

SEPTEMBER 1988

XXIV No. 1

BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

For all of you who have been waiting nearly four months, BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN gets under way again on September 19th. It will also get under way for any of you who haven't been waiting for it (because you are new, or haven't been to it before). For all of you, coordinators Katie Rich and Edna Marwill have a bang-up program which is detailed on Page 3.

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MORE NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to report that we are continuing to acquire new Friends. Since our last issue we have welcomed:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Eleanor E. Reo | A. F. Muller |
| Alice Knizek | Edward E. Bell |
| Amy Evans | Kathleen Mason |
| William H. Osborne | Joan K. Ham |
| Sara Handleman | Richard G. Jones |
| Jim & Sheila O'Donnell | The Roberts Family |
| Mr./Mrs. Raymond Rivlin | Jaane E. Pelletier |
| Briane Blanas | Claudia Germein |
| Allen Kifer | Fay E. Kuinlang |
| Rosalie T. Bradt | |

Membership renewals are ahead of last year's at this time, but there are still about 200 of you we haven't heard from. If you renew in the next month, you will save Gloria Pettersen the time and the stamp for sending out a reminder. If you are not sure about it, you can give her a call on 372-6823.

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LVA-SCHENECTADY NEWS

Since the Friends are financial and moral supporters of Literacy Volunteers of America - Schenectady, Inc., we think it is appropriate from time to time to report any interesting or noteworthy news from them. Two items seem to fit these categories:

After ten years in the basement of Zion Lutheran Church on Nott Terrace, LVA-Schenectady is moving their office to the second floor of Schenectady County Public Library. Both Kathryn McCary, President and Jan Rose, Office Manager, are thrilled.

For the program year just completed, LVA-S reports the following statistics:

- Active students - 199
- Active tutors - 146
- Hours of tutoring - 5025
- New tutors trained - 75
- Prospective tutors - 207
- Prospective students - 161

The number of basic reading students, 132, was 51% more than in the previous year.

It sounds as if we are backing a good organization.

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BOOK SALE TIME AGAIN

October 1 is THE DATE for our next semi-annual BOOK SALE, and that is not very far off. So what should you do in addition to marking the date on your calendar? Volunteer to help, that's what. There are various kinds of jobs, to suit various kinds of people. They're all fun and companionable, and they all contribute to the more than \$4,000 we expect to raise and use for books for branches. Here is what you can volunteer to do:

Friday afternoon, Sept. 30, is the time set for bringing the books down from the stacks to the McChesney Room. This requires pushing loaded library carts to the elevator, and from the elevator to the McChesney Room, and then back for more. It is not strenuous, and we will have movers to do most of the loading and unloading.

Saturday morning, 7:30 to 9:00 is the time we must set up tables outside, and take out the books for them and get them arranged on the tables.

Saturday from 9:00 to 5:00, in two-hour shifts, we need cashiers and sales helpers. Sales helpers guide people to the right areas, rearrange books as required, etc.

Saturday from about 3:30 to 5:30 is clean up time, taking down tables, etc.

There are other jobs, of course, some of which precede the sale day by weeks or months. Just let us know when you can help.

The best way to volunteer to help is to call the switchboard operator at Central (382-3500) or stop by the switchboard and sign up. For the cashiers and sales helpers, you should specify the two hour period you would like.

Unless you have a good reason to do it now, we suggest waiting until after the sale to bring in additional books. We have a good supply, and there may not be time enough to sort any more before October. There will be another sales in the spring.

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SCPL ENTERS THE COMPUTER AGE

That is not an accurate statement, since SCPL has been using computers for a number of years, and there have been patron-use computers also for several years. However, these computers have not impacted the average patron, nor changed the basic library system. Thus, Andrew Carnegie, were he to be reincarnated, could walk into the library and it would mostly look pretty familiar to him. This is about to change.

Replacing the Card Catalog

The most apparent change to all serious library patrons, when it is fully implemented (probably within a few weeks) will be the replacement of the card catalog with sixteen computer terminals (plus one or more in each branch). This will forever change the way you will look up a book, and will require some different skills. In place of knowing the alphabet by heart, you will have to be able to spell (at least the first few letters) and be able to use a new and expanded set of rules. What will this mean to you?

Chief Benefit

Probably the greatest benefit of the terminals is increased flexibility in looking up books. One of the most important advantages of computers is their ability to rapidly search through a long list. This means you can ask it to show you all the books by one author, or with one title, or in one subject area, etc., without your having to wade through all the other books you don't want. This will require some learning and imagination on your part. If you have ever been frustrated by the card catalog's quirks you will find it worth the effort.

Another Benefit

Perhaps, the next most important thing is that you will have access to all the books in all the public libraries in eight counties. These are Schenectady, Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie (in the Mohawk Valley Library System or MVLA) and Saratoga, Hamilton, Washington and Warren (in the Southern Adirondack Library System or SALS).

By contrast, the present card catalog covers only Schenectady County. This means you will have ready access to many more books.

CD-ROM

It should be mentioned here, since you will hear the name a lot, that all these terminals are connected to a device called a CD-ROM (for Compact Disc - Read Only Memory). This is something like a compact disc used for music, but instead lists all the books in the libraries covered. It will be up-dated three times a year to include new acquisitions. New books can be found by the reference librarians through the on-line (circulation) computer or in a small temporary card catalog.

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COMPUTERIZED CIRCULATION

Although less obvious, perhaps, to the average library patron, the computerized circulation system, which became operational August 15, is just as revolutionary as the CD-ROM and equally or more important to the library staff.

The preparatory work for this project has been under way for a couple of years. Many of you may have been involved in the herculean task of bar-coding all 200,000 actively circulated books in the SCPL system. You have, or will have to get, a new plastic library card with your own bar code identification. If you've borrowed any books since August 15, you have seen the circulation clerk pass a wand over your card and each book.

Computerized circulation will have a greater direct impact on the library staff than on patrons. For the first time, it provides them with an accurate inventory of the collection. This will help you as a patron, however, in that you will be able to learn whether a book is actually out on loan, rather than just "missing". The staff will once again be able to send overdue notices rather than having to wait many weeks until they send you a bill for the item. This will also help the patron who has simply forgotten about the borrowed item.

One of the great things about computerized circulation is the ability to automate the reserve system. Without the computer, this is a very labor intensive job, which is the reason it was necessary to raise the fee to one dollar a few years ago. Although the reserver system won't be automated for a couple of months, the book reserving fee has already been reduced to twenty-five cents in anticipation of the expected savings.

There will certainly be other advantages to both staff and patrons from these two giant leaps into the computer age. But even with only those mentioned here we can mark up 1988 as a banner year for SCPL. Three cheers for our hard working and far-sighted staff!

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TEEN VOLUNTEERS

We are happy to be able to report that all of the teen volunteers this summer were excellent workers and we take this occasion to thank each of them publicly. Herewith are their names and some information on what they did:

TONY AND JOEY FARONE and JENNIFER STRANG all worked with Librarian Tim McGowan helping to organize the periodical collection in the stacks.

GILLIAN SCOTT helped Librarian Joann Adams with the Young Adult program.

TINA LECHOWICZ worked at Duane helping Librarian Paula Carosella on various tasks.

HEATHER HUTCHISON worked at Woodlawn helping librarian Naomi Bristol with the Summer Reading Club.

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B O O K S - S A N D W I C H E D - I N
All programs at Noon
Bring your own sandwich. Beverages available
Coordinators: Katie Rich & Edna Marwill

Sept. 19: WHO KILLED CBS?
by Peter Beyer

New York Times correspondent Boyer makes a lively job of recounting the broadcasting giant's woes in the context of larger issues.

Reviewer Carl Strock is familiar to many Friends as a Gazette columnist ("The View From Here" and Op Ed pieces on language), but probably not as a former CBS reporter in Laos.

Sept. 26: BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES
by Tom Wolfe

A story of the Law as it applies to rich and poor in the Bronx County Court House, and demonstrates that Wolfe - a super-observer of the social scene - has the write stuff for fiction.

