

SEPTEMBER 1989

VOLUME XXV NO. 1

FALL BOOKS - SANDWICHED - IN

All meetings are held at noon in the McChesney Room at Central.
Bring your lunch; coffee and tea are available.

Sept. 11: SKETCHES FROM LIFE

by George F. Kennan
Reviewer: Erastus Corning III

In this, his latest book, George Kennan - author, professor, elder statesman and former ambassador to the Soviet Union, expelled from the Embassy in Stalinist days - shares with us his keen observations on the 20th century.

Erastus Corning III lived in Moscow in the 70's and has traveled extensively throughout Russia. He is an adjunct professor in the Slavic Department of SUNY and a frequent speaker on ways to improve US-USSR relations.

Sept. 18: WILLIAM FAULKNER: AMERICAN WRITER

by Frederick R. Carl
Reviewer: Prof. Carl Niemeyer

This would seem to be a very full biography - a thousand pages - of an author whose life and work were recently reported in a 2 volume biography. Dr. Niemeyer will explore why we have 2 such extensive biographies of Faulkner.

Dr. Carl Niemeyer is former Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern literature at Union College. He is legend to Friends for his many Literary Lectures and BSI reviews.

Sept. 25: DEXTERITY

by Douglas Bauer
Reviewer: Prof. William Dumbleton

Douglas Bauer was a graduate student of Prof. Carl Niemeyer at SUNYA and then went on to Harvard where he is now an instructor in creative writing. He is an experienced professional writer whom Friends may have read in the New York Times Magazine Section.

DEXTERITY is a novel about a girl who loses her right arm. Set in nearby Columbia County, it depicts rural life - and the intensity of emotions of those living there - with great sensitivity.

Oct. 2: THE LYRE OF ORPHEUS

by Robertson Davies
Reviewer: Frank Steiner

This is the third part of the trilogy that began with THE REBEL ANGELS and continued with WHAT'S BRED IN THE BONE. Readers will recognize many of the characters and will meet a host of new and eccentric personalities.

Dr. Steiner is a frequent BSI reviewer and later this month will present a lecture series on "Post World War II German Literature".

Oct. 9: No review. Library is closed.

Oct. 16: TERRITORY OF LIES: THE STORY OF JONATHAN J. POLLARD

by Wolf Blitzer
Reviewer: Prof. James Riedel

This is claimed to be the complete tragic story of an American Jew working for US Naval Intelligence and spying for Israel.

Dr. James Riedel is Professor Emeritus at SUNYA where he's taught international and American politics. From 1943-46 and 1950-51 he was cryptanalytic translator in Japanese for the Army Security Agency. In 1962 he was consultant to the Assistant Secretary of State and the following year was consultant to the UN/Ford Foundation.

Oct. 23: MORE LIKE US: MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN

by James Fallows
Reviewer: Prof. Donald Thurston

Fallows is Washington editor for "The Atlantic". For the past three years, he and his family have been living in Japan. He's written several articles on containment of Japan which have aroused critical comment.

Dr. Donald Thurston is Associate Professor in the Political Science and History Departments at Union, where he's Director of the East Asian Studies Program. He's travelled extensively in Korea, Japan, the Middle East, India, Kenya, China and Taiwan and done research in Japan. He's authored the book TEACHERS AND POLITICS IN JAPAN and numerous articles on Japan and contemporary Asia.

FALL BOOK SALE

Saturday September 23 is THE BOOK SALE. The sale opens on the dot of 9 and runs all day til 5 PM....with the half price sale at 3 and the Dollar-a-Bag starting at 4.

Faithful Friends have been sorting and boxing the books and periodicals given to the sale since last May. Our upstairs stacks are indeed impressive. Everything up there has to be moved down to the McChesney Room and some set up Friday afternoon, September 22, starting at 1 PM, and the rest Saturday morning at 7:30. Helpers are needed for both set-ups.

Salespeople and cashiers are needed to work 2 hour shifts, starting at 9 AM and continuing through the day.

Choose your job and your hours and volunteer your services by calling Switchboard, 382-3500. Please don't wait to be called. As chairman Marjorie Woods says, "It's the best show in town and you can be part of it."

All proceeds of the Book Sale are used by Library staff to supplement the book budgets at the branches. Altho the total annual profits have been fairly steady in recent years - inching towards the \$10,000 mark - new branches have opened and therefore each branch's share of the Book Sale money is less.

Let's try to increase our sales this year. Encourage your friends and family who haven't experienced THE BOOK SALE to come down to Central on Saturday September 23 and enjoy this great event.

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IN MEMORIAM

FRED W. McCHESNEY

ANN MARTIN

When Fred W. McChesney died on June 7, the Schenectady County Public Library lost one of its best Friends. Everyone knows the McChesney Room at the library - where meetings, book reviews, discussions, movies and concerts are held - but not everyone knows why the room was named in his honor.

Mr. McChesney was a charter member of the Mohawk Valley Library Association board of trustees, where he served for 10 years, five years as president. During the same period he served 12 years on the board of the Schenectady County Public Library and led the movement for a new central library building. Organizing a slide presentation, which emphasized the need for a new building, he and his committee carried the library story to every club and every neighborhood meeting which would spare them an hour.

According to the citation read at the dedication of the McChesney Room, it was largely due to Fred McChesney's efforts that the new building became a reality in 1969. In recognition of these efforts, he received the Velma E. Moore award from the New York State Library Association in 1972 as the year's most outstanding trustee in the state.

But Fred McChesney was not just a tireless, dedicated and enthusiastic worker; he was a warm, sincere, lovable human being. And whether those who use our library knew him or not, all our lives are richer because he cared about library service.

- Adele H. Brown

Ann Martin, one of the Friends' most dependable volunteers, died recently. She will be remembered by many who attended our noon programs as the person who, for a number of years, kept meticulous records of attendance and income from the sale of beverages at those meetings. An expert and enthusiastic comparison shopper, Ann offered to purchase our supplies and delighted in finding bargains for the Friends. Our book sales also benefited from her help. At various times she served as a cashier, distributed posters in her neighborhood, and prepared and served coffee to the workers.

The Friends will miss Ann's cheerful and efficient service and her quiet, unassuming ways. We extend our deepest sympathy to her daughter, Mary Ann Martin, of Baltimore, MD.

- Martha Wallender

YOU + YOUR CHILD + YOUR LIBRARY



Have you noticed all the children signing up for cards at Central? Having a library card and using it can make all the difference in a child's success in school. Children's Services would like every school child in Schenectady to have his own library card this year.

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FALL LITERARY LECTURES
START
OCTOBER 30, 1989

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JAIL LIBRARY

Jail Library and the Tromels. . .you don't think of one without the other. And so it's been for the past 17 years. Now Fred and Nell have decided it's time to pass on this volunteer project to others. To acknowledge the dedication and spirit, the kindness, and the knowledge that the Tromels have given the Jail Library these many years might well become maudlin. Worse, it might frighten away prospective volunteers! However, the Friends, the inmates whose lives you've touched in ways you may never know, and the Jail personnel are all truly grateful and appreciative to you both.

