Virginia W. Sargent
Jeanne M. Corrigan	Mrs. Helen Loft	Imogene Scheer
M/M E.N. Dahlstedt	Frank A. Looker	Mary B. Scheible
Karen & Jim Dakin	Mrs. Robert C. Lorent	M/M James M. Schmidt
M/M T. K. DeBoer	William MacTiernan	Dorothy Seaman
M/M D. R. DeForest	M/M R. F. Male	The Shippeys
M/M Robert H. Denio	Dr. Robert J. Maras	Jean Slanker
Lucy Desjardins	Mrs. Paul Marble	David & Carol Slater
Ruth & William Dimpelfeld	Frances K. Marzello	Dr. Susan J. Staffa
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Mrs. Rose Fetter	Mrs. Marion E. Miller	Dorothea A. Vinson
M/M Malcolm Ferson	Dave & Debbie Mobley	Art Votsky
M/M David R. Gordon	Dr. & Mrs. John R. Moon	Dr. & Mrs. R. H. Vought
Joyce J. Grasso	M/M A.T. Muccigrosso	Vincent Wall
Cynthia Hamilton	M/M E. B. Mullen	Sylvia & David Wallach
W. L. Hamm	Horace E. Mullins	M/M Michael T. Wallender
John & Maxine Hancock	M/M Edward C. Murphy	M/M M. Weorychowicz
Jean Hanrahan	Fred & Esther Muscanell	Malcolm Willison
		M/M John L. Zegger



## ANNUAL BOOK SALE

If you have been a member of the Friends for at least a month you have probably heard about our annual book sale. If you have been a member for a year or more you have probably contributed books, worked as a volunteer and/or been a customer. So why are we telling YOU about it? Because there are still a lot of things you might not know, but should. For instance:

+ This year's sale will be Sept. 22, about a week earlier than usual, which means one less week to get ready.

+ Although that's more than three months away, and volunteers have been working since last October, there is still lots of work to be done - sorting, pricing, boxing. It's not too late to volunteer! Call Chairman Marjorie Woods on 377-6986.

+ Since the last sale the librarians have retrieved over 1,000 hard cover and 700 paper-back books to go directly to the branches, rather than be sold for a small sum.

+ Even with such skimming, last year's sale netted \$6,380, all of which was used to buy new books for the branches.

So, keep weeding your personal libraries and urging your friends to do so also. Don't wait until September - that will be too late for this year's sale. Take them to the loading dock at Central (next to the parking lot), and ring the bell for the custodian. He will even take them from your car for you. Or, you can take them to any branch library. If they are more than a handful, bring them in a box, please.

About the only items that are not suitable are wet or moldy books, and weekly magazines and professional journals. If you are in doubt about a book's suitability, bring it in. The City Mission will take what we can't sell.

## A GOOD YEAR FOR BRANCHES

In each issue we try to report on branch news, but this year a number of things which were about to happen somehow got delayed. Now, however, we're happy to report that many of them have happened. Although they have been reported in the newspapers, you may have missed some of it so we'll try to summarize.

### Duanesburg

Probably the biggest news is that, after many discouraging delays, we can now report that a building contract has been let and construction (at least the footings for it) has been started. Although the work is being held up because the site is wet, we still expect the building to be completed by early fall.

There will be a great need for books for Duanesburg, and the contributions to the book sale are being carefully screened with this in mind. Over 400 books have already been selected in this way.

### Woodlawn

There has been and is lots of activity on the new Woodlawn Branch. A site has been purchased on Sanford Street, in back of Coplon's Department Store (the library will be next to their parking lot). A 3,000 sq. ft. building is being discussed. This is 600 sq ft. more than we presently have, and the access and parking should be excellent.

### Duane

The major renovation and energy conservation project at Duane is complete, including ceiling insulation, more efficient windows and an entrance vestibule. To commemorate this and the tenth anniversary of the branch there will be a celebration on June 12, starting at noon. Becky Holder will entertain the children from 4:00 to 4:30, and there will be refreshments. There will be a reception from 5:00 to 6:00, an adult program from 6:00 to 8:00, and the regular Tuesday evening movie ("Guys and Dolls") will run from 7:00 to 9:00. Everyone is invited.



AN OUTDOOR VOLUNTEER PROJECT

Here is an opportunity to give some real help to the library on a one-time basis. Volunteers are needed to conduct a survey of the county to identify stores, public buildings and other places where posters can be placed or brochures left for distribution.

All that is required is walking around your assigned area, close to your home usually, and getting a form filled out at each place you identify as a suitable poster or brochure location.

There will be a training session June 12, 10 to 12 AM at the Central Library. Call Naomi Bristol on 382-3500 for more information.

WE SALUTE OUR VOLUNTEERS

On May 8, right in the middle of National Volunteer Week, we honored ours with a luncheon sponsored jointly by the Friends and the Library Board of Trustees. For this we can thank Naomi Bristol, our very effective Coordinator of Volunteers who arranged all the details. Forty-five volunteers, together with thirty-three Friends, Trustees and staff enjoyed a lunch nicely served by Atherton's Caterers.

After short speeches by County Manager Robert McEvoy, Friends President Richard Sills, Trustees President Roger Yepson and SCPL Director Ronald Lagasse, the group was entertained charmingly by Lois Foight Hodges, Coordinator of Children's Services for SCPL. Although Mrs. Hodges is well known as a children's story teller, she is equally skilled as a teller of stories for all ages. Her story was preceded by a delightful recorder solo which set the mood for the story.

Naomi Bristol concluded the event with a short slide show depicting the processing of a book from ordering to placing on the library shelf, followed by candid shots of many of our volunteers at work.

Such a good time was had by all that talk started immediately about making this an annual event. This may have something to do with the fact that the number of volunteers is up to 67, from 51 at the end of 1983.

HAL GIBSON - GENIAL GENEALOGIST

Every Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 Hal Gibson can be found in the Blue Room at Central analyzing genealogical problems, advising people how to approach them, and helping to find a source (a book, a census report, even a library) where the information might be found. He has been doing this for over a year, and averages about three or four callers each week.

Hal is friendly, enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. He became interested in genealogy in the 1940's when his father, who had a strong sense of family, told him about his ancestors, especially one who had fought in the Revolutionary War, and a grandfather who was captured in the Civil War. Hal travelled a lot for General Electric, and had opportunities to visit libraries in various states. He wrote a history of his family tracing the Gibsons back to the 1400's in England. They came to Virginia in the 1600's and settled in the south. He found the state library in Virginia very helpful. Most early settlers came through ports in Virginia or Massachusetts, and those two states have good collections of genealogical materials.

Hal has used the Mormon library in Loudonville extensively, and this led to his being asked to be a volunteer librarian there, which he now does every Wednesday.

He retired from GE in 1971 after 43 years of service. A widower, he has five children - a son at home, a son who is a Marine Colonel in Okinawa, another an economist with the International Monetary Fund, a daughter in Chicago, and one in Bolivia who imports native woven crafts to this country. He has seven grandchildren.

According to Hal Gibson, most genealogical information is available in the Mormon library, the National Archives, and the state libraries. All it takes to pursue this fascinating study is perseverance and the ability to travel. He will be glad to help you - stop in some Thursday afternoon.

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  - Patricia Dumas..... 2nd Vice-President
  - Gloria Pettersen.... Recording Secretary
  - Bertha Kriegler..... Corres. Secretary
  - Ruth Anne Evans.... Treasurer
  - Richard Sills ..... Editor, NEWSLETTER
  - Mary White..... Circulation, "
- Beginning with the September issue, Audrey Weidler will be Editor, Newsletter

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