Although now a Unitarian minister, reviewer Charles Slap was formerly an attorney in New York City, and in fact grew up a few blocks from the Bronx County Court House.

Oct. 3: THE TRIAL OF SOCRATES
by I.F. Stone

How could Athens, that progressive center of freedom and democracy, have been untrue to itself? Stone's answer is "the Athenian side of the story".

Former Thomas Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature Carl Niemeyer has certainly reviewed more books for us than anyone else. 'Nuff said.

Oct. 10: Library closed (Columbus Day).

Oct. 17: AND WE ARE NOT SAVED
by Derrick Bell

Bell, a black attorney and law professor, uses an allegorical approach to the analysis of black

civil rights (or lack of same) in the U.S.

Our reviewer, Bonnie McGuire Jones, as a white attorney in Schenectady, should be able to interpret Bell's allegories for us.

Oct. 24: A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME
by Stephen Hawking

One of the world's greatest scientists, called the successor to Newton and Einstein, offers a provocative yet accessible theory of the origins and destiny of the universe.

Our reviewer, Professor Duncan Blanchard, Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, SUNYA, a physicist and meteorologist, should be able to give us a more down-to-earth view of cosmological theories.

Oct. 31: QUINN'S BOOK
by William Kennedy

The Pulitzer Prize winning author's fifth book, like its predecessors is set in Albany, but unlike them also in Saratoga and in mid-nineteenth century.

Reviewer Carol Brower is a former elementary school teacher, B.H. - B.L. library board member and volunteer.

Nov. 7: WASHINGTON GOES TO WAR
by David Brinkley

This has been described as an anecdotal social history of the transformation of Washington from a sleepy southern town into the power center of the free world.

Reviewer William M. Murphy is another former Thomas Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature at Union and has been a reviewer for Books-Sandwiched-In since the first one.

A PERSON-TO-PERSON LIBRARY SERVICE

Esther Swanker, a member of SCPL's Board of Trustees, recognized a need for a new kind of library service and decided to volunteer her own services to try it out. The need? Taking books to nursing home residents who are unable to get to the library themselves.

Every Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Swanker drives out to the Glendale Home with a load of mostly large print books that she has obtained from the library during the previous week. The books are placed on a cart, and she starts her rounds. She visits just one floor, which happens to have only women, and calls on 30 or 35 of them who have expressed a desire to read. About half of the books are pre-ordered by the ladies, or selected to match interests her "patrons" are known to have. The rest are an assortment of books she has learned are popular. As you can imagine, Mrs. Swanker has become friends with all of the ladies, and they look forward to the visit as much as to getting the books.

The residents of the home are classified as either "health related" or "skilled nursing" patients, and it is the former, who are not bed-ridden, that she visits. Mrs. Swanker serves one floor, and she has recruited enough volunteers to cover the other floors having similar residents.

Glendale is only one of eleven nursing homes and adult residences in Schenectady County, and houses about 550 of more than 2,000 people in these places. There is thus a need for quite a number of additional volunteers. Mrs. Swanker spends about two hours on her visits, and assures us that it is a very rewarding experience.

There is now a clerk in the library who will select the books and handle the record keeping, so it is only necessary for the volunteer to make a record of the books that are loaned and returned.

If you can spare an afternoon a week, and this sort of volunteer work sounds appealing to you, please phone Roberta Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers at Central (Tel. 382-3500) and she will help you to get started. There is also a need for substitutes, which might be a good way to start. You should have a car, but the only other requirement is willingness.

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HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS

This was done last June 7th at the fifth annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, sponsored jointly by the Friends and the Trustees. The catered luncheon in the McChesney Room was attended by 62 volunteers, about 35 staff people and about eight Friends and Trustees.

The event was arranged and chaired by Coordinator of Volunteers Roberta Berk. Mrs. Berk gave citations to George Angus in recognition of five years of service in the Children's Dept. including the designing and making of jigs and tools for mending children's books, and to Grace Thieltape in recognition of her service averaging 100 hours/month for more than a year. Also cited for outstanding service were Marilyn Soffer for her five years of dedicated service at Woodlawn Branch and Jack Ward for his three days/week service over the last three years.

County Manager Robert McEvoy praised both the library staff and the volunteers, and pointed out that volunteers are what makes this country unique.

SCPL Director Ronald Lagasse thanked all those who worked on the automation project, bar coding books and entering data into the computer, helping to beat the budgets for both time and money.

Mrs. Berk announced that total volunteer hours last year were nearly 12,000. The number of volunteers is now up to 101, double the number of five years ago. Total hours this year have averaged more than 1,000 per month.

The meeting ended with an interesting talk by Prof. Charles Tidmarch of Union College's Political Science Dept. Prof. Tidmarch discussed the primary campaigns and candidates and predicted a close race between Bush and Dukakis.

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	1459 Kingston Ave.
	Schenectady, NY 12308

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

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TABLE TALKS

Coordinators Gladys and Jack Karlin have an interesting and varied Table Talks series planned for four Monday Noons following the current Books-Sandwiched-In. Here is the program:

Nov. 14: HUNGER IN SCHENECTADY
Speaker: Patricia Obrecht

As Community Liaison and Coordinator of Volunteers for Schenectady Inner City Food Program and a member of several related Organizations Pat Obrecht knows her subject. We read often about hunger in far away places but we may not realize that in Schenectady County last year more than 2,000 families suffered this problem at least once.

Nov. 21: CENTRAL AMERICA
Speaker: Margaret M. Kirwin, Ed.D.

Although our close neighbors, and increasingly important ones, our knowledge of these mostly small countries tends to be concentrated on the frequent problems they have. Dr. Kirwin, Associate Professor of Education, College of St. Rose, and a member of the Central America Solidarity Alliance and frequent lecturer on Central America, will fill in some of the gaps.

Nov. 28: ECONOMIC CONVERSION: A
FAREWELL TO ARMS AND THEN
WHAT?
Speaker: Malcolm Willison

If we believe a lot of our problems are related to the defense budget we look forward to its reduction. But have we thought about the problems this might bring? Mr. Willison, a partner in L-W Associates, a social science research consulting firm, part-time sociology teacher at Siena and Convenor of CABEC, the Capital Area/Berkshire County Economic Conversion Study Circle has, and will share some of these thoughts with us.

Dec. 5: UPDATE: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN
CIVIL RIGHTS?
Speaker: George N. Roman

We'll end this series on an up-beat note: 1988 has been a good year for Civil Rights, according to Mr. Roman. The New Housing Bill Title VIII and the Restoration Act were outstanding legislation. Mr. Roman, who has been Executive Director of the Schenectady Human Rights Commission since 1978, should know about these, and his talk will include some local aspects on civil rights.

THE FALL BOOK SALE

Co-chairmen Audrey Weidler and Marjorie Woods are happy to announce the completion of another successful book sale on October 1. The net proceeds were \$4,618, bringing the year's total to \$8,971. Phyllis Bornt, Coordinator of Branches for SCPL points out that the book sale money is especially welcome at this time because the branch book budget for the year is exhausted and this is the time of year that large numbers of new books are published for the Christmas trade.

All of the book sale proceeds are used to purchase books and other materials for the branches. With several new or expanded branches the importance of the sales is greater than ever. In addition to the money, each branch librarian has the opportunity to look over and select books for her branch. The newer branches have especial needs for older titles in good condition that are now out of print. Such books, which bypass the sale, add significantly to its value, although it is impossible to put a monetary value on them.

Our book sales are really community projects in every sense, and as such depend immeasurably on the help of a multitude of people and organizations in the community. Because of this, it is just not feasible to publicly thank all those who contribute to them in so many ways.

