

# BOOK SALE!



**Saturday**

**September 27, 1986**

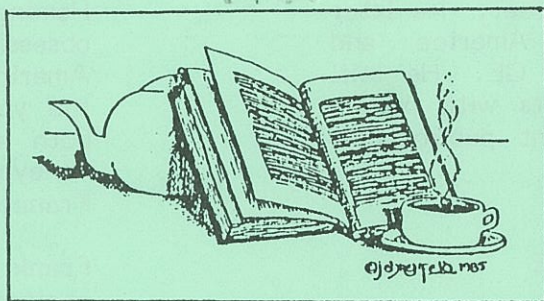
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

RAIN OR SHINE

The Book Sale has a momentum of its own, according to Chairman Marjorie Woods. More and more books, records and magazines are coming in every day. As quickly as they come in, regular volunteers sort and pack them. . . So that now, shelf after shelf of boxes is ready to be moved downstairs on Friday, September 26 for the big day - Saturday, September 27.

There's no doubt about it, Schenectady County is Book Country. Come and see for yourself at the Fall Book Sale at Central on Saturday, September 27 from 9 AM to 5 PM.

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN



Mondays at noon in the McChesney Room at Central  
Bring your lunch; coffee and tea will be available.

Coordinators: Pearl Lichtenstein and Katie Rich

Sept. 15: **TRIUMPH OF POLITICS**  
by David Stockman  
Reviewer: Dr. James Riedel

The former director of the Office of Management and Budget devotes most of his book to giving us an insider's view of the tax and budget battles of 1981, year One of the Reagan Revolution. It is not a pretty sight. A few people whom Stockman regards as his intellectual equals come off well. Just about everyone else is treated with contempt. Perhaps the book is really more about why the Stockman Revolution failed - rather than the subtitle "Why the Reagan Revolution Failed".

Dr. Riedel is Professor of Political Science in the Graduate School of

Public Affairs at SUNY Albany. He specializes in the legislative process, local government and politics, and political parties and behavior.

Sept. 22: **THE BONE PEOPLE**  
by Keri Hulme  
Reviewer: Nancy Thornton

The author, a Maori or New Zealand native, spent 12 years writing this novel and then the next six years searching in vain for a publisher. The novel was finally brought out in 1984 by a New Zealand feminist collective - and then won literary awards in New Zealand and the US and the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction in England.

## (Books Sandwiched In Continued)

This is a novel of ideas which is also dramatically strong. It does not merely shed light on a small but complex and sometimes misunderstood country, but also, more generally, enlarges our sense of life's possible dimensions.

**Nancy Thornton** teaches courses in creative writing at Union and the College of St. Rose. She conducts classes at GE and other area businesses in Time Management and Creative Problem Solving as well as in writing. She also runs her own business, Thornton Communications.

\*Sept. 29: **MOVE YOUR SHADOW**  
by **Joseph Lelyveld**  
Reviewer: **Karl Scheffer**

Based on his personal observations of South Africa in the 1960's and again almost two decades later, veteran NY Times correspondent Joseph Lelyveld has written a vivid and often grim picture of the very complex situation in that country.

**Karl Scheffer** was born in Pretoria, of Afrikaans ancestry, and attended school and the University there before coming to Alfred University in New York. He married here, became a naturalized citizen, and together with his wife returned to S. Africa to begin his engineering career. He later returned to North America and recently retired from GE. He still maintains close contacts with people in and receives current publications from S. Africa.

Oct. 6: **THE HANDMAID'S TALE**  
by **Margaret Atwood**  
Reviewer: **Dr. Martha Huggins**

In her fifth and most powerful novel, Canadian poet and novelist Margaret Atwood looks into the clouded glass of the future and attuned to some of the negative signals in the present, envisions startling but by no means illogical consequences. The setting for this work of "future shock fiction" is the Republic of Gilead in the year 2000. The heroine and narrator is a handmaid called Offred. Her plight is always human as well as ideological, and so is her inevitable assertion of her needs.

**Dr. Huggins** is chairman of the Department of Sociology and Director of Women's Studies at Union College. Her research interests include comparative studies of social control and crime, comparative research on women and work, and social change.

Oct. 13: **LIBRARY CLOSED**

\*Oct. 20: **THE LONG MARCH: THE UNTOLD STORY.**  
by **Harrison Salisbury**  
Reviewer: **Dr. Bruce Reynolds**

Veteran New York Times correspondent Harrison Salisbury describes The March from the secret but ambitious start in the South, the recruitment of participants, the burden of the enormous baggage train which was finally lost or discarded, to the challenge of nature and the battles with Chiang and the unrest and dissension within the ranks of communism. Salisbury also puts The March in historical context from the time of Sun Yat-sen through the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.

**Dr. Reynolds**, an Associate Professor of Economics at Union College, previously taught at Tunghai College in Taiwan. In 1973 and 1979 he had grants for travel to the PRC; in 1981 he had a research grant for travel and living in the PRC.

\*Oct. 27: **THE GARDEN OF EDEN**  
by **Ernest Hemingway**  
Reviewer: **Dr. Frank Steiner**

Begun in 1946 and worked on until his death in 1961, this last novel by Hemingway is a story of love and obsession. It concerns a young American writer and his wife, and the young woman to whom they are both attached during their extended honeymoon on the southern coast of France and Spain.

**Frank Steiner**, a retired GE engineer, is a part-time lecturer in German at SUNY Albany. He's been reviewer as well as coordinator for BSI and is Second Vice-President of the Friends.

Nov. 3: **BESS TRUMAN**  
by **Margaret Truman**  
Reviewer: **Dr. William M. Murphy**

Bess Truman's daughter shows us that the former First Lady was intelligent and caring as well as private and austere.

**Dr. Murphy** is the Thomas Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature at Union College. He is, and always has been, a Rooseveltian New Dealer. He's been active in politics and was a candidate for Congress and the State Senate and Assembly. Some Friends will remember that he was reviewer for the first Books Sandwiched In program in the sixties.

## LITERACY VOLUNTEERS



Literacy Volunteers of America -- Schenectady is offering a tutor training workshop for volunteers interested in teaching spoken English to adults for whom English is a second language. No teaching experience or knowledge of a foreign language is necessary.

The workshop will be given in six Thursday evening sessions at 153 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, on Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 23 and 30. Volunteers are asked to attend all six sessions, pay \$15 for their training materials, and be available to tutor a non-English speaking adult student once or twice weekly for 1-2 hours.

Pre-registration is required. Call the Program Director Jan Rose at 372-9819 anytime to register or inquire further.

The next workshop for tutoring the non-reading adult student will be held Monday evenings, starting October 27th.

The Friends contribute \$250 annually to Literacy Volunteers to help underwrite leader training costs.

Numerous ABC and PBS television and radio programs during the year will be devoted to the problem of adult illiteracy in America. . not only to raise national awareness of illiteracy but also to let those who need reading help learn where to get it. WMHT's "Live Line Special" on Wednesday September 17 from 8 to 9 PM will feature people from local literacy programs.

Any group interested in having a speaker on the local illiteracy problem and solutions may contact Christy Multer on 399-9141.

\* \* \* \* \*

## WANTED

Have you updated your stereo phonograph equipment and wondered what to do with your old one? Has a child left one at home that you'd like to dispose of? You might have the answer to a library need.