At least 2 volunteers are needed if this program is to continue at the County Jail on Veeder Avenue.

What is involved? Every Thursday, from 1 to 3 pm, you are "librarian". You bring bags of books and pass them out. Small groups of inmates are brought to a special room by the guards. Nell stresses there is always a guard in the room and the inmates are on their very best behavior. Books are always signed out... there have been as many as 97 in a week and other weeks perhaps only 30.

In addition to the 2 hours at the jail, it takes another 2 hours or so to collect and stamp the books you take. Because of the poor return rate, books are not signed out from Central. Most books are from MVLA through a grant "Books for Jail", from the Friends Book Sale or are purchased with Friends funding.

What books are most frequently requested? International thrillers are always popular as are books by black authors. The Spanish speaking inmates are asking for material in Spanish and there's a large call for MADs and PEANUTS and such.

If you're interested in learning more about this outreach project, please call Nell or Fred Tromel any afternoon.

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MEMBERSHIP

Friends of SCPL welcome and thank the following new members for their help in the growth of our membership program:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Mary C. Graf | Mary Kerbelis |
| Helen C. McBride | Harry Stevens |
| Nicholas Tishler | Ruth W. Thompson |
| R. Wendover | Mary B. Phelps |
| Rosemary Buechler | Mark K. Kraichy |
| Carol A. Raphael | Hilda E. Haskell |
| Richard Jones | Mrs. Marilyn Lucas |
| Mrs. Mary K. Moore | Kathie Stein |
| Power Technologies Inc. | Bruce & Yoke San |
| The Michaels Family | Reynolds |

They bring our year to date new memberships to 25. Renewed memberships are 629.

Those who have not yet renewed are reminded that our fiscal year begins May 1. We hope you'll renew your membership and perhaps consider upgrading your level. Your dollars support a diversity of public programs for adults and children at Central and all the branches and supplement SCPL funds in various ways.

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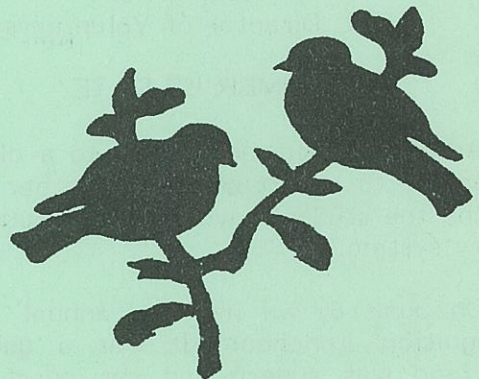
FALL LITERARY LECTURES

Frank Steiner, Ph.D. will present a two-lecture series on "Post-World War II German Literature" on Mondays October 30 and November 6 at noon in the McChesney Room.

Development of German literature after 1945, starting with the "Group 47" authors, will be reviewed. The talks will concentrate on prominent German, Austrian and Swiss writers, such as Heinrich Böll, Günter Grass, Max Frisch, Friedrich Durrenmatt and Peter Handke, whose works have been translated into English.

A frequent BSI reviewer and coordinator and current 2nd vice-president of the Friends, Dr. Steiner earned a Ph.D. in German literature at SUNY.

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AT THE BRANCHES

WOODLAWN

Does just the name - Woodlawn Branch - suggest a library with well kept grass and shrubby bushes and trees and magnolias in the spring? Those must be the visions that keep enthusiasm high and energy levels up as staff and volunteers beautify this library's grounds.

Spearheaded by librarian Wanja Broucker, senior clerk Evelyn Pachucki and Friends' president Junice Wusterbarth, a lovely landscaping project is underway.

As of mid-August a very pretty perennial garden has been planted. . .with plants donated by library users, other neighbors and volunteers and Friends. A red maple tree, given as a memorial, and a magnolia tree, purchased with contributions, have been planted. It's taking shape and it's looking good!

Two big and labor-intensive projects are still ahead. . .the lawn and the bank at the edge of the parking area. The goal is to have these properly planted this season.

If you'd like to contribute to this beautiful cooperative effort in some way, please call Junice Wusterbarth.

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(At the Branches Continued)

GLENVILLE

The construction underway just east of the Glenville Municipal Center on Glenridge Road will be the 9th and largest branch of our Schenectady County Public Library. Building schedules are rather tentative, but it's expected construction will be completed around Thanksgiving time.

As soon as the County Engineering Department has been satisfied that all specs and codes have been met, the building will be turned over to SCPL. Then...the big move! With lots of help and good weather, the Glenville Branch will open early in the new year.

If you'd like to help in the move and set-up, please call Phyllis Bornt or Roberta Berk at Central.

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VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

by Roberta Berk
SCPL Director of Volunteers

SUMMER UP-DATE

As another summer comes to a close, it is a pleasure to report on the volunteer luncheon and the the student involvement throughout the library system.

On June 6, we had our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. It was a gala event. The food was superb and our guest speaker, Steve Fitz, was entertaining and enlightening.

Special Service Awards were given to Emil Kraus, Sharon Finkelstein, and Elsie Clancy.

Mr. Kraus received his award for the great amount of time and quality of work he devotes to assisting Reference Librarian, Jo Ann Adams. She is extremely grateful and appreciative for the fifty hours a month he spends in maintaining the many computer files for the Young Adult collection and other projects.

Sharon Finkelstein has been volunteering at Central for the past 5 years, doing whatever is asked of her. Presently, she is coming in 4 days a week working extensively in the Technical Service Department. Their staff felt the award was a wonderful way to express their gratitude.

Elsie Clancy has been volunteering at the Woodlawn Branch for many years. She donates between sixty and seventy hours each month doing assorted tasks which included two major projects: working on the inventory of the Juvenile collection and bar coding for the automation project. The Woodlawn staff refers to Mrs. Clancy as an absolute gem, and is sincerely grateful for her time and excellent assistance.

During July and August many of our volunteers take their "vacation". Of course they are missed, but we are fortunate because we are able to fill some of these slots with very capable students from our local middle and senior high schools. This summer, as in the past, we had student volunteers at Central and at the Branches. The library staff members with whom they work truly appreciate their help. On the library's behalf I would like to recognize and thank the following students:

- Central Library - Sonam Singh and Amy Solomon assisted the Reference Department.
- Duane Branch - Jennifer, Joan and Mark Doherty, Kinia McGough, Hilary Snare, and Jennifer Whitson
- Mt Pleasant Branch - Karin Albergs
- Niskayuna Branch - Amy Szczepanski
- Scotia Branch - Megan Haessig, Erin and Jessica Simmons.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FALL

Central

- Circulation - people needed for filing and shelf reading.
- Reference Department - people needed with clerical skills.

Scotia and Woodlawn Branches

People needed for bar coding. Some computer or typing experience helpful.

Training and supervision will be given. Please contact Roberta Berk at 382-3521.