This doesn't stop us from asking for help, however. The completion of a sale doesn't mean the work is done until the next one. One job that goes on continuously is that of sorting books. We already have hundreds of books being accumulated for the next sale on April 29, and they all have to be sorted. You can learn how to do it in a few minutes, and you can work at it at your own convenience any day the library is open. Just call Audrey Weidler, 377-1747 or Marjorie Woods, 377-6986 to get started.

THE FRIENDS' ENDOWMENT FUND

UPDATE ON LIBRARY LINK

Most non-profit institutions maintain an endowment, that is permanent assets which are invested, with only the income from these investments utilized in the annual operating budget. Often only part of the annual income from endowed funds is actually spent in order that the funds may increase over time. Maintaining, and wherever possible increasing, the total endowment is important, in that the annual operating budget is then not entirely dependent upon transient sources of year-to-year income, such as membership dues.

The Friends have had endowed funds for many years. These funds are kept separate from other sources of income, and the principal amounts in the endowment are never spent. Until recently the endowment was rather small, and the income derived from it was a minor fraction of our annual revenue. During 1987, however, we received two major bequests and a large number of gifts to the endowment, which more than doubled its size. Endowment income now provides a significant component in our annual budget, helping to advance the many library activities and acquisitions to which the Friends have dedicated themselves. The investment of the endowment and use of the income from it is of course supervised by the Board of Directors, with advice from a standing Committee on Gifts and Endowments.

In 1987 the Friends were generously remembered in the wills of two late, long-time supporters of our work, Mrs. Anita Oliver Bailey and Mr. Robert P. Carpenter; their bequests were added to the endowment, increasing it substantially. In addition, at the suggestion of Mr. Carpenter's family, a large number of memorial gifts were made to the Friends. A portion of these gifts have been used to purchase important reference and circulating books in music and the fine arts, with the books bearing appropriate memorial bookplates in remembrance of Mr. Carpenter and his dedication to the Friends. The balance of the memorial gifts has been added to the permanent endowment, where it will continue to support our activities.

Through the generosity of people such as Mrs. Bailey and Mr. Carpenter, and the thoughtfulness of families in their times of bereavement, the Friends' endowment continues to grow, adding to our capacity to enhance the library system of Schenectady County. The Friends wish to encourage others to emulate this generosity and to think of us in their financial planning. Gifts and bequests may be designated for the endowment and even restricted to particular purposes; however, unrestricted endowed funds provide the most potential for advancing the many library causes that the Friends have supported for more than twenty years. The Board of Directors serves to guarantee that such permanent contributions will be used wisely and responsibly, and that our benefactors will be suitably recognized and permanently remembered.

Jan Ludwig, Chairman, Gifts & Endowments

Now in its fourth year, Library Link is a library outreach program designed to expose the pre-school through sixth grade children of Schenectady County to the resources available at the library. It is aimed primarily at those children who cannot or for various reasons do not go to the library. This is accomplished by a children's librarian taking books, puppets, flannel-boards, music etc. to places where there are groups of these children. These include day care centers, after-school care centers, pre-schools, etc. Last year library Link made 308 visits involving a total of 6,849 children. Most of the visits are repeats, and many groups are visited on a regular basis every six or eight weeks. This enables the children and librarian to get to know each other and establish some continuity.

During the visit the librarian conducts story hours similar to those conducted in the libraries. The kinds of groups getting emphasis varies with need, time and staffing. Sometimes it will be camps and vacation groups and at other times below average children, but pre-school and lower elementary children usually receive the greatest concentration.

Since the program's start the Friends have contributed \$2,000 annually, and this is matched by the New York State Division for Youth. This fall Library Link qualified for an additional \$550 which will be used to reach teachers throughout the county to inform them of the numerous teaching materials available at the library. It is hoped that by encouraging the use of good literature by teachers it will encourage reading by their pupils.

Library Link was conceived by, and has largely been run by Nancy Gifford of the Children's Department at Central. It is an outgrowth of the former Doorstep program in which Mrs. Gifford was also a principal librarian. While Doorstep was limited to the Hamilton Hill area, which is a prime target of Library Link, the newer program covers the entire county and reaches many more children.

THE PEOPLE - TO - PEOPLE INDEX

The People-to-People Index was created to connect people who want to share their skills and knowledge with those who would like to learn. It offers a way to find the person who can help you learn something new or learn more about an area of interest to you. Whether you want to learn a language, genealogy or hot air ballooning, there is usually someone in the People-to-People Index who can be of assistance.

The Index is kept in a small, black card file in the Central Library's Education and Job Information Center. You may come in and use it yourself or call and request information from it.

You can also list yourself in the Index by filling out the form below. You do not need to be an expert in a subject to list yourself. You can be a beginner or intermediate. Most important is your desire to share with other people. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge or skills, return the form below to Phyllis Ochs at the library and she will contact you.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with publicity for the Index. If you are interested in writing or speaking to groups about the Index, contact Roberta Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers, or Phyllis Ochs for more information.

Phyllis Ochs
EJIC Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since our last Newsletter.

- Joseph Mare
- Dr. & Mrs James M. Strosberg
- Charles S. Slap
- Patricia J. Verdicchio
- Paul E. Abate, Jr.
- Patricia E. May
- M. H. Bensky
- Barbara Zabiegala
- Dave Willyoung
- Harry and Lola Leiterstein
- Margaret M. Ostapaw
- Alfred H. and Katherine Lowe
- Nadia E. Finkelstein
- Alexander Babin

Thanks to those who paid dues or called Gloria Pettersen in response to the suggestion in the last Newsletter. There is still time if you meant to but didn't. Gloria can be reached on 372-6823.

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AN UNSUNG HERO

As an incorporated not-for-profit organization under the laws of the State of New York we are required to follow various rules. One of these is to have our books audited every year.

In years past the General Electric Travelling Auditors staff have done this for us as a public service. General Electric, being a for-profit organization, has decided such unpaid work is not consistent with their aims - in other words, they don't do it anymore.

We are fortunate that WAYNE GRIFFIN, a retired G. E. accountant, was able and willing to audit our books as a public service, and did so, and did a very thorough job, too.

Therefore, we are pleased to be able to publicly acknowledge Wayne's work and thank him warmly for it.

TO REGISTER FOR THE PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INDEX, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM BELOW. WE WILL THEN CONTACT YOU.

SUBJECT(S) _____

DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE (PLEASE CHECK):

ELEMENTARY IN _____
(subject(s))

NAME: _____

INTERMEDIATE IN _____
(subject(s))

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (HOME) _____
(WORK) _____

BEST TIME TO CALL _____

UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NATURE OR QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS, I CONFIRM MY REGISTRATION WITH THE PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INDEX: SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH
Scotia Branch Volunteers

(Continued)

"All our volunteers are outstanding and extremely valuable," was the emphatic response of Dorothy Schell when asked to suggest someone for Volunteer of the Month. Mrs. Schell, head librarian at the Scotia Branch, along with Helene Wetzel, senior clerk and Judy Sullivan, children's librarian have only words of praise for all their volunteers. There are nine volunteers who perform various clerical tasks. Mrs. Schell feels, "each volunteer brings a particular expertise to the library and a willingness to work wherever the need is greatest." The staff of the Scotia Branch is sincerely grateful for their attitude, congeniality and many years of service.

Six of the volunteers are veterans of at least five years. Helen Farnham (volunteering since 1982) was an English teacher who became a children's librarian at Central. Therefore, it is no wonder that she knows exactly how and what to do when helping with the Children's Summer Reading Program. Her husband, Milton (1983), an accountant with the General Electric Company, upon retirement gained knowledge of the library when working part time as supplies clerk. Mr. Farnham has worked on two special projects analyzing population utilization of the Scotia Branch.