The library uses an old stereo phonograph to listen to records that have become scratched or warped to determine if they're still in usable condition - or if they should be discarded. The tone arm is too heavy for some of the newer records and skips over some of the grooves - hence the listener isn't sure of an accurate picture of what the records sound like.

If you think you might be able to help, please call Phyllis Bornt at Central on 382-3500.

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## AT THE BRANCHES

NISKAYUNA - The newest branch, which will probably open between mid-October and November 1, is located in the western end of the library in the old Van Antwerp School at Story Avenue and Van Antwerp Road. It will be open approximately 23 hours a week - 3 week days and Saturday from 1 to 5 PM.

So far, about \$40,000 worth of adult and juvenile books have been ordered and are being processed. About 150 hard back books and paperbacks have been selected from donations to the book sale.

DUANE - Repair to the fire damaged building should start soon and be completed by the end of the year.

HAMILTON HILL - SCPL is requesting in its budget proposal operating costs for a branch on Hamilton Hill.

STATE AID - SCPL will receive \$40,000 from the state which, along with matching local funds, will be used for capital improvements at the branches.

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## MONDAY NOON PROGRAMS

The coordinators for the Monday noon programs are anxious to hear your comments and ideas. Please come and be heard at the planning sessions on

September 22 - for the Fall Table Talks, starting Nov. 10, coordinated by Frank Taormina.

September 29 - for the Winter BSI, starting Jan. 5, coordinated by Frank Steiner.

Both meetings will be held in the McChesney Room following the BSI programs . . . approximately 1 PM.

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## YOUNG ADULTS

"Writing the College Essay" is an enigma to many college applicants. What does it mean? How do you write it? The Young Adult department has set up a 2 part series to address those questions. Both sessions will be held at 7 PM in the McChesney Room at Central.

October 23: Jean Jenkins, Admissions Counselor at RPI, will talk about "Writing the College Essay".

October 30: Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, SCPL's writer-in-residence, will lead a workshop on actually writing the college essay.

The sessions are open to all teenagers who want to write about themselves or who want tips on how to approach writing.

VOLUNTEERS BY ROBERTA BERK, SCPL COORDINATOR  
SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

As another summer comes to a close, it is my pleasure to thank and acknowledge a bunch of great students who volunteered this summer throughout our library system. Staff members are eager to request them because the teenagers we have had in previous summers have been diligent and reliable. I am happy to report that this year's group were just super!

A typical student volunteer is a 'library user', enjoys being around books, and wants to occupy some free time by doing something useful and constructive. I asked some of them to comment about their feelings as a volunteer at the library. The responses were: "I like it," "the atmosphere is nice," "I like being busy," and "I really enjoy it." The students' ages varied as well as the schools they represented. However, they all liked the fact that they were doing work that was worthwhile.

The Duane Branch represents a unique situation regarding student help. Paula Carasella, the children's librarian at Duane, had her own crew from the neighborhood schools who helped in any small way they could. The results benefitted the library and the students. Many of the insignificant but necessary chores were accomplished while warm feelings and a familiarity with the library were developed. What a wonderful way to stimulate interest and commitment at an early stage. Paula was extremely grateful for their help and devotion.

On behalf of the staff members at Central, Duane, Rotterdam, Scotia and Woodlawn I would like to pass on a very sincere thank you to all the student volunteers and express a deep appreciation for the great work they did:

CENTRAL

Nadine Beyer, Tonya Ferlazzo, Alyson Kuntz, Jim Pittman

DUANE BRANCH

Mark Bittner, Marie Esposito, Den Harper, Rhonda Harper, Nicole Jordan, Jason Matson, Jeremy Matson, Corma Navarette, Jim Pittman, Erin Sherman, Hillery Snare

ROTTERDAM

Frank DiDonato

SCOTIA

Jennifer Lewis

WOODLAWN

Tina Lechowicz, Rosemary Rucinski, William Rucinski, David Savage, Jeanne Savage

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VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

Niskayuna Branch will need help in all areas as opening day approaches. Volunteers will be needed to put things in order, place books on shelves and file in the card catalog. Contact Roberta Berk at 382-3521.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new Friends:

- Howard & Jeanette Gerlaugh
- Eleanor & Guy R. Tannenbaum
- William E. & Ruth M. Jacobsen
- Mrs. Ellen S. Martin

\* \* \* \* \*

FRIENDS OF SCPL

- President..... Kathryn McCary
- 1st Vice-President..... Robert Orr
- 2nd Vice-President.... Frank Steiner
- Recording Secretary... Ruth Anne Evans
- Correspond. Secretary . Patricia Dumas
- Treasurer..... Junice Wusterbarth
- Newsletter
- Editor ..... Audrey Weidler
- Circulation..... Mildred Neslin

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

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# FRIENDS OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

November 1986

NEWSLETTER

XXII No. 2

## FALL BOOK SALE

Net proceeds of the September 27 **BOOK SALE** are \$5522.47! Add this to the Spring Sale profits and our grand total for 1986 is \$9,504.74 . . . all of which is available to the branch libraries for the purchase of books and other library materials.

Amazing but not surprising is the actual Book Sale and its financial success. Dedicated volunteers work regularly throughout the year sorting and boxing books, periodicals and records that are brought in by anonymous "book people". (We should mention this sale also offered several thousand books salvaged from the Duane Branch fire.) Volunteers move all these downstairs and set up for the sale and of course more volunteers "work the sale". They're volunteers who put up posters, make phone calls, appear on TV and do other publicity work. It's impossible to name you all, but you know who you are and we do thank you over and over again. **YOU** make the **BOOK SALE!**

Community organizations and agencies also help. Our appreciation is sent to Price Chopper, Grand Union and Dunkin Donuts for refreshments for the workers, to men from the Bureau of Social Services for help setting up, to Scotia Reformed Church, Unitarian Church and IUE for the loan of tables, and to Bruce Houran Associates for trucking away our leftovers.

Coordinating all these activities is our perennial chairman, Marjorie Woods. . . our thanks to her pale beside her enthusiasm for the Schenectady County Public Library.

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## FRIENDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### THANK YOU!

Phyllis Bornt is grateful for the quick and generous response to her request for stereo phonograph equipment. The library need was met and the donated equipment is being used.

### VIDEO TAPE COLLECTION

Central is developing a 1/2" VHS video tape collection which should be available for loan around the first of the year. The collection will include classic feature films, children's programs and films, and a variety of non-fiction subject videos.

To enrich the collection, the library would welcome donations of pre-recorded tapes. They are particularly looking for locally produced material dealing with topics or places in the Capital District. However, any tape will be carefully considered for addition to the collection.

Call Susan Ledder, A-V Librarian, at 382-3431 or 382-3500, if you would like to help or if you'd like to suggest a topic or title for the collection.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new Friends, Mrs. Lena Lenta and Lois Fogg.

## MONDAYS AT NOON

in  
the McChesney Room at Central.

Bring your lunch; beverage will be available.

### TABLE TALKS

Frank Taormina, Coordinator

**Nov. 10:** **GREG SEMOS**, head of the City of Schenectady's Planning Department, will discuss plans recently announced for the area on Broadway behind Canal Square. This development is expected to have a significant effect on Schenectady's downtown area.

**Nov. 17:** **WILLIAM BERNER**, an Adirondack 46er, will present the slide show he prepared for the New York State Forest Preserve Centennial and showed at the NYS Museum's celebration of the 100th anniversary of our Forest Preserve. These slides represent the best of several thousand pictures taken over the last 15 years by Mr. Berner.