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 Kay Dixon
 - 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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NOVEMBER 1989

VOLUME XXV NO. 2

TABLE TALKS

Meetings are on Mondays at noon in the McChesney Room at Central. Bring your lunch -- coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be available.

COORDINATORS:

Harry Stevens and Frank Steiner

Nov. 13: HOSPICE OF SCHENECTADY

Speaker: Donna Slavik, former development coordinator for Hospice

Nov. 20: GEOLOGY OF WASTE DISPOSAL

Speaker: Prof. George Shaw of Union College

Nov. 27: ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Speaker: The Hon. Louise Smith, Judge of Schenectady City Court

Dec. 4: GENESIS OF RADIO TALKS

Speaker: Steve Fitz, prominent local radio personality

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CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

Guest performers provide a wonderful variety of high quality programs for elementary age children, thanks to the Friends' program funding. In summer and early fall the Children's Room featured storyteller Mary Murphy and minstrel Paul Strausman; Scotia Branch provided juggler Michael McCrea; Woodlawn and Niskayuna Branches, Freckles the Clown (aka Sheila Fantiff) who gave a clown magic show with face painting; and Smile*EZ (aka Marion Grimes) brought clowning to the Quaker Street/Duanesburg Branch.

At the Duane Branch, "Halloween Howls," was presented on October 31st by storyteller Mary Murphy; and "From Pulp to Paper" by the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum will take place November 21st. On December 6th at the Niskayuna Branch Dean Davis will tell and show all about "Strictly Snakes."

With program funding provided by the Friends, these talented performers bring their special sparkle to our young patrons. Please, Friends, drop in on any program and enjoy your gift twice!

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BOOK SALE

Once again thousands of books, magazines and records changed hands at the Fall book sale, held September 23rd in the McChesney room and on the patios, with receipts of \$3,868.53. And once again hundreds of willing workers made this possible, reports Marjorie Woods, perennial chairman. Friends' members are the nucleus but no longer do it alone, she says. Many local organizations and government agencies provide essential services. It is truly a community effort, with everyone benefiting. The Branches have more books, purchased with the proceeds; the buyers have boxes full of bargains; the volunteers have great satisfaction; and loads of books are recirculated.

Among those helping, fall and spring, from outside Schenectady County are Robert Asch of Venice, Fla., and Luzerne, N.Y., and Donald and Joyce Keeler of N. Monmouth, Maine. Mr. Asch first heard of the sale and the Friends when he sat across from Ron and Kay Dixon at a Duanesburg church supper years ago. He appeared to help and he has been returning ever since. The Keelers have relatives in Scotia and plan their vacations to include book sale time.

In evaluating donations, Branch librarians and retired librarians, who are also Friends, retrieve many volumes to go directly into the library collections. It is estimated that the value of these approaches \$1,000 per sale.

Sorting and boxing goes on constantly, with a cadre of over 20 volunteers coming in several hours a week. At the time of the sales, many strong arms and backs are required to move everything down to the sales areas, and set them up on tables, a number of which are borrowed from local churches, Y's, and other organizations to supplement the library's supply. And after the sale everything has to be dismantled and returned. The county supplies a truck from the Engineering department, with a crew of men, and the Social Services department sends men to help move books.

Members of the Friends, working in pairs, serve as cashiers and salespeople throughout the day. And the list could go on and on, including refreshments for the workers donated by Dunkin Donuts, Price Chopper and Grand Union.

Don't wait for the spring sale to start to bring things in -- the more donations, the more books we can buy for the Branches -- and we can always use your help in sorting upstairs in the new book room. A couple of hours a week is such a help.

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BRIAN COOPER APPRECIATION DAY

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 15th, there was a party at the Quaker Street/Duanesburg Branch Library to honor Brian Cooper, Eagle Scout, for his efforts in enhancing the grounds. At this gathering of friends and neighbors, he was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation from the SCPL, presented by Ronald Lagasse, Director. Harold Wusterbarth, President of the Board of Trustees, also commended him in accomplishing a much-needed landscaping project.

The Branch, built in 1984 on Route 7 and Bull Road, now is bordered by attractive shrub plantings, with young trees around the yard. As an Eagle Scout project for community services, Brian had to outline the scope of the project, projected costs, schedule, with approvals and commitments. In April he requested a meeting with library administration, at which time he presented his plan with a request for \$2,000. Half of this was provided by the library, with the other half contributed by the Quaker Street Cooperative Club, a long-time library supporter. This paid for the 75 shrubs and trees set over the weekend of August 24th by a corps of volunteers, who were served lunch by the Duanesburg Historical Society.

Brian consulted with professionals and secured a variety of volunteer services for the project, significantly reducing the need for library funding. He submitted landscaping plans, costs of plantings, materials needed and services required. In addition to contributed professional consultation, labor and back hoe, the top soil was also donated. It is figured that these reduced the estimated costs by more than 50 percent.

The Esperance town band played enthusiastically outside the Branch throughout the afternoon. This program was paid for through the Friends of the Library program fund, and SCPL provided the refreshments.

Brian is 17, a senior at Duanesburg High School and son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cooper. He is going on to college but has not decided on what field of study yet. Whatever it is, he should do well and is a credit to his community. We thank you, Brian Cooper.

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A DAY OF HISPANIC CULTURE

On Saturday, October 28th, the Library sponsored "A Day of Hispanic Culture." "Don Generaciones," WRUC's Spanish Language Radio Show, was broadcast from the Library on that day. Also, the Latin American Cultural Association displayed crafts. Finally, there was music, food, and information on Hispanic agencies, businesses, and cultural organizations.

The Hispanic population is increasing rapidly in Schenectady. Schenectady County Public Library is committed to serving the needs of this important segment of our community.

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GLENVILLE BRANCH

The new Glenville Branch Library is on schedule, with furniture and bookshelves ordered, and 6,000 books all cataloged and boxed and ready to go. It is expected that construction work will be completed and the building turned over to us by the first of December.

To prepare for the opening early in January, we will be needing many volunteers to help us put books on shelves, paperback books on racks and supplies away. We hope "Friends will tell friends" so that, in spite of the pre-Christmas timing, everything will get done for the opening.

Anyone who would like to help please call Roberta Berk (382-3521) or Phyllis Bornt (382-3515) and leave your name and telephone number. We need all the help we can get.

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ELDERLY OUTREACH AT SCPL

Kingsway Arms Nursing Home is the latest addition to the Outreach program at SCPL, with the addition of Karen Powell to our ranks as a volunteer there. Others in the book cart program are Betty Novick at Baptist Retirement and Ollie and Ethel Murray, Teresa Case, and Esther Swanker at Glendale Home.

The Library staff and volunteers are preparing for our new Senior Outreach programs which will start soon. Senior Day at the Library will be scheduled once a month for older readers and users, with a day geared to their needs and interests. It will begin with a program in the McChesney Room, and will include story and craft time with the Children's department, a brown bag lunch, individual (and private) instruction on the computer catalog, and speakers on topics of interest to them. Volunteers are needed for hosts and hostesses and catalog coaches.