Three other women began volunteering in 1982; Helen Gersbach, Hazel Mac Hattie and Marge Matarazzo. Mrs. Gersbach and her husband were regulars at the branch. They came daily to read the New York Times and were instrumental in persuading the library to retain its subscription when there was a plan to cancel it. In addition to her clerical duties, she occasionally helps out with craft projects. To quote Helen, "I love the library...to us it's like a second home." Hazel Mac Hattie brought her long time experience dealing with people at the Carl Company to the service of the library. She looks forward to Thursday afternoons when she processes periodicals, and works on any other chores that need to be done. Marge Matarazzo had to take off in 1983 and again in 1987 due to illnesses in the family. Mrs. Matarazzo returned last February making the library cheerier and brighter with the fresh flowers she brings each week even though she had experienced much sadness.

The three newest recruits are Norma Hoshko, Elsie Maddus and Marjorie Kremzier. Although Norma Hoshko has only been volun-

teering since April 1987, "she's a gem and has an interesting background," stated Mrs. Schell. As a young woman during World War II Norma joined the WACS, met her husband and had a military wedding. She remained active in the military reserves. It is usual for our volunteers to take off during the summer months, but Norma leaves Schenectady for the winter and returns to work throughout the summer weeding the book collection. Elsie Maddus was head librarian at the Ballston Spa Library and took on the added responsibility of leading the small Libraries Division of the New York Library Association. In April 1987 she offered her expertise to the Scotia Branch to be used in any way the library sees fit. Marjorie Kremzier met Dorothy Schell at the Scotia Book Club meetings. Due to her love of reading and libraries Mrs. Kremzier decided to volunteer in March 1988. Marjorie assists Helene Wetzel with new registrations. She is not only appreciated for her work, but for her steady supply of cookies to the library.

The atmosphere of warmth and comraderie between the staff and the volunteers is so special that they have become an integral part of the branch and are considered members of the Scotia library family.

Roberta D. Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Services: filing, shelf reading.

Reference Department: Organize publicity campaign, write publicity articles, arrange bulletin boards.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

- President Junice Wusterbarth
 - 1st Vice President Frank Steiner
 - 2nd Vice President Robert Orr
 - Recording Secretary ... Kathryn McCary
 - Treasurer Jean Sampson
 - Newsletter Editor Richard Sills
 - Circulation Jean Slanker
 - MembershipGloria Pettersen
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DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

IT'S BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN TIME AGAIN
Frank Steiner, Coordinator

(A reminder: all meetings are at noon in the McChesney Room.
On stormy days, the library is closed if Schenectady Schools are closed.)

Jan. 9: **LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA**
by Gabriel García Márquez

According to one reviewer, a "long and woolly, at times wonderful but consistently elective novel" about a decades-long love triangle in a turn-of-the century Caribbean sea-coast town. By elective is meant not hard to put aside.

Our reviewer is Alberto Carlos, Professor of Romance Literature, SUNYA, who reviewed Isabel Allende's "The House of Spirits" for us in 1986.

Jan. 16: **Library closed for Martin Luther King Day.**

Jan. 23: **THEY ALWAYS CALL US LADIES: STORIES FROM PRISON**
by Jean Harris

This has been characterized as a notorious middle class inmate's commentary on the prison system (after eight years in Bedford Hills Correctional Facility) and its treatment of women.

Our reviewer, Dr. Rosemary Gido, is new to us but not to the books's milieu, having been director of Research for the New York State Commission of Correction. Dr. Gido has a PhD. in Sociology from SUNYA.

Jan. 30: **THE DREAM OF THE EARTH**
by Thomas Berry

This new Sierra Club book presents a most thought provoking and perceptive approach to the environment and man's relationship to it.

Reviewer Peter Heinegg, a professor of English and comparative literature at Union College, gave one of our series of Literary Lectures in 1987, is a linguist, and may be best known to most of us as a frequent Saturday GAZETTE Op-Ed page contributor.

Feb. 6: **A FAR CRY FROM KENSINGTON**
by Muriel Spark

This, Muriel Spark's eighteenth novel, was scribed by Robert Plunket as like an old Alec Guinness movie, such as "The Lavender Hill Mob". Set in a London rooming house in 1954, it has been called her most delightful novel in years.

Our reviewer, Randall Craig, is a professor of English at SUNYA. His most recent BSI review was of Toni Morrison's "Beloved" last year.

Feb. 13: **Library closed for Lincoln's birthday**

Feb. 20: **Library closed for President's Day**

Feb. 27: **TRACKS** by Louise Erdrich

This is part of a projected four-novel cycle that began with "Love Medicine" and "The Beet Queen", and characters from the previous novels appear as youngsters in this one, set in 1912-24.

Kate Winter our reviewer, is a professor of English at SUNYA, and reviewed "Emily Dickenson" for us two years ago.

Mar. 6: **PORTRAIT OF THE SOVIET UNION**
by Fitzroy Maclean

Long before the Armenian earthquake in December there had been tensions within and between the many ethnic groups in the USSR, and this book (which is a companion to a TV series) covers the bookground of them. The author was Churchill's liaison with Tito's partisans during World War II.

Professor of Political Science Joseph Board, of Union College, is knowledgeable about the USSR as well as other countries, and has reviewed more books for us than we can count.

GREAT DECISIONS

The Friends are but one of several erudite organizations who co-sponsor the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program each year. This will be their 35th year (the FPA's, not ours), so they must be doing something right. As has been true since 1984, all meetings will be held at 10:00 AM (until 11:30) Tuesdays in the McChesney Room. This year they will start on January 31. The discussion topics for the series, to be covered in order, are:

1. **ETHICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
Power and Morality
2. **PERSION GULF**
Reassessing the U.S. Role
3. **LATIN AMERICAN DEBT**
Living on Borrowed Time?
4. **ARMS AGREEMENTS**
Too Little, Too Late, or Too Much, Too Soon?
5. **CHINA**
Redefining the Revolution
6. **FARMERS, FOOD AND THE GLOBAL SUPERMARKET**
7. **HORN OF AFRICA**
Empty Cornucopia?
8. **INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC**
An Unwinnable War?

A 96 page briefing book will be available for \$9.00 at the meetings, at BSI meetings and at the Unitarian Church office.

A separate series of meetings will be held Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 at Union College, starting January 10. For information on location call Chuck Rembert on 346-0599.

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A SPECIAL BONUS

Since it was scheduled after the November Newsletter went to press, and was held on a very cold day (December 12), a lot of our regulars missed Lois Hodges' delightful review of Lee Smith's **FAIR AND TENDER LADIES**.

While billed as a book review, and in one sense it was that, it was actually more of a performance. Mrs. Hodges, who is Coordinator of Children's Services for SCPL, is well known for her story telling ability and this was ably demonstrated on this occasion. If you should hear that she is doing it again we recommend that you try to hear her.

* * * * *

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

All Friends of SCPL will be saddened to know of the death on December 2 of Niles Wusterbarth, son of Junice Wusterbarth, our President, and Harold Wusterbarth, a member of the Board of Trustees of SCPL. They should know that through their active contributions to our library they have much heart-felt if unspoken support in their time of loss.

* * * * *

FRIENDS OF SCPL

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 1st Vice President Frank Steiner
 2nd Vice President Robert Orr
 Recording Secretary ... Kathryn McCary
 Treasurer Jean Sampson
 Newsletter Editor Richard Sills
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 Membership Gloria Pettersen
 1459 Kingston Ave.
 Schenectady, 12308

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

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March 1989

Volume XX^{IV} No. 4

CORRECTION

In a moment of memory lapse we stated in the last Newsletter that "On stormy days, the library is closed if Schenectady schools are closed." The library NEVER closes because of weather problems - only for holidays celebrated by Schenectady County. However, when Schenectady Schools are closed due to snow as announced over local AM radio stations, the Monday Noon meeting will be cancelled. This applies also to Great Decisions' meetings on Tuesdays. This has not happened this year, but it is always possible. If in doubt, call the library, 382-3500.

* * * * *

SCIENCE 'ROUND THE TABLE

Coordinators Walter Grattidge and Herb Strong have lined up another top-notch group of speakers from the talented people we are so fortunate to have in our community. Don't miss these because you think you won't understand them. You will! The speakers know they will be talking to non-scientists.