**Nov. 24:** **ELEANOR BROWN**, a member of "Action for the Riverfront" -- a group which has played a significant role in the development of the bike trails along the Mohawk in Schenectady County -- will show slides of current developments and tell about future plans for the river front.

**Dec. 1:** A **NORSTAR** representative will give a slide illustrated talk on the reclamation of the old New York Central Station in downtown Albany and on the work done to convert it to Norstar's new National Headquarters.

**Dec. 8:** **DENISE CACHMERE**, member of the County Planning Department whose responsibilities include developing programs to deal with the problem of excessive use of alcohol by drivers, will talk about new approaches by the county to deal with behavior modification of those who persist in driving while under the influence of alcohol.

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## WINTER BSI SERIES

The following Monday noon programs have been arranged by Frank Steiner, Coordinator:

**Jan. 5:** **MYTHS OF GENDER** by Anne Sterling. Reviewer: Dr. Ricki Lewis

**Jan. 12:** **ROGER'S VERSION** by John Updike  
Reviewer: Prof. Carl Niemeyer

**Jan. 26:** **EISENHOWER, AT WAR 1943-1945**  
by David Eisenhower  
Reviewer: Prof. Stephen Berk

**Feb. 2:** **EDWARD MURROW** by A.M. Sperber  
Reviewer: Prof. Joseph Board

Continued on other side.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH  
ALICE VAN HEUSEN

Alice Van Heusen is a modest woman who, when told over the phone that she was chosen to be Volunteer of the Month, responded, "You must have the wrong number!" After she confirmed that she volunteers at the Scotia Branch and worked on many special typing projects for Central, I assured her that I had the correct number and that she most definitely deserved the honor.

Mrs. Van Heusen has been volunteering at the Scotia Branch since February 1984 and has become part of the Scotia Family. Librarians Dorothy Schell and Diane McDougall, and clerk Helene Wetzel have only words of praise for her and her work. One of her many jobs is to file catalog cards which, according to Mrs. Schell, is not an easy task. A library's filing system is rather complicated and involved, and if a card is filed incorrectly it could be lost forever. In order to be accurate, Alice studies from a book on cataloging. She also takes home some typing assignments to type on her new typewriter to insure that they look especially good.

It should be noted that Mrs. Van Heusen not only assists the Scotia Branch and Central but the Friends of the Library as well. For the past three years she has typed their Annual Report. Her efforts are sincerely appreciated by the Library administration and the Board of FOL.

Alice first used her expertise in secretarial and business skills as a teacher at the Oxford Academy in Oxford, New York. In 1946 she moved to Schenectady where she first worked for Alco Products and then for Finserv Computer Corporation. After retiring she volunteered for the Cancer Society, and now devotes considerable time to the library.

Her dedication to the library stems from the fact that she is an avid reader, especially of mysteries and spy stories. Alice is so well organized that she keeps a file of the books she has read. According to Alice, one of the best reasons for volunteering at the library is that she has access to the new books when they first come in.

It is a pleasure to thank Alice Van Heusen for being an outstanding volunteer. All of those who have worked with Alice, have found her "delightful, dependable, efficient and very professional."

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
FOR CIRCULATION AUTOMATION PROJECT

The above title is a fancy name for the process involved in changing the present Central Library's system over to a computerized one. Jean Rettie, head of the Circulation Department, will be directing the project. The first phase, the preparation stage, will begin on December 1, 1986 and is expected to be completed by the end of 1987. For this part of the procedure sixteen volunteers are needed for three hour shifts Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., and 6 p.m.; and on Friday and Saturday at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. They will be used to sort and remove books from the shelves for the terminal operators, and then reshelve them when the operators are finished. In addition, people with some typing ability and a willingness to learn how to operate the computer are also being sought. There will be training and supervision for all aspects of the project.

Other library systems have used volunteers successfully in their conversion projects. A library system in a small town in Ohio recently changed over to an automated system. They completed the process with the assistance of 125 volunteers.

With the aid and devotion of concerned volunteers we can help Miss Rettie and the Circulation Department accomplish this enormous task. Anyone (including teenagers) willing to give three hours a week will be welcomed and sincerely appreciated.

If interested, please contact Roberta Berk at 382-3521.

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WINTER BSI SERIES (Continued)

- FEB. 9: BRED IN THE BONE by Robertson Davies  
Reviewer: Prof. Jeffrey Berman
- Feb. 23: THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE by Sue Townsend  
Reviewer: Kathryn Rich

FRIENDS OF SCPL

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- Circulation..... Mildred Neslin

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## Literary Lectures

The Friends are pleased to announce that the 1987 Literary Lectures will be given by Dr. Carl Niemeyer and Dr. Peter Heinegg on successive Fridays, starting February 27, in the McChesney Room at Central.

Dr. Niemeyer has chosen to discuss "Three Contemporary Women Novelists" - Barbara Pym, Mary Gordon and Ann Tyler. These lectures will be at 10 AM February 27, March 6 and March 13.

Dr. Niemeyer retired from Union College where he was the Thomas W. Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature and he has recently retired from teaching at SUNY Albany. He is a frequent reviewer for BSI and has been a "Literary Lecturer" for many years.

Dr. Heinegg's lectures on three 20th century French novelists will illustrate the critic's remark that "the novel is the epic of a world without God". Starting on March 20, Professor Heinegg will cover Proust's SWANN'S WAY, on March 27 Sartre's NAUSEA, and on April 3 Camus' THE STRANGER. These lectures will begin at noon.

An associate professor of English at Union College, Dr. Heinegg earned his PhD at Harvard in Comparative Literature with English as his major and Modern French and Spanish as minor fields. He took his undergraduate and some graduate work during the time he was a Jesuit. Professor Heinegg has a reading knowledge of Greek, Latin, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portugese, and Russian and has done a number of translations for Doubleday, Penquin, and the Georgetown University Press.

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### MONDAY NOON PROGRAMS

Planning sessions for the Spring Monday noon programs are scheduled for

January 12 - for the Spring Table Talks, starting March 30, coordinated by Melinda Myers.

January 26 - for Spring BSI, starting April 27, coordinated by Gloria Petterson.

Both meetings will be held immediately after the BSI programs ... approximately 1 PM.

Your ideas, comments and suggestions deserve to be heard!

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### SCIENCE ROUND THE TABLE

Topics for the series on March 2, 9, 16 and 23, coordinated by Walter Grattidge, Ted Goble and Herb Strong, will be announced in the next NEWSLETTER.

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### STAFF APPRECIATION COFFEE

The Friends' annual coffee party in appreciation of the entire SCPL Staff will be held Thursday morning January 29 from 10 AM to noon. All staff members at Central and the branches are cordially invited. Friends who would like to assist and to enjoy visiting with staff are asked to call Kathryn McCary.

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### BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

Meetings are on Mondays at noon in the McChesney Room at Central. Bring your lunch; beverages will be available.

Coordinator: Frank Steiner

#### January 5: MYTHS OF GENDER

by Anne Sterling

Reviewer: Dr. Ricki Lewis

Are boys better than girls at math? Are women biologically unable to compete with men in sports? Are men more aggressive because of their hormones? These are some of the allegedly gender-specific human behaviors that Brown University Professor Anne Fausto-Sterling investigates. Her bottom line answer to the question "Are people ruled by biology?" is a resounding no. She not only challenges conclusions of various studies measuring male/female differences but also debunks their methodology.