Plans are also underway to work with the Meals on Wheels program to bring library materials to the homebound. Visits will be made to introduce the program and determine areas of interest, with a borrowing schedule set up. With handrails and easier access to the Bookmobile planned, Seniors can enjoy its visits to meal sites on selected weekdays.

All of these exciting programs (with the exception of the Nursing Home one which is now underway) are scheduled to start on receipt of a grant from the State Education Department. Notification is expected daily.

These programs need help, and volunteers are sought for each of them. Training and professional back-up will be available. If interested, please call Roberta Berk (382-3521).

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FRIENDS' GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

The Friends recently donated funds for various worthy projects at the Library for which monies are not available in the library budget.

For a number of years the Wednesday noon film series has been very popular, but the Mohawk Valley Library Association has difficulty obtaining 16 mm films because the majority of films are now only available in the video cassette format. Since these are only suitable for projection on a small screen, they would not be appropriate for the audience who attend the series. The Friends have donated \$200 to the library for the rental of 16 mm films.

To encourage young readers, the Children's Library visits shopping centers, museums and other public places, but it is awkward to assemble a book presentation at each event. The Friends have given \$435 for the purchase of a portable display rack to help with this work.

A matching gift of \$300 was awarded to Poets and Writers Incorporated, a non-profit organization, who will present four to six programs later in the year by local authors and poets.

For some years the flyers describing future events to be held in the library have been arranged in piles on a table in the McChesney Room. These soon became disarrayed and would not always be observed by visitors. A wall-mounted custom-designed oak rack will be installed to conspicuously display the flyers. The Friends have given \$500 for this project.

The above gifts are in addition to other reading and library association endeavors to which the Friends furnish financial help.

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LITERACY GRANT

The Library has received notification that its application for a \$25,000 Federal grant to continue the literacy program sponsored jointly by the Library and the Literacy Volunteers of America, Schenectady, Inc. has been approved. The grant will provide support staff for the Literacy Volunteers, continuation of the maintenance of the MVA office in the Central Library, radio publicity for the program, and library materials for use by tutors and students.

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AUTOMATION of BRANCHES

Implementation of the Library's program for automating circulation is continuing. The bar coding and inventory of books are well underway at the Scotia and Woodlawn Branches. In early 1990 it is expected that these two Branches will convert from the manual to the automated mode.

Also, in 1990 staff will begin bar coding the collections of library materials in the Duane, Mont Pleasant and Rotterdam Branches. Our goal is to automate every library facility at the earliest possible date.

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LIBRARY LINK

Princesses, princes, witches, ghouls, ghosts, bears and ducks. What do they all have in common? They all travel in a red bag to come alive in stories at camps, day care centers, classes and housing developments. So far this year, just over 4000 children have enjoyed stories during 130 Library Link story programs. The more stories told, the more they want.

This past summer Library Link went to some new locations, including the Girls Club camp and the brand new Clover Patch school which opened in July. Despite one of the worst summers for deerflies and other stinging insects, it was a great summer for spreading stories of royalty, which was the same theme used in the library for the Summer Reading Club.

In-service workshops at area schools designed to acquaint teachers with library facilities have been very successful. Serena Butch and Nancy Gifford take a big bag of books, pamphlets, periodicals and even a working CD ROM catalog to the schools. In just 45 minutes, the teachers are exposed to the various resources of the library, have booklists in hand, been told of the many services available and have had an introductory course in the use of the automated catalog. To date, we have visited seven schools, representing four school districts and one private school, and spoken to nearly 250 teachers. We have seen the results in increased requests for materials from teachers, some of whom didn't even know the library existed.

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NEW MEMBERS

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

John Belton	Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. Bond
Carol B. Kochis	Mary Hutchinson Grassfield
Frances G. Long	Walter & Charlotte Purnell
Sara Michner	M. B. Seely

Andy and Theresa Marchant-Shapiro

We'd like to remind you that memberships expire May 1st, and renewals are due then even for those joining in the middle of the year. Membership is a bargain at \$5 for individuals, \$8 for family, \$10 for contributing, \$15 for organizations, \$25 each for business and supporting, and \$100 (or more) for patrons.

If you have forgotten to renew, or can't remember, check with Pat Whitney (phone 374-2120) so that you will be up to date before notices go out in November. Her address is 1117 Earl Ave., Schenectady 12309 for mailing checks. She suggests you tell a friend about the Friends to swell our ranks and support the many public programs for adults and children at Central and all the Branches, and supplement SCPL funds in various ways.

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YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

The summer programs for teens, funded by the Friends, began in the spring with a series of preliminary visits to several art classes in the Schenectady area at the high school and junior high school levels. Teachers showed enthusiastic support for the idea of a book jacket design project which included three programs that introduced participants to award-winning book illustration, to techniques of artistic training, and to the history of calligraphy in design. The educators encouraged students who might be interested in an art career to take advantage of the opportunity to meet artists Gladys Ostrom and Melanie Laudauto.

Publicity for the series was aided by an article in the television supplement of the Schenectady Gazette that described the wide range of summer activities for young people at the Schenectady County libraries. People of all ages responded to these free programs, and the evening discussions and slide presentations and workshops attracted an audience of approximately 75 people. It is felt that the programs had a "ripple effect" and that they actually reached more people because some parents who attended took books home and encouraged their own youngsters to try their hands at reading a book and designing a cover. Also, a few of the audience were counselors who were looking for ideas to use in their own work with emotionally troubled teens.

Books were chosen from the young adult fiction collection, and an annotated bibliography.

was prepared by library Friend Grace Thielpape to suggest title of interest to teens. The original book jacket designs were displayed at the Central library for the month of September. Each artist received a certificate of merit for participating.

The summer series continued in August with science fiction and fantasy films. Labyrinth was possibly the first wide-screen film to be shown at the library. The screen was improvised from a 100 foot roll of picnic table covering with the help of staff and library Friend Emil Kraus. Young Adult Services librarian Jo Adams would like to thank the Friends for their continued support of programs designed to attract teens to the library and its services.

The college entrance essay writing program was held again on November 2nd. This popular program is repeated each year, close to the time college applications are being submitted. With the help, advice, and encouragement of speaker Jeanne Jenkins, Assistant Director of Admissions at RPI, students prepare their essays with a bit more confidence. One student who attended last year's program at the Central library had her application essay chosen as a good example of a well-written essay, and the college to which she applied sent copies of it to all the students who wrote for an application to that school. An updated bibliography of books and articles on writing the college application essay is available at the Central library.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Bar coding goes on and on at the Woodlawn and Scotia Branches, as part of their automation projects. If you have some typing or computer experience it is helpful and they can use you. Woodlawn also has other clerical jobs to be done by volunteers.

At Central help is needed in weeding out its pamphlet files.

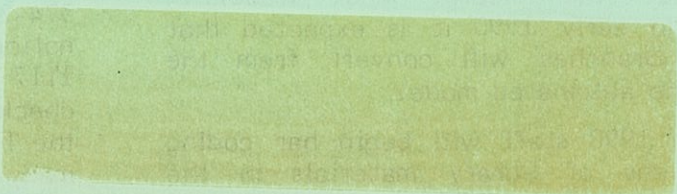
And we need two more people to help distribute books in the jail Thursday afternoons.