March 13: The Delicious Mystery of the Golden Mean - Thoughts on Proportion and Form
by Dr. Carl George, Professor of Ecology at Union College

No, this is not a new form of ecology. The Golden Mean was known by ancient Egyptians and by architects ever since, including E.T. Potter who designed Union's Nott Memorial.

March 20: Medical Ethics
by Dr. Seymour Horwitz

Dr. Horwitz, a recently retired internist, has, among other distinctions, that of having been the first speaker at the first Science-'Round-the-Table, just ten years ago, speaking then on Euthanasia. He plans to involve the audience in the ethical decision-making, so be sure to be there.

March 27: Indoor Radon - What Sort of a Problem is it?
by Dr. Robert L. Fleischer, Physicist at G.E. CRD Center.

Everyone has read about Radon, but do you know whether you should be worried about it? Or how to find out? If not, come and learn all about it.

April 2: Human Muscle-Powered Flight
by Dr. Francis F. Bundy, formerly of GE's CR&D Center where he was a member of the man-made diamond team, among other accomplishments. He also holds FAA commercial pilot and instructor ratings for both airplanes and gliders. Dr. Bundy will tell us how man succeeded in flying under his own power after thousands of years of unsuccessful attempts.

* * * * *

LITERARY LECTURES

Program Chairman Frank Steiner has announced that the ever popular Literary Lectures by distinguished area professors will be given again this year by Drs. Hugh Maclean and Carl Niemeyer.

Dr. Maclean's lectures will be given on March 8, 15 and 22 under the title "Love in a Cold Climate: Three Shakespearean Women, Juliet, Cresida, Cleopatra: The responses of women in love - the girl, the cocotte, the queen - to the pressures of family and custom, politics and war, power and empire".

Dr. Niemeyer's lectures will be given on April 5, 12 and 19 under the title "Three chapters of James Joyce". The lectures will start with "Dubliners" and "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man", then concentrate on "Ulysses". Finally, Dr. Niemeyer will give a "child's guide" to "Finnegans Wake" or "Finnegans Wake without Tears".

Dr. Maclean is Emeritus Professor of English at SUNYA. Dr. Niemeyer is a former Thomas Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature at Union College.

All lectures will be given in the McChesney Room at central on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 AM.

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ADVANCE NOTICE
SPRING BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN SERIES

For the benefit of those who might like to read any of the books to be reviewed, Co-ordinator Chrysoula Fenimore has announced their titles. We will provide more information about them in the April Newsletter.

May 1: Breathing Lessons, a novel by Anne Tyler.
Reviewer: Hester Shapiro

May 15: Rachel's Children, a report on homeless children by Jonathan Kozol
Reviewer: Nadia Finklestein

May 22: The Bright Shining Lie, John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam, a biography by Neil Sheehan
Reviewer: Prof. Manfred Jonas

June 5: France 1789-1815: Revolution and Counter Revolution, history by D.M.G. Sutherland
Reviewer: Prof. Warren Roberts

* * * * *

May 8: CAT'S EYE a novel by Margaret Atwood
Reviewer: Mary Rosenberg

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April 24 will be the date for the Friends' annual meeting - a delicious buffet dinner served right in the McChesney Room, with elections, sociability, a speaker. Full details and reservation forms will be in the April News letter. Watch for it!

* * * * *

GLENVILLE BRANCH

As most people know, the long discussed Glenville Branch which was approved last year by the County Legislators, and planning work has been going on ever since. Since ground-breaking has not occurred, we have not made any announcement, but since people may be wondering about it we thought an interim report was in order.

The new branch will be built on property donated by Glenville on Glenridge Road just east of the Town Hall. At 5,000 square feet, in part because of the inclusion of a large meeting room for community events, this will be the largest branch. Drawings are in process, and will go out for bids this spring.

In the meantime, the library has started ordering books for the Glenville collection. Phyllis Bornt, Coordinator of Branches, has been poring over the Book Sale collection looking for good-condition out-of-print books for Glenville as well as several of the new branches.

* * * * *

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

There is a need in the Audio-Visual Department at Central for volunteers on Saturdays and Sundays to help patrons run the various pieces of equipment. Training of volunteers will be provided. For more information phone Mrs. Roberta Berk at Central, 382-3500.

NEW MEMBERS

Membership renewals are still arriving, reports Membership Chairman Gloria Pettersen, but new memberships are now outpacing the renewals, as they probably should at this time. We are happy to welcome the following new members since our last report in November.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Paul L. Clouthler | Ylvisaker Family |
| Cathe & Hunter Currin | Cynthia M. Sawyer |
| James & Wendy Heikkala-
Tree | Joan Terwilliger
Liz Williams |
| Ernest H. Kahn | Brian C. Kieser |
| Thomas McGarry | Alvin D. Schwartz |
| Bob Strang | Barbara S. Idleman |
| Glen & Mary Grace Van
Calio | Mary A. Converse |
| Arlene Williams | Nilda Colon |
| Phyllis & Donald Woodmansee | |

Gloria's Board term ends this year, and we thank her for her conscientious service in this important job. Starting in May the Membership Committee will consist of Pat and Roger Whitney, and you will be hearing from them.

* * * * *

BOOK SALE

Now is the time to take your surplus books to the library, as there is still time for them to be sorted, for the April 29 Spring Sale. We will give further details and a call for volunteers in the April Newsletter.

The Fall Book Sale, originally scheduled for September 30, has been changed to Sept. 23 out of respect for the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashannah. Mark it on your calendars.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| President..... | Junice Wusterbarth |
| 1st Vice President..... | Frank Steiner |
| 2nd Vice President..... | Robert Orr |
| Recording Secretary.... | Kathryn McCary |
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Bulletin Board

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APRIL 1989

VOL. XXIV NO. 5

NOON-TIME TABLE TALKS

Coordinator: Frank Steiner

SCHENECTADY: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

April 10: DUTCH BARNs OF THE HUDSON-
MOHAWK-SCHOHARIE VALLEY
by Dr. Vincent J. Schaefer

Dr. Schaefer is well known for his scientific achievements (cloud seeding, the jet stream, etc.), but less so for his extensive and long-standing work in area history and preservation. One of his interests is the approximately 100 old Dutch barns in this area, and he is a Trustee of the 200 member Dutch Barn Preservation Society. His illustrated talk will cover construction, who built them, how, and how they are unique.

April 17: WE'RE STILL IN DUTCH
by Wayne Harvey

Mr. Harvey, President of the Schenectady County Historical Society, is a well known impersonator of our Dutch forbears. He will tell us about the visible aspects of our early Dutch heritage.

April 24: THE FUTURE OF SCHENECTADY
by George L. Robertson

As President of the Schenectady Economic Development Corp., Mr. Robertson can tell us a lot about our future because he is in the business of planning it.

* * * * *

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK, APRIL 9 - 15

This year, when we celebrate National Library Week, we will not only be celebrating libraries everywhere but also 20 years in our own "new" library building. There will be a special celebration of this event on Sunday, April 9, 2:00 P.M. in the McChesney Room. At this time Guilderland writer Marilyn Greene, author of *FINDER: THE TRUE STORY OF A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR*, will give a talk on how she finds missing persons and children, which is her business. After the talk there will be a reception with punch and cake.

Come and help us celebrate our marvellous library! Also, see story on page 2 listing other Library Week activities.

* * * * *

SPRING BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN SERIES

Co-ordinator: Chrysoula Fenimore

May 1: BREATHING LESSONS by Anne Tyler

This is Tyler's eleventh successful novel (long on the Best Seller list and a Book-of-the-Month Club main selection) about a middle class family's life and marriage.

Our reviewer, HESTER SHAPIRO, will be recognized by regular BSI attendees as a writer, actor and frequent reviewer for us.

May 8: CAT'S EYE by Margaret Atwood

Another Book-of-the-Month Club main selection (Spring, 1989) and Best Seller, this is Atwood's seventh and, according to one reviewer, most emotionally engaging fiction so far.