Dr. Lewis is a science writer with a PhD in genetics who teaches genetics, nutrition and infectious diseases at SUNY Albany.

#### January 12: ROGER'S VERSION

by John Updike

Reviewer: Professor Carl Niemeyer

As Roger Lambert, a divinity school professor, tells it, he is visited in his office by Dale Kobler, a young computer hacker who believes that scientific evidence of God's existence is irresistibly accumulating. Updike reveals the discussions they have and the strategies employed by the professor to relieve Dale of his faith. The issues are complicated by the presence of Roger's wife Esther and by Verna Ekelof, the runaway daughter of his half-sister.

Dr. Niemeyer, Friends will recall, last year reviewed Updike's THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK.

#### January 26: EISENHOWER: AT WAR 1943-1945

by David Eisenhower

Reviewer: Dr. Stephen Berk

Based on a meticulous reading of voluminous primary sources and amplified by his personal knowledge of his grandfather's conduct of the war, David Eisenhower presents the momentous events of World War II. The book revises the established portraits of the wartime leaders -- Roosevelt, Churchill, Marshall, Montgomery and, of course, Eisenhower.

Dr. Berk is professor of history at Union College and acting chairman of that department.

#### February 2: EDWARD MURROW: HIS LIFE AND TIMES

by A. M. Sperber

Reviewer: Dr. Joseph Board

Ms. Sperber, who was born in Vienna and came to the United States in 1939, created not only the story of America's first and possibly greatest broadcast journalist but also a thirty year military and political overview of America's history. She illuminated Murrow's staunch and complex soul with care and an astonishing body of research. (Over - see Col. 2)

## NISKAYUNA BRANCH OPENS

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Niskayuna Branch opened on Saturday, December 20, 1986 making it the seventh branch in our library system. Volunteers played an important role from beginning to end assisting Phyllis Bornt, Coordinator of Branches, in the very long and involved procedure.

One of the first things needed was a scale model of the floor plan and its furnishings. Jack Ward, a new volunteer at the time, constructed it. Subsequently, Jack worked many hours helping to organize the adult non-fiction shelf list.

Five thousand new books had to be purchased. However, they first had to be selected and the necessary information such as title, author, publisher, and price had to be recorded. This stage took approximately seven months during which time three volunteers, Linda Birnby, Gerri Kenney, and Mary Liebers, came in on a regular basis to help Ms. Bornt select adult fiction and non-fiction books.

After the books arrived they had to be processed, labeled, jacketed, and added to the main shelf list. This was ably and quickly done by the Technical Services Department. A card catalog and shelf list had to be set up for the Niskayuna Branch. Warren Brighty, a volunteer for many years in the Technical Services Department with expertise in cataloging, provided enormous assistance in completing this task. Other volunteers who worked on the shelf list were Jack Ward, Patricia Whitney, Priscilla Brighty, and Sandra Coffman.

The final stage was placing the books on the shelves and preparing the library for the public. This arduous endeavor was accomplished by Phyllis Bornt, Cecelia Garfinkel, the senior clerk in charge of the Niskayuna Branch, and thirty-five volunteers on December 15, 16 and 17. They worked from nine in the morning to nine at night. The Friends supplied snacks.

Ronald Lagasse, Director of the Library, wanted to give the residents of Niskayuna this new branch as a Christmas present. People felt that it was a "wonderful and welcome gift." There are many people who gave considerable time and effort in creating this branch. I would like to thank the many volunteers for their share in making this magnificent Christmas gift possible.

## AT BRANCHES

Duane, Mt. Pleasant, Niskayuna and Woodlawn Branches need people to do various clerical jobs including filing, shelving books, and light typing. Training will be provided.

## AUTOMATION PROJECT

People are still needed to shelve books and work the computers for the afternoon, evening and Saturday shifts. Training and supervision are provided.

Please contact Roberta Berk at 382-3521.

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## BSI CONTINUED

Dr. Board is professor of political science at Union College and also teaches law at Albany.

### February 9: WHAT'S BRED IN THE BONE by Robertson Davies

Reviewer: Dr. Jeffrey Berman

"What's bred in the bone will not out of the flesh" says an old English proverb. What was bred in Francis Cornish - born to a wealthy patrician family in Ottawa - shaped a life that caused tremors in the international art world. Francis Cornish is a forger who understands the truth, an artist who becomes a spy, a rich man who both squanders and hoards his extraordinary inheritance.

Dr. Berman is professor of English at SUNY Albany and is the author of a book on literature and psychology.

### February 23: THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE

by Sue Townsend

Reviewer: Kathryn Rich

The Secret Diary is a humorous and touching day to day journal spanning about two years in the life of a British teenager. Anyone who ever was a thirteen year old boy, a parent of a teenager or ever came in contact with such a child, will sympathize and laugh with the hero, and enjoy his dealing with his parents who are on the verge of divorce, his first love affair, his attempt to be an intellectual and his school experience.

Katie Rich is a frequent reviewer as well as coordinator for BSI. Her written reviews are the "Comments of a Confirmed Book Browser" printed by - and available at - the Open Door Bookstore.

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Miss Ruth Anne Evans  
742 DeCamp Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12309



MONDAY NOON PROGRAMS

All meetings are at noon on Mondays in the McChesney Room at Central  
Bring your lunch; beverages will be available

SCIENCE SERIES

Walter Grattidge and Herb Strong, coordinators

March 9: THE REAL TOM EDISON  
Speaker: George Wise, GE  
Corporate R&D

March 16: FAMOUS ENGINEERING FAILURES  
Speaker: Lou Coffin, Mechanical  
Engineer

March 23: THE WORLD OF SUPERPRESSURE  
- WHAT IT'S LIKE DEEP IN THE  
EARTH  
Speaker: Francis Bundy, Physicist

Professor Margaret Shadler from Union College  
discussed LIFE - FROM TUNDRA TO TROPICS  
on March 2.

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TABLE TALKS

Melinda Myers, coordinator

March 30: MUGGING - YOU CAN PROTECT  
YOURSELF  
Speaker: Sgt. Ray Wemple,  
Schenectady Police Department

Sgt. Wemple, a 32 year veteran of the  
Schenectady Police Department, has been  
Director of the Police Community Center on  
Hamilton Hill since 1979 and, as such, is the  
department's crime prevention officer.

April 6: ARE LAW AND ETHICS  
COMPATIBLE?  
Speaker: Martin Weinstein,  
Attorney

An associate professor at SCCC, Prof.  
Weinstein also has a private practice limited to  
appellate matters, civil and criminal and real  
estate. He is a frequent speaker on "Ethics in  
Real Estate Brokerage", "Ethics in Business  
Communications", "Teaching Professional and  
Applied Ethics" and simply "Professional  
Ethics".

April 13: ATTITUDES IN HEALTH --- AN  
UPDATE ON CHIROPRACTIC  
CARE  
Speaker: Dr. John Shannon

A graduate of the New York Chiropractic  
College, Dr. Shannon specializes in sports  
medicine and nutrition. He practices in Scotia.

April 20: LOCATIONS OF INDIANS IN THE  
AREA  
Speaker: Dr. Christina Johannsen,  
Director of the Schoharie Museum  
of the Iroquois Indian.