If you have time and interest in any of these projects, please phone Roberta Berk at 382-3521.

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.....	Katherine Dixon
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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JANUARY 1990

VOLUME XXV NO. 3

BOOKS - SANDWICHED - IN
WINTER 1990 SERIES

Frank Steiner, Coordinator

Mondays at noon in the McChesney Room at Central Library. Bring your lunch.
Hot beverages will be available.

Library closed January 15, February 12 and 19.

- Jan. 8: **MISS MANNERS GUIDE FOR THE TURN-OF-THE-MILLENIUM** by Judith Martin
An etiquette guide for the 21st Century
Reviewed by **Katie Rich** - Founder of Books-Sandwiched-In.
- Jan. 22: **FROM BEIRUT TO JERUSALEM** by Thomas Friedman
Mr. Friedman is a **NEW YORK TIMES** correspondent in these cities and writes an
outstanding account of the political situation there.
Reviewed by **Terry Weiner**, Professor of History at Union College.
- Jan. 29: **RUSSIA HOUSE**, by John LeCarre
His most recent spy novel, filming of which began in Moscow in November.
Reviewed by **Joseph Board**, Professor of Political Science at Union College.
- Feb. 5: **THE REMAINS OF THE DAY**, by Kazuo Ishiguro, a Japanese born author living in
England
Reviewed by **Hugh Maclean**, retired Professor of English at SUNYA.
- Feb. 26: **WHERE THE BUCK STOPS**, by Harry S. Truman
The diaries of HST, edited by his daughter Margaret.
Reviewed by **Manfred Jonas**, Professor of Political Science at Union College and
frequent reviewer.
- Mar. 5: **AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN**, by Tracy Kidder
Considered one of the best books on education, based on year-long observations
of a lady teacher of 4th and 5th graders in Holyoke, Mass.
Reviewed by **Sally Van Schaik**, retired Schenectady teacher and active in
community affairs.

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On December 11th, Monday noon regulars had the pleasure of hearing Carl Niemeyer read
from his own unpublished poetry, which reflect impressions of some of his foreign travels.
Listeners were also treated to holiday refreshments.

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FEDERAL GRANTS

The Library has received two Federal Grants. One is for the provision of Outreach Services to
the Elderly. A key component will be delivery of books through the Meals on Wheels Program.

The second grant is for the provision of Outreach Services to the growing Hispanic population in
Schenectady. Our focus will be the provision of in-depth orientation tours for the Hispanic
population, highlighting special services of the Central Library, such as education, job, and health
information.

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JAIL VISITING

After 18 years of visiting the Schenectady
County Jail every Thursday afternoon, with
arms and carts full of books, Nell and Fred
Tromel have reluctantly retired. They will miss
their visits and the inmates will miss them. But
other Friends are continuing the program under
the leadership of Jean Sampson.

In a farewell letter to Barney Waldron,
sheriff, the Tromels wrote: "Since our book
service to the jail was resumed April 11th, we
gave out 1,570 books in the 30 sessions to
date. (These consisted of paperbacks, old and
new, selections from the book sale and from
MVLA.) After so many years we take our

leave from you and from your staff who have
always cheerfully cooperated with our efforts."

Fred reports that the most popular books
are black fiction and horror stories -- many
never returned. Favorite authors are Iceberg
Slim, Donald Goines, Charles Avery Harris,
Sidney Shelburne, Jackie Collins and Harold
Robbins. (If you are discarding any of these,
leave them for the jail.)

Those now visiting include Al Briggs,
Maryde King, Agnas and Roland Peteler and
Florence Tobiessen. Another visitor could be
used. Call Jean at 393-3093 if you want to
help to fill in the time for those serving time.

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VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Marilyn Soffer

This month's honored person is very special. Marilyn Soffer is a soft-spoken, modest, sincere and very responsible woman. She is also a cherished volunteer of the Woodlawn Branch. Mrs. Soffer started volunteering in April 1983 after retiring from a family business, David's on Upper Union Street.

Marilyn loves to read and was a regular patron of the Duane Branch, where she was recruited to volunteer there by Wonja Brucker, librarian, after retirement. In 1985 Mrs. Brucker moved to the Woodlawn Branch, and so did Mrs. Soffer part-time, continuing at Duane for a while.

She brought her business acumen and fastidiousness to her volunteer job, being solely responsible for processing all cards in the card catalog. When Woodlawn started the automation process, Marilyn was a little intimidated by the computers, but with Wonja's encouragement she has become so adept that she now updates the files on the computer.

There are mutual feelings of admiration and respect between the staff and Marilyn. Mrs. Brucker says "Marilyn is an excellent, accurate and very professional worker. She is all business. She even makes up the time when she is unable to come in on her scheduled days." In the past three years Marilyn has also assisted when the library either moved or opened the Duane, Niskayuna, Hamilton Hill and Woodlawn Branches.

In addition to her devotion to the library, Mrs. Soffer finds time to volunteer regularly for the Red Cross Bloodmobile and visits an aunt and uncle in a nursing home. She and her husband Harry have three children -- a daughter who is a psychologist and two sons who are in education -- and five grandchildren.

It is obvious that Marilyn Soffer is indeed a very special person and we are truly fortunate to have her as a volunteer. The library system, and especially the Woodlawn Branch is most grateful and appreciative for her commitment and dependability. The Soffers take a three-month winter hiatus to Florida. We wish them well and look forward to Marilyn's return in May.

Roberta D. Berk,
Coordinator of Volunteers

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LIBRARY BUDGET FOR 1990

The 1990 Library Budget is now in place. Included are additional funds for books and other library materials, staff for the new Glenville Branch Library, and continuation of the very successful Nursing Home Outreach Program.

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GLENVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY

Construction of the Glenville Branch Library continues to be on schedule. The windows and walkway have been installed, and interior work is now in progress. We're still planning on a January opening.

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COLONIAL FESTIVAL WEEK

Central Library will have the look of old Schenectady during Colonial Festival Week, which begins February 4th. Craft demonstrations of calligraphy, shoemaking, toymaking, stencilling, rug braiding and crewel work will be given in the library.

Special programs on Sundays at 2 p.m. in the McChesney Room are:

Feb. 4: Susan Staffa, local anthropologist, will speak on "Rethinking Preservation -- overview of the Colonial Schenectady Project."

Feb. 11: Paul Veillette, genealogist, will present "Causes and Effects of the Schenectady Massacre."

Two films will be shown at noon Wednesday, February 7th - The Look of America 1750-1860 and Had You Lived Then - America Around 1800.

Popular storyteller Grace Thielpape will entertain with "Stories of Old Schenectady" at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 3rd.

Come and learn more about our heritage.

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KEEP WATCHING AND HELPING

Jane Somers, Legislative Chairman, alerts us to the fact that this is a tough state budget year, but no "hard" news yet.