We'll get a first hand opinion from our reviewer MARY ARENSBERG who is a lecturer in the English Department at SUNYA.

May 15: RACHEL AND HER CHILDREN
by Jonathon Kozol

This report on America's homeless and why they are that differs considerably from the opinions of many workers in this field.

Reviewer NADIA FINKELSTEIN, Associate Executive Director of Parson's Child and Family Center, Albany, as an experienced worker in this field will give us her very knowledgeable views.

May 22: A BRIGHT SHINING LIE: John Paul
Vann and America in Vietnam

by Neil Sheehan is a compelling 768 page biography of an outspoken Lieut. Colonel who was severely critical of the way we waged that war. A best seller which, according to the Washington Post, is one of the most important books ever written about the war.

Our reviewer, Professor MANFRED JONAS, of Union College's Department of History, has been a visiting professor and lecturer at many universities in this country and Germany and has reviewed at least two books for us.

June 5: FRANCE 1789-1815, REVOLUTION
AND COUNTER REVOLUTION by
D.M.G Sutherland and A SHORT
HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLU-
TION 1789-1799 by Albert Soboul

In this bicentennial of the French Revolution we will hear about two books which give contrasting views of it. This from Prof. WARREN ROBERTS, Department of History, SUNYA, who is a specialist in French history. Prof. Roberts gave us a memorable review of Paul Kennedy's *THE RISE AND FALL OF THE GREAT POWERS* last year.

* * * * *

COMPLETE LIBRARY WEEK PROGRAM

ORGANIZATION CHANGES

Sunday, April 9

* 2:00 Twentieth Anniversary Celebration in McChesney Room. See page 1 article.

Monday, April 10

Noon TABLE TALKS - Dr. Vincent J. Schaefer on Old Dutch Barns McChesney Room, Central. See Page 1.
3:00 Librarian GRETE REPPEN will talk about weaving and her life in Norway - Scotia Branch
* 3:30 WHAT IS A BIRD NEST? presented by Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum - Woodlawn Branch - registration required.
* 7:00 THE DRAGON OF NITT presented by the Schenectady Theater for Children - McChesney Room, Central - Tickets required

Tuesday, April 11

3:30 POKE! - Stories and Crafts - Duane Branch

Wednesday, April 12

10:30 TODDLER SPECIAL - Umbrella Day - Duane Branch
Noon WEDNESDAY NOON FILMS - McChesney Room, Central
* 3:30 SOUNDS GOOD TO ME by Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum - Mont Pleasant Branch
3:45 Author BRIGID CASEY MEYER will talk to Children on "How to Get Published" - Scotia Branch

Thursday, April 13

10:30 Films for Pre-school children - McChesney Room - Free tickets required
3:00 SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOP McChesney Room - call 382-5275 to register
* 3:30 SOUNDS GOOD TO ME by Scotia - Glenville Children's Museum - Hamilton Hill Branch
7:00 FAMILY STORY CONTEST finale - McChesney Room, Central

Friday, April 14

3:00 ROBIN IMSCHWEILER will give a talk on "The Body/Mind Connection" McChesney Room, Central

Saturday, April 15

* 1:30 AGE OF DINOSAURS presented by the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum - Registration required - Quaker Street/Duanesburg Branch
*2:00 "Max and Moritz" presented by BACK ALLEY PUPPETS. Free tickets required. McChesney Room, Central

*Items with a * have been under-written by the FRIENDS

* * * * *

As noted on page 3, April brings, in addition to Library Week and Spring Book Sale and other good things, the Annual Friends' Election of Officers and Board Members. The Nominating Committee, comprised of Mildred Maras, Chairman, Kathryn McCary, Mildred Neslin and Frank Steiner, proposes the following slate:

Officers

President Junice Wusterbarth
1st Vice President Louis Salerno
2nd Vice President Frank Steiner
Treasurer Jean Sampson
Secretary Kathryn McCary

These will all be recognized as current officers except for Louis Salerno, who has been a board member for the past year. Frank Steiner has been 1st V.P. and Program Chairman, and has done such a good job at that he's been asked to continue.

Re-elected Board Member

Joseph Maras - Second three year term

New Board Members

John Belton Sarah Michener
Roberta Berk Harry Stevens
Eleanor Friedman Eugene Zola

Continuing Board Members

Wilma Bradt Katherine Dixon
Ruth Anne Evans Jan Ludwig
Mildred Neslin Jean Slanker
Jane Somers

Retiring Board Members

With regret we announce the retirement of the following board members, all of whom have served two full terms (six years).

Mildred Maras, who, in addition to other duties, has served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee at least three times.

Gloria Pettersen, who has served most effectively as Chairman of the Membership Committee.

Marjore Woods, who is completing her second six year stint on the board, has run fifteen Friends' Book Sales since 1977, raising over \$77,000. She has been, in addition, Secretary (two years), our liaison with the Trustees and has been and still is on the library Board of Trustees, with responsibility for Branches.

We are also sorry to announce that Barbara Rotundo is resigning at the end of her first term, during part of which she served as Hospitality Chairman.

Resigned Board Members

We are sorry to announce the resignation this year of two board members:

Ellie Tannenbaum (elected 1986)
John Van Schaick (elected 1988)

* * * * *

ANNUAL MEETING

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library will be held Monday evening, April 24, 1989 at 7:00 P.M. in the McChesney Room at Central.

The meeting will start with a buffet dinner served by Classic Caterers, who have served the meals for the volunteer luncheons and other library dinners and have always done an excellent job. The menu will be:

- Boneless Breast of Chicken, Orange Sauce
- Steamed Rice
- Vegetable Salad with Sour Cream Dressing
- Cole Slaw Souffle
- Homemade Bread
- Cake Roll with Strawberry Sauce
- Coffee & Tea

Following dinner there will be a brief business meeting and elections, which will be followed in turn by a talk you won't want to miss:

ARE BOOKS OBSOLESCECENT?

by
Professor Jan K. Ludwig

Chairman, Department of Philosophy
Union College

Prof. Ludwig, in addition to being a member of the Friends' Board and a member of the Council of Friends of Schaffer Library and of the Society of Bibliophiles, is an avid book collector. As such he pursues an avocational interest in the history of printed books and the manner in which changes in the technology of book production influence and are influenced by the wider culture.

This sounds like the ideal topic for our Annual Meeting and we certainly have the right person to talk about it. Don't miss it! Send in your check and reservation today - use the coupon at the bottom of the page. The price is only \$9.00 per person, and the deadline is April 14.

* * * * *

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Here are some thumb nail biographies to give you a personal glimpse of our new board nominees:

John Belton is a retired administrator with the Schenectady School System and is now a Consultant to the New York State United Teachers. He is also a Principle-Supervisor at the Refreshing Springs Christian Academy.

Roberta Berk taught at Hebrew Academy of the Capital District for ten years before joining SCPL as Coordinator of Volunteers. In this position she oversees more than 100 volunteers and, in so doing, becomes very familiar with almost every aspect of the work of running the library.

Eleanor Friedman retired from being a Reading Specialist at Niskayuna Middle School to take up numerous other activities. Among them she is Chairman and discussion leader of the Book Study Group at Temple Gates of Heaven, a reader for WMHT's RISE and a Legislative Forum board member.

Sarah Michener is a Schenectady business woman (owner of Annabel's Hair and Nail Salon) who finds time for a wide range of volunteer activities: Past chairman of the Stockade Art Show, in charge of advertising and promotion for the OTB Tennis Open, in charge of the Niska Day Float, active in the Downtown Schenectady Business Association, to name a few.

Harry Stevens, after spending time with the Peace Corps in Africa, came back to his home town to teach science in Niskayuna schools. Now, instead of teaching it he's doing it, as a chemist. Among a list of hobbies he lists as #1 reading and libraries.