Dr. Johannsen has studied the Iroquois and  
their culture - linguistics, arts and crafts and  
their identity - extensively. She's co-editor of  
"Iroquois Arts: A Directory of a People and  
Their Work".

SPRING BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN

Gloria Pettersen, coordinator

April 27: GIANT KILLERS  
by Richard Pertschuk  
Reviewer: Clyde Wilcox

May 4: EMILY DICKINSON  
by Cynthia Griffin Wolff  
Reviewer: K. H. Winter

May 11: REAGAN'S AMERICA INNOCENTS  
AT HOME  
by Gary Wills  
Reviewer: To Be Announced

May 18: LATER THE SAME DAY  
by Grace Paley  
Reviewer: Hester Shapiro

\*\*\*\*\*

BOOK SALE

Saturday April 25  
9 AM - 5 PM

Come one, come all! It's time to add a few  
"good reads" to your library or perhaps to find  
those treasures for which you've been  
searching. And by now you must have read all  
those books you bought last September. "So",  
suggests Chairman Marjorie Woods, "Bring them  
back to the Library and we'll sell them all  
over again to someone else."

The faithful who have been sorting and  
boxing contributions all Fall and Winter say  
we're getting more and more books, magazines  
and records for each sale. Also, a larger than  
usual selection of framed prints will be for  
sale.

Many workers will be needed during the  
last few weeks prior to April 25 and for Sale  
Day. Lee Anker, who has taken care of the  
periodicals, would like to train someone - or 2  
or 3 or more - to help in the operation of this  
section. Please volunteer. Call 382-3500 and  
offer to help wherever you can. And of course,  
bring in lots of books to be sold!

All Book Sale proceeds are used to  
supplement the book budgets at the Branch  
Libraries. During the past 10 months, the  
Friends spent \$9623 for book purchases by  
staff.

New at this Book Sale will be the coffee  
and goodies sold by Literacy Volunteers outside  
the Library before and during the sale. Not  
only will this be a convenience for the  
browsers and shoppers, but it's also a fund  
raiser for the Literacy Volunteers.

#####

## LITERARY LECTURES CONTINUE

The third in Dr. Carl Niemeyer's current lecture series on "Three Contemporary Women Novelists - Barbara Pym, Mary Gordon and Ann Tyler" will be held Friday March 13 at 10 AM in the McChesney Room.

Dr. Peter Heinegg continues the Friends' Annual Literary Lectures on the following Fridays, March 20, 27, and April 3 at noon. Dr. Heinegg will concentrate on three 20th century French novelists who illustrate the critic's remark that "the novel is the epic of a world without God". See the January 1987 NEWSLETTER for Dr. Heinegg's weekly subjects.

# # # # #

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new Friends:

Ralph W. Bengtson  
 Carol Decker  
 Marion Farlin  
 Dorothy C. Hinkle and  
 Bernard R. Moskowitz.

Your memberships bring our total to 981. Chairman Gloria Pettersen is hoping to reach our goal of at least 1000 paid members before the Annual Meeting. Won't you help her? Recruit a new member or better yet, gift a friend with membership in the Friends. Bright yellow membership applications are available in the libraries, or simply send your name and check and recipient's name and address to Junice Wusterbarth, Treasurer, 395 Daniels Avenue, Schenectady 12304.

# # # # #

## NISKAYUNA BRANCH

All Friends are invited to the OPEN HOUSE at Niskayuna - the newest branch in the Schenectady County Public Library System - from 2 to 4 PM on March 29. During the afternoon, magician Chad Currin will perform and refreshments will be arranged by the Friends.

The branch, in the former Van Antwerp School, circulated over 2000 books during January, its first month of operation.

# # # # #

## FRIENDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Upcoming children's programs underwritten by the Friends are:

March 7 at 2 PM in the McChesney Room -

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES  
 with Dean Davis

Free tickets, available in the Children's Room, are required.

May 2 at 2:30 PM at Duane -

ANIMALS NOBODY LOVES  
 With Dean Davis

Free tickets are required.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Very soon, the Friends are going to begin running short of money. We are seeking the ideas of all Friends on how to avert this shortfall. The cause of the problem is simple and classic: Our expenses are increasing faster than our income.

Why are our expenses increasing? Part of it is the common effect of inflation. Among the things the Friends provide are programs at the library for children and young adults; it is getting harder to find low-cost, high-interest programs for these groups. Similarly, the costs of supplies for the hospitality Friends provide at various library functions, and supplies for this Newsletter, are rising.

Perhaps more importantly, the library is growing. Within the last five years, two new branches have been opened, and a third new branch is expected to open in the very near future. As the Friends try to provide the same level of programming in each branch, this has meant a substantial increase in the amount of programming needed.

Nearly all the income of the Friends comes from memberships. Our only other significant fund-raising activity is the Book Sale, all proceeds from which are spent on books for the Branches. This means that all other Friends activities -- Childrens' and Young Adult programs at the branches and Central, the very popular Monday noon series, hospitality for Library functions, special gifts to the Library, publication of this Newsletter, and so on -- are financed by payments for new memberships and renewals.

For two decades, now, the basic membership fee has been \$2.00. It doesn't take much arithmetic ability, however, to figure out that that basic membership fee covers very little more than the cost of preparing and mailing the Newsletter.

Raising the basic fee has been discussed from time to time. However, we know that many of our Friends are living on limited incomes. The Board has long felt that, until it becomes economically infeasible to continue the \$2.00 membership, it should be continued to permit these Friends, who cannot give more money, to remain in the organization. Fortunately, many of our members recognize the importance of their contributions, and pay well in excess of the basic fee. We are very grateful to them! We hope that all those who can afford to pay more than the basic fee will give serious consideration to increasing their contributions each year. Additionally, of course, we hope that all Friends will help recruit new members, which also increases the income from memberships. But it is beginning to seem that even that will not be enough to support our program adequately as we approach the beginning of a new decade.

We need your help. We need to think of some innovative new ways to increase our income, in order to ensure that the program of the Friends continues to be a vital and valuable part of the Library. If you have ideas, please write us - at the Library - or call me at 382-7617 in the evening. Thank you.

Kathryn McCary

**LITERACY VOLUNTEERS**

A 6 session Basic Reading Tutor Training Workshop has been scheduled from 7 to 10 PM on March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, and 23 at the Zion Lutheran Church.

No prior teaching experience is necessary to become a Literacy Volunteer but volunteer tutors must be able to read, write and speak English, have a high school diploma and be available to tutor one non-reading adult student once or twice weekly, 1-2 hours per session. There is a registration and materials fee of \$15.

Pre-registration is required. Call Jan Rose, 72-9819, anytime, to register or to inquire further.

\* \* \* \* \*



**\$\$\$ HELP WANTED \$\$\$**

The Friends need the services of friends with experience as auditors or accountants, or in similar financial services positions.

For many years the Friends benefitted, along with other not for profit corporations in the area, from the generosity of the General Electric Company, in making members of its corporate audit department available to do our annual audits for us. Unfortunately, GE is no longer able to do this. For the last couple of years, we have been trying to find an alternate method of obtaining audits free or at low cost. It is becoming clear that this is likely to remain a perennial problem

We are considering forming an internal audit committee to perform this function. For this purpose, we would like to hear from Friends who have worked as accountants or auditors, and would be willing to assist in setting up such a committee and getting it well started. If you have this kind of expertise, and are willing to share it, please call Kathryn McCary at 382-7616 evenings, or 372-3374 during the day.