So be prepared to write letters, phone legislators and visit Albany after the first of the year.

You will be hearing from her, asking for help.

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NYS CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES

There will be regional meetings for a New York State Conference on Libraries sometime in 1990.

Delegates from these meetings will go to the Washington Conference on Libraries. YOU could be one of them! Keep in close touch and watch the papers so you don't miss the regional meeting nearest Schenectady.

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LVA AWARD

Michele Briggs, an LVA Schenectady basic reading student for two years, was given the Ruth J. Colvin Award as the 1989 Basic Reading Student at the National LVA Conference in Virginia Beach in early November. She was selected from students nominated by the LVA affiliates across the country.

The plaque she received states that she is an inspiration to all in Literacy Volunteers. Her success in the LVA program has made her want to help others reach out for help and she started a student support group. In 1989 she was able for the first time to read to her daughter and became hooked on computers.

We join in congratulating Michele.

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LIBRARY ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR DAY

April 22, 1990 is the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, a landmark day in promoting awareness of the dangers to our environment and programs that might reverse the damage being done.

April 22, 1990 is also the beginning of National Library Week, and the environment has been chosen as the theme for the programs, activities and displays to take place that week

To lead into this week, the library will be sponsoring an Environmental Fair on Saturday April 21 at Central. Our goal is to promote awareness of environmental information resources and services in our community available at the library and from other community groups and organizations. These groups will be invited to participate with booth displays, programming or exhibits.

The highlight of the day is expected to be a ceremony in which members of the community who have made a difference in the environment are recognized. Nominations for these awards are being sought from the groups and organizations which are likely to participate in the fair, as well as from the public at large.

The fair is being coordinated by Margery Beeler and Roxanne Murray with the assistance of the department heads and the members of the National Library Week Committee, co-chaired by Serena Butch of the Children's Room and Bertha Kriegler of the Reference Department, and including Naomi Bristol (Branches), Louise Phillips (Circulation), Joy Vrooman (Art & Multilith), Ruth Ann Evans (Friends), and Marion Grimes (Trustees).

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MEMORIAL BOOKS

Recently acquired books at Central Library which have been bought with gifts to the Friends include:

A CAT IS WATCHING by Roger Caras - in memory of Anne Martin

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez - in honor of Nell and Fred Tromel's work at the jail

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LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES HONORED

On Thursday, November 30th, County employees with a minimum of 25 years of service with the County were honored at a special luncheon at the Community College hosted by the County Manager and the County Legislators.

Library employees who were honored included Wanda Pawlowicz, Phyllis Bornt, Rose Korkin, George Parish, Dorothy Mancini, Beatrice Bigsbee, and Marilyn Huston.

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ANIMAL ANTICS

Children are looking forward to a service of "Animal Antics" programs in the Children's Room at Central on Saturdays at 2 p.m. throughout the winter. Scheduled are the following Story/Craft afternoons:

- Jan. 13: "Jungle Walk"
- Jan. 20: "Creepy Crawlies"
- Jan. 27: "Pick-a-Pet"
- Feb. 3: Guest storyteller Grace Thielpape for a Colonial Festival special
- Feb. 10: "Something Fishy"
- Feb. 21: (Wed.) - Walt Disney's RASCAL will be shown at 2 and 7 p.m. in the McChesney Room
- Mar. 3: "Wings and Things"
- Mar. 10: "Famous Storybook Animals" and
- Mar. 17: "Animals You'll Meet"

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WISH UPON A BOOK

The Children's Room celebrated Children's Book Week, November 13-18, with a "Wish Upon a Book" giveaway promotion. Several children's book publishers were asked to donate specific books, considered classics or among the best books for a child's personal library, and beautiful versions of old favorites were received.

Prior to this special week, a wishing well, developed by staff artist Joy Vrooman, was set up along with all the donated books. Children were invited to "wish" for their favorite book, dropping them into the well. Of 168 wishes, 30 were granted on Saturday.

We also commemorated National Young Reader's Day on November 15 by giving away special plastic book bags containing a bookmark and monogramed pencil.

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OUR MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

Pat Whitney, Membership, is delighted to report that as of November 30, 1989, there are 1,032 members of the Friends of the Library. Sixty-one of these are new memberships, with 971 renewing. This is an increase of 73 over December 1988 figures. We must be spreading the word and sending in checks. The more Friends, the more we can do for our library.

New members who have joined us since our last Newsletter are:

- Sandra L. Crowther
- Mr/Mrs V. Robert Kiffney
- Marcia Drake
- Joseph Kondratowicz
- Kris Fury
- M. Locke
- Ed Hackett
- Mrs. Mary Schaffer
- Sylvia E. Hosegood
- Dr/Mrs Clifford M. Tepper
- Claire T. Ilnicki
- Berkeley Wohlbaugh

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VOLUNTEER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Central - Technical Services need people for mending books.

Scotia - We need volunteers for the automation project and to help in the Children's room filing and bar coding.

Duane - A person is needed to assist with an after-school reading program twice a month from 3:30 to 4:00. Help is also needed for the automation project.

Woodlawn - There is lots of bar coding still to do and books to be mended.

Supervision and training will be provided. If interested please call Roberta Berk at 382-3521.

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WOODLAWN CHRISTMAS PARTY

Volunteers at Woodlawn, Duane and Niskayuna Branches gathered together December 15th for a holiday supper at Woodlawn as guests of the staffs, who cooked the festive dishes. This is the first year the three branches were honored at this annual event, which Wanjia Brucker started at Duane several years ago. Then Woodlawn was invited, and now the guest list is more than 20 busy volunteers. It was a happy sharing of appreciation.

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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 Katherine Dixon
 - 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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DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MARCH - APRIL - MAY ARE FULL OF MC CHESNEY ROOM MEETINGS
COME LISTEN AND LEARN AND ENJOY

Five series of talks and book reviews are scheduled this spring, beginning March 12th with the SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS, coordinated by Herbert Strong and Walter Grattidge. Following this on Wednesday mornings Dr. Jeffrey Berman, professor of English, SUNYA, will give three lectures on LITERATURE AND PSYCHOANALYSIS, based on the therapeutic value of diary writing in a classroom setting. Four noon meetings of TABLE TALKS, coordinated by Malinda Myers, begins April 9th and ends April 30th. BOOKS SANDWICHED IN follows these on Monday noons from May 7 through June 18th. These are coordinated by Mildred Maras and Katie Rich.

A special grant has enabled the Library to offer a series of five lectures and public discussion on WOMEN, MEN AND THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE, which is part of the "Humanities Series in Upstate New York." These will begin April 3rd and continue every other Tuesday noon through May 29th. Paperback copies of the readings will be available for loan at the switchboard at the Central Library as of March 15th.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(Mondays at noon)

- March 12 - GAS TURBINE ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS - A HISTORY
R. L. Hendricksen, GE (Ret.)
- March 19 - FROM STEINMETZ TO LANGMUIR
George Wise, GE Corporate R & D
- March 26 - FRACTALS AND CHAOS
Prof. Ivar Giaever, RPI
- April 2 - THE DISCOVERY OF THE SEMICONDUCTOR LASER
Robert N. Hall, GE CRD (Ret.)