Gene Zola retired as Director of Pupil Personnel and Guidance at Shenendehowa to become Adjunct Professor at St. Rose and SUNYA and a consultant for the State Dept. of Labor and the Golub Corporation. In addition to being an avid reader he serves on a number of other boards, so doesn't come to us without experience.

* * * * *

MAIL TO: Jean Sampson, 2352 Cayuga Road, Schenectady, New York 12309

Please reserve ___ places at The Friends of SCPL dinner on Monday, April 24 at 7:00 PM

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ at \$9.00 per person made out to The Friends of SCPL

NAME _____ Address _____

All members of The Friends and their friends are urged to attend the annual dinner.

RESERVATION DEADLINE - WITH PAYMENT - Friday, April 14

SPRING BOOK SALE

In case you haven't noticed, Spring is here again, and that means its getting to be **BOOK SALE** time too. To be more precise, Book Sale will be on Saturday, April 29, from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Prices will be the same as for the last several sales, which means they are a real bargain.

It's not necessary to be there at the stroke of 9 o'clock. In fact, it's a lot easier and more pleasant to shop a little later after the biggest crowds have thinned out. Then you won't have to look over someone's shoulder, and there will be plenty of books to last all day.

Many of our books are out of print and not available anywhere else. These are not necessarily old, either. Some books go out of print in as little as six months these days.

In addition to coming to buy, think about coming to work for a short spell. We especially need help Friday afternoon, April 28 and Saturday morning early, with setting up. You won't have to do any heavy lifting, and women are equally as good as men for this. We also will need cashiers and sales helpers on Saturday. Call the switchboard, 382-3500 and leave your name, address and telephone number and you will be called back.

Also, we need more grocery bags for the bag sale. If you can spare some, please bring them in any time.

* * * * *

NEWS FLASH

As we go to press we read with sorrow of the death March 21 of Ronald Dixon, former member and president of our Board of Trustees, friend of all libraries, and husband of Friends' board member Katherine Dixon. More in the June Newsletter.

FAREWELL TO COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Sad to say, but after 41 years, d
ring
which it sent 38 ambassadors to 44 countries, the Schenectady County Community Ambassador program is going out of business. It has been the only project of it's kind left in the country.

The Community Ambassador Program was sponsored by the Experiment in International Living in Poultney, Vermont, who found the overseas families, paid for necessary insurance and guaranteed payment to the host families. Now they say they can no longer do this, so without a sponsor the program can't go on.

That's the bad news. The good news is that they had some money left over. At the suggestion of Mildred Maras they voted to contribute \$600 of this to SCPL. Director Ronald Lagasse has accepted on behalf of the library, and the money will be used to add to the library's collection.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed at Woodlawn and Scotia Branches to bar code books for the automation project.

If you have some typing or computer experience and can help on a temporary basis please call Roberta Berk on 382-3521 or 382-3500 for more information.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

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 - 1st Vice President Frank Steiner
 - 2nd Vice President Robert Orr
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 - Treasurer Jean Sampson
 - Newsletter Editor Richard Sills
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June 1989

VOL. XXIV No. 6

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS

Librarian Jo Adams, Coordinator for Young Adult activities in SCPL, is putting together two series of summer programs that, between them, should appeal to most of our YA patrons and not a few both younger and older. These are sponsored by the Friends. All are invited.

The first of these is a three part program on Book Illustrating. The three meetings will each feature a speaker knowledgeable in a different aspect of the subject. All meetings will be held in the McChesney Room.

● Lois Foight Hodges, SCPL's Coordinator of Children's Services, and a former judge for the Caldecott Medal, will discuss what the committee looks for in selecting the best illustrated children's book of the year. Her talk on Thursday, July 13th at 7 PM will be illustrated with examples.

● On Thursday, July 20th at 7 PM Artist Gladys Ostrom will speak on creative artistic training, use of imagery and using the right side of the brain to translate ideas into images.

● Melanie Laudato, a local commercial artist who is a skilled calligrapher is scheduled to be our third speaker on Thursday, July 27th at 7 PM. She will discuss the history of calligraphy along with her demonstration and workshop.

As an adjunct activity, attendees will have an opportunity to read and design a cover for a classic YA book of their choice.

The second series will be a science fiction film festival. For dates and other details keep an eye on the *Gazette* and look for flyers in the library.

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SPRING BOOK SALE

Although the number of books in the April 29 Book Sale was down a bit we actually made nearly \$200 more than in the previous sale -- \$4,808 in fact -- and there were not many books unsold at five o'clock. We thank every one of you who contribute your labor, your skills, your time and your energy towards making these sales such a success. And of course it goes without saying that we also thank all those who came and purchased books. Although we cannot single them all out, we are also most thankful to numerous businesses and organizations for contributing or helping in various ways -- lending tables, providing donuts for volunteers, displaying our posters, etc.

We have news for all of you: the FALL BOOK SALE is not very far away - September 23, to be exact. NOW is the time to bring in your books. It does take time to sort them, and this cannot all be done in the last weeks before a sale. Put them on the parking lot loading dock and ring the bell for the custodian, or go in and tell him you have books for the book sale.

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PREVIEW OF THE FALL
BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

Thanks to speedy work by co-coordinator Bob Orr the Fall Books-Sandwiched-In series is already lined up. Since you will have more than three months, why not read one or more of them this summer? Here is the program:

- Sept. 11: **SKETCHES FROM LIFE**
by George F. Kennan
Reviewer: Erastus Corning III
- Sept. 18: **WILLIAM FAULKNER: AMERICAN WRITER**
by Frederick R. Carl
Reviewer: Prof. Carl Niemeyer
- Sept. 25: **DEXTERITY**
by Douglas Bauer
Reviewer: William Dumbleton
- Oct. 2: **THE LYRE OF ORPHEUS**
by Robertson Davies
Reviewer: Frank Steiner
- Oct. 9: **Library closed for Holiday**
- Oct. 16: **TERRITORY OF LIES, THE STORY OF JONATHAN J. POLLARD**
by Wolf Blitzer
Reviewer: Prof. James Riedel
- Oct. 23: **MORE LIKE US; MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN**
by James Fallows
Reviewer: Don Thurston

* * * * *

MONEY TROUBLE

In his State of the State address, Governor Cuomo said that libraries are our greatest treasure. While it's nice to know he feels that way, what counts is what the legislature actually does. For three years now, that is since 1986, the legislature has not increased State aid for libraries one iota, not even for inflation.

As you know, the budget has been passed for this year, and at present there is no library bill in the Assembly. This sounds like a dead issue for this year, but that's not necessarily the case. There might be a supplementary budget passed, and Mel Miller has said he would go for an increase for libraries if he had sufficient pressure from Assembly members.

The assembly is not likely to put pressure on Miller unless they hear from us. The path is clear. We should write our Assemblymen. That would be Jim Tedisco for most of us, and Paul Tonko for most of the rest. Tonko can be especially influential since he is in the majority party. He is a strong library supporter, but nothing helps him more than a good handful of letters from his constituents.

There is a bill in the Senate, and Hugh Farley, our Senator, is chairman of the sub-committee on libraries, so it is much more important to concentrate on the Assembly.

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ANOTHER GOOD YEAR

If you have wondered just where your dues money goes, you are about to find out. The table below summarizes the year's expenses by general category, and some explanation follows.

BOOKS

This is not a budget item, since the amount shown came entirely from the two book sales, and expenditures usually just about equal net receipts each year. As always, all of the Book Sale money is used by the library to buy books for the branches.

BRANCHES

A very high proportion of the Outreach money is used for Library Link, the library's outreach program for pre-school and school age children at numerous locations in Schenectady County. Our outreach item also includes the Jail Library, Literacy Volunteers, Resume Ads and some Public Relations.