**"TAKE TIME TO READ"**

National Library Week  
April 5 to 11, 1987

FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ORGANIZATION

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers and directors for the approval of the membership:

OFFICERS, 1987-1988

President	Kathryn McCary
1st Vice President	Frank Steiner
2nd Vice President	Robert Orr
Recording Secretary	Patricia Dumas
Corresponding Secretary	Adele Brown
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1987-1990

<u>First Three-Year Term</u>	<u>Second Three-Year Term</u>
Diane McDougall	Patricia Dumas
Jean Slanker	Ruth Anne Evans
Jane Somers	Kathryn McCary
	Robert Orr

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jan Ludwig, Jean Slater, Eleanor Tannenbaum, Audrey Weidler and Mildred Maras, Chairman.

\*\*\*\*\*

BOARD MEMBERS CONTINUING IN OFFICE

Adele Brown	Barbara Rotundo
Jean Hall	Gretchen Savage
Jan Ludwig	Richard Sills
Joseph Maras	Eleanor Tannenbaum
Mildred Maras	Frank Taormina
Mildred Neslin	Marjorie Woods
Gloria Pettersen	

BOARD MEMBERS RETIRING: Jean Slater and Audrey Weidler

\*\*\*\*\*

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

DIANE McDOUGALL, Children's Librarian at the Scotia Branch since 1983, has been on the SCPL staff since 1975. A fellow SCPL librarian says "Diane is the epitome of a successful Librarian. She has great empathy with children, she's knowledgeable in librarianship, and she's a great human being!"

JEAN SLANKER has been a Schenectady resident for the past 15 years. During that time she's been active in the League of Women Voters, Panhellenic, and Literacy Volunteers. She and her husband, retired from GE, are the parents of 4 "grown" children.

JANE SOMERS is Director of the New York State Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. She was formerly Outreach Coordinator for SCPL. She and her husband, Wayne, live near Mariaville and are frequent users of the central library and its branches.

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# NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 5 to 11, 1987

## "TAKE TIME TO READ"

The Friends are pleased to join with SCPL in presenting the following programs in celebration of National Library Week, 1987. All programs are in the McChesney Room at Central, unless otherwise noted. The Library's April Calendar has a complete listing of the story hours, films and programs at Central and the branches.

**Monday April 6:**

Noon Table Talks  
**ARE LAW AND ETHICS COMPATIBLE**  
 by Prof. Martin Weinstein

Evening Schenectady Theater for Children, Inc. presents 2 different plays. Check Children's Room at Central for times, titles and free tickets.

**Tuesday April 7:**

3:30 PM at Duane - **BONES, BONES, BONES, - STORY ABOUT HUMAN BONES** with the Scotia Glenville Children's Museum.

7:30 PM **Studio Singers from Niskayuna High**

**Wednesday April 8:**

Noon **LITERARY LANDSCAPES OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND**  
 Slide program by Adele Brown - traveller, photographer, retired SCPL Librarian and long time Friend.

2:30 PM at Scotia - **SPECIAL STORIES** with storyteller Nancy Gifford.

3:30 PM at Mont Pleasant - **CREATE A MOVIE** with S-G Children's Museum.

5:30 PM **FRIENDS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING** and at

8:00 PM **IMPRESSIONS OF EUROPEAN LIBRARIES** by Cathie Currin. At Unitarian Society.

**Thursday April 9:**

7 to 8:30 PM - **MINI MYSTERY CONTEST FINALE** to honor all entrants and their families. Friends provide hospitality for this celebration of young writers' achievements.

**FRIENDS OF SCPL ANNUAL DINNER MEETING  
 WEDNESDAY APRIL 8**

at the **FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY**  
 1221 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady

- 5:30 - Punch, wine and hors d'oeuvres
- 6:30 - Chicken Dinner
- 7:30 - Business meeting and elections
- 8:00 - **IMPRESSIONS OF EUROPEAN LIBRARIES**  
 Slide illustrated talk by Cathie Currin

Cost is \$9.50 per person. Please make pre-paid reservations with Barbara Rotundo before April 1. A tear-off is at the bottom of this page for your convenience. If you can't join us for dinner, come hear Cathie Currin in the Great Hall at 8-PM.

**CATHIE CURRIN**

During the summers of 1985 and 1986, Mrs. Currin travelled and studied as part of a group that visited many countries in Eastern as well as Western Europe - including several behind the Iron Curtain. Their field work was an attempt to determine how school and public library services in these countries differed from those in the United States.

For the past 17 years, Mrs. Currin has been a librarian in area schools and is now at the Iroquois School in Niskayuna.

**MAIL TO**

Mrs. Barbara Rotundo,  
 217 Seward Place  
 Schenectady, NY 12305

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Friends' Dinner on Wednesday April 8 at 6:30 PM

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (at \$9.50 per person) made payable to Friends of SCPL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR PREPAID RESERVATIONS IS APRIL 1**

# VOLUNTEERS

by Roberta Berk, SCPL Coordinator

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH LEE ANKER

It was Schenectady's good fortune when Lee Anker was enticed by a friend to move here fifteen years ago upon retirement. For thirty years Ms. Anker taught English, Journalism and German in high school in Metuchen, New Jersey.

Since living in Schenectady many different agencies and people have benefitted from her philosophy of keeping active and getting involved. Lee Anker is a woman deeply committed to volunteering because in her words "The joy of volunteering is helping others and the rewards are friendship and appreciation."

Among the recipients of her time and energies are the Literacy Volunteers; Planned Parenthood, as a volunteer librarian; The Kingsway Arms Nursing Home, as author and editor of its monthly bulletin; and as a contributing author to Christian Science Periodicals. Her greatest commitment, however, is to our library. She comes in three days a week and averages about six hours of work.

Lee started volunteering at the library in 1981 in the Technical Services Department carrying out the last step in the process of discarding a book. While she continues to do this job, Lee has increased her hours servicing other department. She responded to a request for someone to update the Official Compilation Codes, Rules and Regulation of the State of New York. She was trained by another volunteer and is enjoying it. Both of these jobs are perfect for her because of her tenacity, patience and concern for detail. In addition, she keeps the Publishers' Catalogs up to date, and sorts and arranges the periodicals for the Friends' Book Sale. According to Miss Rettie "Lee does a great job."

Lee Anker accomplishes all these tasks because she thinks of volunteering as a hobby which she pursues with enthusiasm. She is in excellent physical condition due to her weekly swims and daily walks. She enjoys meeting new people and seeing new places and, therefore, has travelled extensively in Europe, particularly in Great Britain.

Her selection as Volunteer of the Month is obvious. We thank you Lee for your commitment, devotion and service. You are indeed appreciated by your library friends.

## VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

Niskayuna Branch needs a volunteer to help out on Saturdays 1 - 5.

Mt. Pleasant Branch needs someone willing to work on various clerical tasks.

Central needs people for various clerical tasks, including light typing.

Please contact Roberta Berk at 382-3521.

\* \* \* \* \*

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The annual celebration honoring SCPL volunteers, co-sponsored by the Friends and the Trustees, is being planned for Tuesday June 9.