LITERATURE AND PSYCHOLANALYSIS

(Wednesday mornings at 10:30)

Presented by Dr. Jeffrey Berman,
Professor of English, SUNYA

- April 4
April 11
April 18

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

(Mondays at noon)

- May 7 - CONTROL OF NATURE by John McPhee
Rev. by Dr. Duncan Blanchard,
recently retired Senior Scientist
at Atmospheric Science Research
Center, SUNYA
- May 14 - FOUCAULT'S PENDULUM by Umberto Eco
Rev. by Dr. John Morris, Presi-
dent of Union College
- May 21 - HEAD FIRST by Norman Cousins
Rev. by Dr. Katherine Wardell,
well-known local psychologist
- June 4 - AT RISK by Alice Hoffman
Rev. by Dr. Martha Huggins, Roger
Thayer Stone Professor of Sociol-
ogy and Anthropology and Dept.
Chair, Union College
- June 11 - ROAD FROM COORAIN by Jill K.
Conway, President of Smith
College
Rev. by Ruth Anne Evans, retired
Associate Librarian at Union Col-
lege
- June 18 - THE TEMPTING OF AMERICA by Robert
H. Bork
Rev. by Judge Howard Levine, Jus-
tice, Appellate Court of N.Y.S.

TABLE TALKS

(Mondays at noon)

- April 9 - ENGLISH LIFE IN A VILLAGE NEAR OXFORD
Patricia Mundy, Community Volunteer and nurse-teacher
- April 16- OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN HUMOR
Richard Holt, Niskayuna English teacher and teacher at SCCC
- April 23- GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE--HOW REAL?
Dr. James J. Schwab, Prof. Atmospheric Science Research Center, SUNYA
- April 30- PUBLIC HEALTH IN SCHENECTADY COUNTY: An Essential Component of our Infrastructure
Ann Smith, Chairman of Health Committee of Human Services Planning Council

WOMEN, MEN AND THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

(Every other Tuesday at noon)

- APRIL 3 - WALDEN, by Henry David Thoreau
Prof. Peter Heinegg, Union College
- April 17 - MOBY DICK, by Herman Melville
(reviewer to be announced)
- May 1 - THE AWAKENING, by Kate Chopin
Prof. Charlotte Goodman, Skidmore College
- May 15 - CEREMONY, by Leslie Silko
Prof. Diane Freedman, Skidmore College
- May 29 - LOVE MEDICINE, by Louise Erdrich
(reviewer to be announced)

FRIENDS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**APRIL 24**

Awareness of our local environment will be the theme of the Friends' annual dinner meeting Tuesday, April 24th. Mrs. John Brown, Jr., will present a "show and tell" program, "Prospects for Our Riverfront," illustrated with slides.

Eleanor has been involved with the Mohawk River since she helped set up the Organization for Action for the Riverfront (OAR) 15 years ago, and is co-chairman of this group. She is also Conservation chairman for the Adirondack Mountain Club and past-president of the Friends.

The buffet dinner will be served in the McChesney Room at 6:15. The menu features boneless breast of chicken with herb dressing and steamed rice. (It is noted that no plastic or styrofoam materials will be used.)

On the tables will be potted seedling trees furnished by the Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District, to be taken home and planted.

Election of officers will be held at this meeting, with the slate posted on the Friends' bulletin board in the library by April 17th, with flyers also available in the McChesney room.

Committee members are Jane Somers, Ruth Anne Evans, Pat and Roger Whitney, Phyllis Bornt and Jean Rettie.

Reservations with check for \$9.75 (made out to Friends, SCPL) should be sent to Pat & Roger Whitney, 117 Earl Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309 by April 20th.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

"Celebrate Our Earth" is the theme of National Library Week this year, April 22-28.

Scheduled for the week, in the McChesney Room, are:

Monday's Table Talk - "Global Climate Change--How Real?", at noon

Tuesday - Friends Annual Dinner Meeting

Wednesday - "John James Audubon--The Man, His Art and the Movement He Inspired" - John Santacrose, at noon

Thursday - "It Happened in Schenectady" creative writing contest finale, at 7 p.m. with winners honored and Larry Hart, Schenectady Historian, speaking

Saturday - Book Sale - 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

At the Branches there will be a week of Friends' sponsored programs.

Tuesday - Guest Storyteller Mary Murphy at Hamilton Hill, at 3:30

Wednesday - Mary Murphy at Mont Pleasant, at 3:30

Wednesday - Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum - "From Pulp to Paper" at Niskayuna, at 3:30

Thursday - "From Pulp to Paper" at Woodlawn, at 3:30

Saturday - Wildlife Specialist Dean Davis will introduce all comers to live "Reptiles and Amphibians" at Quaker Street, at 1:30

NEWS NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

INCREASE IN CIRCULATION

Statistical data for the year 1989 point to another very successful year. Circulation systemwide increased by 5.5% from 813,000 to over 857,700 items. The Board of Trustees is very pleased with this large increase. Studies have shown that there is a close correlation between circulation and the number of books that a library acquires each year. In recent years, the steady increase in County funds for books and other library materials has enabled the Library to purchase more titles at the Central Library and the Branches. Another interesting statistic is the fact that more than 100 volunteers contributed 14,000 hours of service to SCPL in 1989.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

Recently, NICS, a student organization in the Niskayuna High School, presented the Library with \$700 for the purchase of books and other library materials for the Hamilton Hill Branch Library. Library staff used the gift to purchase books in the fields of language, occupational interests, sports, as well as topics of interest to children.

The Library has also received a gift of \$1,000 from Alic McChesney for the purchase of books in memory of her husband, Fred McChesney. This gift will be used to purchase reference books at the new Glenville Branch Library. Mr. McChesney served on the Board of Trustees of the Library and through his tireless dedication and hard work led the successful effort culminating in the construction of our beautiful Central Library in 1969.

LITERACY AWARD

On February 8th, at a meeting of the Capital District Coalition of Literacy Volunteers of America, Schenectady County Public Library received a "Star for Literacy" award for its active support of literacy efforts in Schenectady County. The other recipient was the Zion Lutheran Church which has also been very supportive of this effort.

AUTOMATION CONTINUES AT BRANCHES

Implementation has begun on the 1990 phase of the Library's comprehensive automation program. This year our major objectives are to begin automated circulation at the Woodlawn and Scotia Branches and to inventory and barcode the collections at the Mont Pleasant, Duane, and Rotterdam Branches--a prerequisite for automated circulation.

Among the many upgrades resulting from automated circulation is the ability to renew books by telephone. This new service begun last year is proving to be very popular among library patrons. Anyone who wants to renew a book by phone can do so by calling 382-3538.

SUCCESSFUL COLONIAL FESTIVAL

As in previous years, the Central Library and Branches have participated in the city-wide Colonial Festival, which this year was held February 3rd to 11th.