GIFTS TO LIBRARY

These include money for staff travel to library conferences, book donations in honor of retiring staff members, the volunteer luncheon (in conjunction with the Trustees), book plates, and, usually, some special gifts of equipment that the library has not been able to get into their budget. This includes a new black-board for the McChesney Room, and money to be used, along with grants from the Mellon Foundation and the New York Council for the Humanities, to purchase a 60 volume set of The Library of America to be used at the branches. Our gift is effectively multiplied over seven times due to the grants and discounts it enables.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

This is a significant budget item because it covers programs that are a very important adjunct to the library but which their budget cannot cover. These include various lectures and other kinds of program at Central and the branches including Library Week specials and the Young Adult summer programs and children's programs (see separate articles).

FRIENDS PROGRAMS

These include the Literary Lecture series by Professors Niemeyer and Maclean and about thirty Monday noon meetings of Books-Sandwiched-In, Table Talks and Science Round the Table. These may sound self-serving, but since they are open to the whole community they serve to introduce new patrons to the library and to the Friends. Attendance has been great this year, with standing room only at many meetings.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Although we are a volunteer organization we do have unavoidable expenses. The bulk of these are for printing and postage for the Newsletter and membership dues notices.

**CONDENSED EXPENSE SUMMARY
1988-1989**

Books	\$9,171
Outreach	3,077
Gifts to Library	2,157
Library Programs	2,710
Friends Programs	968
Operating Expenses	2,084

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last report in March we have welcomed the following new members through May 16:

- Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Conto
- J. James Glywa
- Mrs. Leroy McClaine
- TA & Joyce Riedinger
- Frances Summerville
- Ed & Anna Tomkowski
- Mr. & Mrs. William G. Wilkie
- William A. Boehm
- Marie DeLorenzo
- Sigrid Kellenter
- Anne Maciariello
- Wilma Menion
- Marion Ross

Dues notices were sent early in May to all Friends (except for recent new members). If you did not receive yours, or have mislaid it, or are not sure of your status, call Membership Chairman Patricia Whitney on 374-2120. If you have your notice but have neglected to return it, doing so will save the Membership Committee from having to remind you later. More than two-thirds of you have renewed so far. Note that we do not send membership cards nor is it feasible to acknowledge receipt of your payment.

RONALD C. DIXON IS REMEMBERED

To be remembered as "Mr. Library" is high praise for a community leader; Ron Dixon will be so remembered. For twenty-three years he served on the Schenectady County Library Board (half of those years as president) until failing health prompted him to resign last December. He died on March 21.

His interest in libraries went far beyond our county boundaries. Ron served as Trustee of the Mohawk Valley Library Association (seven years), the Capital District Library Council, and the New York State Association of Library Boards (ten years). Many of us participate in various community activities and may feel burdened at times when we attend a few meetings a year; accordingly, we may ponder the time and energy Ron Dixon spent in twenty-three years of library meetings here and across the state. That was a true labor of love.

Ron was the prime mover in creating the Trustees' Handbook used throughout the state as the standard guide for trustee responsibility and accountability.

During his twenty-three years on the County Library Board many changes took place, including the completion and occupation of the new library building. He was also involved in our County Library becoming an integral part of the Mohawk Valley Library System; Ron was a pioneering member of that effort.

Under his presidency the County acquired and renovated the Duane, Mont Pleasant and Rotterdam Branch Libraries. Innovative services developed under his leadership included the Doorstep Library Program for children in disadvantaged neighborhoods, Outreach Library Services to the Hamilton Hill Community, Adult Literacy Programs for those in need, the Adult Independent Learner Program, and the launching of the Library's comprehensive Automation Program.

Ron Dixon, for your years of effective leadership and dedication to the cause of libraries, we salute you.

Harold J. Wusterbarth
President, SCPL Board of
Trustees

CHILDREN INVITED

The Friends are sponsoring two children's programs to highlight the 1989 Royal (Summer) Reading Club in Central's Children's Room:

July 6, 3:30 PM - Storyteller Mary Murphy will present "Hear Ye!" to introduce the theme "Kings and Queens and other Things"

July 12, 3:00 PM - Minstrel Paul Strausman will perform "Make Merry Music"

Friends are cordially invited, with or without children or grandchildren.

The Friends have supported a wide variety of guest artists at all branches during the past year.

From the expert presentors of the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum have come many programs: "From Pulp to Paper," "In Days Gone By", "They Lived Along the Mohawk", Puppet Parade", "What's a Bird's Nest?", "Sounds Good to Me" , "Age of Dinosaurs", and "Shadow Puppetry". Every branch library has been visited by this fine community traveling museum, thanks to support by the Friends.

Magicians Bob Fowler, "Fundini the Magician" Jack Buchalter and Philip Katz performed at five libraries; Storytellers Marni Schwartz, Jane Ainslee and Mary Murphy at four others. Storyteller Susan Fantl Spivak entertained at Central for the Family Story Contest Finale during National Library Week.

Also at Central were the Back Alley Puppets with their live puppet show "Max and Moritz", and two showings of the rented classic Walt Disney film "Snow White".

Other guest artists were musician Paul Strausman, animal consultant Dean Davis, Linda Senn (Stamp Art), Carolyn Goodman and Alice Rubin (Origami) and Scotia author Brigid Casey-Meyer.

Friends-funded programs for children bring guest artists to enhance Summer Reading Club, Children's Book Week, Schenectady's Colonial Festival, the three school vacation weeks and holidays around the year. It is this support that gives our libraries opportunities to introduce talented local individuals to Schenectady's children. Thank you, Friends.

Lois Foight Hodges
Coordinator of Children's Services

A MODERN FAIRY TALE

As most of us know, we have a nice, fairly new, Woodlawn Branch. What we may not know is that the County Legislature does not include funds in the library budget for landscaping or a grounds keeper. So Wanja Broucker, Woodlawn Branch librarian, has been putting in plants around the building and parking lot to improve the outside appearance.

To help keep the weeds down around the plants and by the parking lot she bought a load of gravel. One of the patrons, a Mrs. Renner, saw Wanja working on the grounds and apparently decided that wasn't the right way to do it. Much to Wanja's surprise, on Saturday morning, May 13, who should appear, complete with shovels, but a little band of nine boys and girls, aged 6 to 13, in the company of one Karl Weidman. These young workers spent about three hours, going without lunch, shoveling and carrying gravel to the places for which it was intended.

Where did these little elves and their leader come from? Karl Weidman, it turns out, is the proprietor of Karl's Kabinet Shop at 804 Strong Street. According to Wanja he is a "young, all-American man" who feels he was more fortunate than the kids growing up in Hamilton Hill, so he has devoted most of his spare time to helping them. He has done this by forming a "youth club", and takes them camping and fishing, but also teaches them the value of work. He says the kids feel good about themselves when they see accomplishments like the Woodlawn landscaping. The kids get points for these accomplishments, and when one gets 1000 points he or she gets a reward.

Since he does this as an individual, he gets no funding except for donations. The Hamilton Hill kids need clothing, toys, and about everthing else. Anyone who would like to help out can get more information by calling Karl on 372-1715.

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VOLUNTEER OPENINGS

Circulation Department - person needed for filing new registration cards and other clerical duties.

Technical Services - person needed to do assorted clerical work involved in ordering new books and discarding old ones.

Woodlawn Branch - needs people to work on the automation project. Some typing or computer experience is helpful.

Training and supervision is provided for all positions. For further information call Roberta Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers, on 382-3521 or 382-3500.

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TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER MONTHS

Teenagers who have some extra time and would like to have a worthwhile and enjoyable experience can volunteer at Central or the branches during the summer months.

Teens are needed for special summer programs in the Children's Room, and for various clerical jobs throughout the library system. Training and supervision are provided. For further information please call Roberta Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers, 382-3521 or 382-3500.

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FRIENDS OF SCPL

- President Junice Wusterbarth
 - 1st Vice President Louis Salerno
 - 2nd Vice President Frank Steiner
 - Recording Secretary ... Kathryn McCary
 - Treasurer Jean Sampson
 - Newsletter Editor Richard Sills
 - Circulation..... Jean Slanker
 - Membership Patricia Whitney
- 1117 Earl Avenue
Schenectady, 12309

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

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