\* \* \* \* \*

### FRIENDS OF SCPL

- President ..... Kathryn McCary
- 1st Vice President ... Robert Orr
- 2nd Vice President... Frank Steiner
- Recording Secretary.. Ruth Anne Evans
- Correspond. Secretary Patricia Dumas
- Treasurer ..... Junice Wusterbarth
- Newsletter
- Editor ..... Audrey Weidler
- Circulation ..... Mildred Neslin

## BOOK SALE

SATURDAY APRIL 25



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

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Schenectady, N.Y.  
Permit #7

**FALL BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN**

Katie Rich and John Meyer are co-ordinators for the Fall BSI, starting September 14.

President Joseph Palamountain, who is retiring from Skidmore College, will review "The Closing of the American Mind" by Allan Bloom on September 14.

All programs are at noon Mondays in the McChesney Room at Central.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SPRING BOOK SALE**

We did it again. . . . \$4,670.21 was realized from the April Book Sale!

Can you imagine how many books, magazines, records and prints were sold on that one Saturday in April? It's an amazing operation . . . . and it's success is due to the ongoing volunteer efforts of many, many people. To all of you, a big thank you! To Chairman Marjorie Woods, a special thank you for pulling it all together again.

All book sale profits are used to supplement book budgets at the Branches. Last year \$9,593.68 was spent for such book purchases.

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**MEMBERSHIP**

Paid members for the Friends fiscal year ending April 30 were 1027.

The following new Friends helped put us over the thousand mark:

Inger Fluge Maeland, Carlyn G. Coffin, John H. Ward, Valerie Catlin, Diane McDougall, Dorothy Kinsely, Margaret D. Leonhardt, Andy Kulmatiski, Tim McGowan, Judy Fitzmaurice, Joseph S. Korkin, Jo Adams, Ernestine Rubin, Miranda Hickman, Sidney Family and Robert H. & Martha N. Griess.

Oliver Murray, Sadie Baan, Tom Henry, M/M T. Matthew Liimatainen, M/M R. O. McCary, Martin Weinstein, Ms. Anna M. Morrison, Karen & Jack Flahive Graber, Irma Mastrean, Thelma E. Schoneich, Anne K. Goodwill, J. A. Provratil, Christine Rickard and Mary Ellen & Mel Witkowski.

Response to the annual billing has been exceptional. . . . 600 renewals during May. Also, we enrolled 7 new members:

Margaret S. Buhrmaster, Mrs. Helen Michaelson, Mildred Creasey, Helen Eggenberger, M/M Louis A. Rader and Glen L. Mastro.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MVLA TRUSTEES AWARD**

Friends Nell and Fred Tromel were recognized for their outstanding service to libraries at the Mohawk Valley Library Association annual meeting on April 13.

The Trustees Award was given to the Tromels especially for the many years they've provided 'library services' at the Schenectady Jail and for the countless hours they work year-round for each book sale. The cheerful, enthusiastic spirit and great expertise they bring to all their library projects is a job.

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Tromel!

\*\*\*\*\*

**W H E E L S**

The Wheels Summer Action Series for teens begins July 9 and continues each Thursday through August 27.

All programs are at Central. On July 9, two films, Life Among the BMX'ers and Bicycle Dancing will be shown at noon and at 7 p.m. Members of the TriCity BMX Club will be on hand at the evening performance to discuss the bicycles, the safety equipment, the new club, the track and the races.

July 16 will find a portable track in the staff parking lot, and a remote-controlled car race organized by the Forget-Me-Not Speedway of Schenectady, with the prize being a subscription to Remote Control Auto Magazine.

July 23, a roller skating demonstration by James Manning will energize the staff parking lot.

July 30, Matt Nally will show slides and talk about his long-distance bicycle tour when he soloed from California to New York in 1985.

August 6 will include the noon and 7 p.m. showing of A Different Kind of Winning, a skateboarding video.

August 13, members of the American Motorcycle Association will be on hand to exhibit their racing motorcycles, to talk about how to get started in racing and to share their videos on helmet safety and the Amateur National Motocross Championship races.

August 20, the film Breaking Away.

August 27, the film American Flyer will be shown at noon and 7 p.m. in anticipation of the Tour of Schenectady bicycle race which will be sponsored by the City of Schenectady on the Labor Day Week-end.

The Young Adult summer series of programs are designed by Jo Adams, YA librarian, to attract young people to the library and to acquaint them with the collection and services. Each program will be fun and informative. Information will be offered concerning safety factors involved with the activities, and concerning how to get in touch with groups of like-minded people in this area. Also, within each program attention will be called to that part of the library collection which might help to inform or to enhance, or to extend the enjoyment of Wheels! All of the programs for teens are funded by the Friends.

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**WRITING WORKSHOP**

Plans are being made to hold writing workshops for children in mid-July at Central. Check with the children's librarian for specifics and to register.

The Friends are providing the outside funds for the children's department to obtain "matching funds" to sponsor these workshops.

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### VOLUNTEERS - by Roberta Berk, SCPL Coordinator

#### "Volunteers are America's Strength"

"Volunteers are America's Strength" was the theme of our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held on June 2. The afternoon was a huge success and was enjoyed by the ninety people who attended.

The theme was appropriate and accurate because volunteerism has grown to such proportions in America that it has become an integral and essential part of our society. In Schenectady County alone, for 1986, there were 10,304 volunteers who donated 274,439 hours. For the same period, the average for our library was 82 volunteers who provided over 8,500 volunteer hours. With the opening of the Niskayuna Branch in January and the start of the automation project in March, we are now averaging over 900 hours a month and approximately 100 volunteers including students. These numbers are indeed impressive and show great strength.

A memorable part of the afternoon occurred when Mr. Lagasse, the Director of the Library, presented two special Certificates of Appreciation to Warren Brighty, and Pat and Roger Whitney.

Although Mr. Brighty was honored as Volunteer of the Month in 1983, he received this special award to express our gratitude for his giving so generously of his time and expertise in cataloging. He has not only volunteered his services to the Technical Services Department since 1981, but over the past year has spent countless hours on organizing, setting up, and continuously updating the card catalog and shelf list for the Niskayuna Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitney have not been volunteering as long (Roger since 1985 and Pat since 1986), but have performed many different tasks graciously and efficiently on behalf of the library. Roger's pet project is the coupon collection on which he spends many hours at home as well as at Central clipping and sorting them according to expiration date. He also stamps, tapes, and labels the new paperbooks. Pat Whitney is an efficient and diligent worker who quickly finishes one project and moves onto the next. Presently she is working on updating the New York State's Education Curriculum Collection and shelving books for the automation project. These two people always say "yes" whenever called upon and will go, to quote Roger, "wherever they need us most." They most assuredly deserve the honor

bestowed upon them.

The highlight of our program was our guest speaker, Dr. Arnold Gussin, Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education at Union College. His talk was entitled "Genetic Engineering." It was fascinating to hear about the splicing of genes, the creation of new organisms and the implications involved. Dr. Gussin used excellent visual aids to make it easier to understand. He feels strongly that genetic research will provide the answers that will benefit the health and quality of life in the future. Dr. Gussin's stimulating lecture provoked a lively discussion.

The luncheon, given by the Friends and Trustees, was a wonderful way to thank all of the dedicated volunteers. We look forward to the continuous growth and strength of our Volunteer Program.

I'd like to thank the Friends for the space they've generously given me in each issue of their Newsletter to recognize Volunteers and run my Volunteer Help Wanted ads!

My best wishes to everyone for a very healthy and enjoyable summer.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SUMMER

Circulation Department: People needed for the automation project to shelve books and feed information into the computer.

Central and Woodlawn: Clerical positions; filing, light typing.

Teenagers for the Summer: To do a variety of tasks at Central and all the Branches.

Training is provided for all volunteer work. Please call Roberta Berk on 382-3521 and offer your help.

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#### FRIENDS OF SCPL

- President.....Kathryn McCary
- 1st Vice President....Frank Steiner
- 2nd Vice President...Robert Orr
- Recording Secretary..Patricia Dumas
- Correspond. Secretary.Adele Brown
- Treasurer.....Junice Wusterbarth
- Newsletter
- Editor.....Audrey Weidler
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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library  
Corner of Liberty and Clinton Streets  
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Schenectady, N.Y.  
Permit #7

6-4-87



SEPTEMBER 1987

XXIII No. 1

## FALL BOOK SALE

By the time you are reading this, Chairperson Marjorie Woods will have once more been the guiding force behind "the best show in town". Held on September 26, it was the culmination of cooperative efforts of many people - volunteers from the Friends organization.

These Friends who sorted, boxed and sold the huge quantity of books, records and magazines were supplementing the regular library book budget - thus enabling the purchase of more books for the branch libraries.

Our next issue will contain the happy news - the proceeds of this mighty effort.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is an exciting year for the Schenectady County Public Library. In addition to the opening of the Hamilton Hill branch, scheduled for October, there is the ongoing automated circulation project.

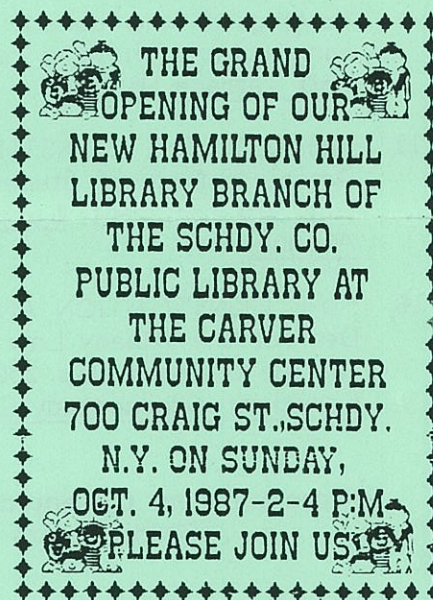
Right now, all books in the collection are being marked with bar codes, similar to the Universal Product Codes on the items we buy in supermarkets, drugstores and (have you noticed?) bookstores. The bar codes will be matched to date films in a mainframe computer, permitting automated cataloging, and a more efficient review and updating of records of the collections. Eventually our library cards, too, will be bar coded, permitting automated circulation at some locations. Someday the computer files will be available to library patrons, who will be able to use them as the catalogue to locate books. This project is being jointly undertaken by the Mohawk Valley Library Association, the regional library system of which SCPL is a part, and Southern Adirondack Library System.

For many library users the prospect of automated cataloging and circulation is either intimidating or offensive. The essentials won't change, however. The books will be the same, and the same staff will be available to help us figure out how to use the new technology. Automation will serve only to speed up the process of locating and checking out the books we want. For Friends, that should be a matter for rejoicing.

I mentioned the Hamilton Hill opening. Further details regarding the opening will be in the next Newsletter. We are sure residents of the neighborhood will be enthusiastically present at the opening. We hope that Friends, even if they aren't neighborhood residents, will be there too, to celebrate an important new branch. See you around the library!

\* \* \* \* \*

## HAMILTON HILL



At last, a new Hamilton Hill Branch of the Schenectady County Public Library is opening - the community has waited a long time for this one. Opening on Monday, September 21, the public is invited to this newest branch, which is located in the Carver Community Center at 700 Craig Street.

The library will be open from 1 - to 5 PM Mondays and Saturdays, and 1 to 5 and 6 to 8 PM Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please - do come and join in welcoming this newest branch of SCPL on Sunday afternoon, October 4, from 2 to 4.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN/MONDAYS AT NOON McCHESNEY ROOM AT CENTRAL

Bring your lunch; coffee and tea will be available. Coordinators: Katie Rich & John Meyer.

- Oct. 5: **BERNARD BERENSEN: THE MAKING OF A LEGEND**  
by Ernest Samuels.  
Reviewer: Dr. Harold C. Martin, former President of Union College.
- Oct. 12: **LIBRARY CLOSED**
- Oct. 19: **VICTORIA: AN INTIMATE BIOGRAPHY;** by Stanley Weintraub  
Reviewer: Dr. Robert Donovan, SUNYA Dept. of English.
- Oct. 26: **CITIES ON A HILL;** by Frances Fitzgerald  
Reviewer: Dr. Martha Huggins, Dept. of Sociology, Union College.

\* \* \* \* \*

Series began September 14 with reviews by:  
Dr. Jan Ludwig - Philosophy Dept. at Union College **CLOSING OF THE AMERICAN MIND** by Allan Bloom  
Dr. Stephen Berk - Chairman, History Dept. Union. **UTOPIA IN POWER** by Mikhail Heller  
Dr. Erma Ruth Chestnut - Retired administrator, Sch'dy County Community College. **HEAVY SAND** by Anateli Rybakev.

\* \* \* \* \*

IN CELEBRATION OF THE  
CONSTITUTION

A series of free Sunday afternoon programs on the 200th Anniversary of the United States Constitution presented by the Schenectady County Public Library, the Capital District Chapter of the World Federalist Association, The Schenectady County Historical Society, and the Schenectady Museum and Planetarium.

- October 4 "THE CRITICAL PERIOD AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION"  
A presentation by Thomas O. Kelly, Director of American Studies at Siena College. Forging of the constitution during the hot summer of 1787; the impact of the constitution following ratification. Location: Schenectady Museum and Planetarium, Nott Terrace Heights
- October 11 "SHOULD THE CONSTITUTION BE CHANGED?" - A lecture by William Daniels, Associate Dean of Students at Union College on the continued relevance of this 200 year old document. Location: Schenectady County Historical Society, 33 Washington Avenue.
- October 18 "THE CONSTITUTION AND WORLD COOPERATION" - A lecture by Martin H. Belsky, Dean of the Albany Law School showing parallels between the need for a constitution for the United States 200 years ago and a similar need for a world constitution today. Location: Schenectady County Public Library, Liberty and Clinton Streets.

All programs are presented on Sundays at 2:00 PM and are free to the public  
Refreshments will be served following each program

\* \* \* \* \*

VOLUNTEERS

by  
Roberta Berk, Coordinator

FRIENDS HAVE PROVIDED -

Support to the Volunteer Program, and the luncheon in particular.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED . . .

FOR AUTOMATION PROJECT -  
Afternoon - 3 hour shifts

Reimbursement to professional staff members - fees for conferences relevant to their responsibilities.

Required: light typing skills and a willingness to learn how to operate the computer.

A sum of money for the reception to be held at Hamilton Hill Branch.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT -

People willing to do inventory and discarding. Only knowledge required is ability to do clerical work. Training and supervision will be provided.

FRIENDS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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FRIENDS OF SCPL

President ..... Kathryn McCary  
First Vice President ... Frank Steiner  
Second Vice President .. Robert Orr  
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Corner of Liberty and Clinton Streets  
Schenectady, New York 12305

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