Thirty library programs were offered, including story hours, demonstration of Colonial crafts, lectures and even dancing. The celebration was special this year because it commemorates the 300th anniversary of the rebuilding of Schenectady following the massacre in 1690.

RACE RELATIONS IN SCHENECTADY

As part of the Ethnic Heritage Series, Schenectady County Public Library, in conjunction with Schenectady County Community College, presented an afternoon program on "Race Relations in Schenectady--Today and Tomorrow" on February 25th at the Library. This dialogue was in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream and was moderated by Malinda Myers.

S E N I O R O U T R E A C H N E W S

The Library has recently received a federally funded LSCA grant (Library Services and Construction Act) to improve service to the elderly in Schenectady County. This has enabled us to start two new programs especially for our senior citizens.

BOOKS ON WHEELS FOR SHUT-INS

In February the first "Books on Wheels" were delivered to homebound elderly who are receiving "Meals on Wheels." A survey was first conducted to determine who was interested and their reading preferences. These books are delivered in Friends of the Library book bags by the "Meals on Wheels" drivers.

SENIOR DAYS STARTED AT LIBRARY

Twenty hardy souls showed up for the first Senior Day at the Central Library on February 15th. Mike Malacek of Social Security spoke, and answered questions on changes in Social Security and Medicare. A tour of the Library was offered, but most were interested in the private instruction on the computer catalog. This computer help will be given again on March 16th.

This will be a special Grandparents Day. All grandparents are urged to bring their three, four and five-year-olds, who will be entertained in the Children's room by story tellers. If you don't have a grandchild of your own, borrow one, and call 382-3513 to let them know how many to expect. The program will start at 10:30 and end by noon.

BOOKS IN LARGE TYPE

Part of this grant was an appropriation to purchase new titles in large type. Those of you who like this format will appreciate the new books which are now being added to the library collection and used for the Nursing Home and "Books on Wheels" programs.

WE NEED YOU AT BAPTIST R.C.

A volunteer is sorely needed to bring books to the Baptist Retirement Center. Betty Novick has been doing just that for the past year, but family obligations have caused her to "retire." The reading residents eagerly looked forward to her visits every other Monday afternoon from 1 to 3.

We have kept the program going temporarily, but the entire project is in jeopardy unless we can find a replacement on a regular basis. Two days a month and about four hours each time is required to select the books at Central and deliver them.

Betty and the volunteers who go to two other nursing homes are rewarded by the gratitude of the patients. In the past year there were 102 visits made by six volunteers, and 2,966 books were circulated at the Baptist Retirement Center, Glendale Nursing Home and Kingsway Arms. We hope to extend this service to other nursing homes but we need help. Please, if you can help us out, contact Roberta Berk at 382-3521 or Phyllis Bornt at 382-3515.

EARTH DAY - APRIL 21ST

Kicking off National Library Week, an Environmental Information Day will be held Saturday, April 21st, National "Earth Day," at the Central Library.

For this Fair, a number of community groups and organizations will set up exhibits on issues, concerns and activities relative to saving our environment.

Folksinger Chris Shaw will perform at 2 p.m. Then "Making a Difference" awards will be presented to members of the community by Steve Fitz at 3, followed by a reception in the McChesney room.

GLENVILLE BRANCH OPENS

Glenville, the 9th and newest branch in our library system, opened its doors on February 27th. Once again, volunteers, including Trustees and Friends Board members, assisted three staff members in accomplishing the enormous task of opening hundreds of boxes and shelving over 8,000 books. Although three days were scheduled the entire procedure was completed in just two, thanks to the wonderful and enthusiastic 28 volunteers, many of whom are veterans of previous moves.

On the first day, Feb. 16, they started at 9 a.m. and by 5 that afternoon all the books were unpacked and on the shelves. The second day's crew placed the books in alphabetical and numerical order. These people were a true tour de force committed to the library and its goal of serving the public. Lat Schmidt, the County engineer, who visited, was amazed at how hard the volunteers worked. He couldn't believe the speed with which they were making order out of chaos. Mr. Ryan, the new Town supervisor, visited and also was impressed with the many people who turned out to help.

Words cannot adequately express the gratitude and appreciation felt by everyone involved. On behalf of Phyllis Bornt, Department Head of the Branches, Dorothy Schell, Head librarian of the Scotia and Glenville Branches, Sylvia Raushi, senior clerk in charge of Glenville, and myself, a heartfelt thank-you goes out to:

George Angus, Flo Bigelow, Whitney Denio, Dorothy and Bernard Gerberg, Marion Grimes, Jane Kahn, Kay and Robert Lorent, Nelia Mace, Ethel and Oliver Murray, Eleanor Niles, Tony Orsino, Arma Rollier, John Scasny, Ann and Herbert Speanburg, Helen and Frank Steiner, Kathryn Van Flue, Alice Van Heusen, Jack Ward, Pat and Roger Whitney, Marjorie Woods, and Junice and Harold Wusterbarth.

- Roberta Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers

HAIL TO THE TROMELS

Our good Friend Fred Tromel at 85 has had to slow down some after years of dedicated volunteering for the library. He is at home recuperating from a hospital stay, and he and Nell regret to say they will have to curtail their work on the book sale this spring.

They have sorted, shelved, boxed and carried books all year long every year since 1974. Marty Woods doesn't know how she will get along without them.

Fred also started with the jail Thresholds program in 1973, out of which grew the library book visits, which he and Nell relinquished last fall. What a labor of love of books and for mankind!

SPRING BOOK SALE-APRIL 28

Hundreds of boxes of books of all kinds are now ready for the Spring Book Sale, with more coming in all the time. Don't delay, get them in now, to allow plenty of time for sorting. Remember, well-sorted books make it easy for buyers to find what they are looking for.

We have run out of space for magazines so please don't bring in any more for the next two months. After the April sale we will start collecting again, but we find we must be much more selective with none more than two years old. And we must limit titles to sports, hobbies, crafts, women's, travel, Smithsonian, National Geographic, household repair and mechanics.

At the end of the sale we have always had a lot to dispose of. This time we are having a give-away at 4:30. Come back and take all you want for free. There will be lots of fiction. Help us clear it out. Everything must go.

The sale begins at 9 a.m. From then until 3 books are at full price; at 3 p.m. they will be half price and at 4 is the usual bag sale.

- Marjorie Woods

WE NEED MORE STATE AID

WRITE-CALL-LOBBY

What's being done to help increase State Aid for libraries, which has not been raised since 1986, and how can we help?

You can do this by sending a letter, postcard, telegram or making a phone call to your State Legislators, who are Sen. Hugh Farley and Rep. James Tedisco and Rep. Paul Tonko from our districts. Addresses and needs are listed on a bookmark available at the Central Library and Branches.

During the week of February 12th volunteers encouraged library users to do this as part of a State-wide postcard and letter writing campaign. There was a good response.

On March 6th a delegation of Trustees, Friends of the Library and Library administrators visited their representatives in the Assembly and Senate in Albany and encouraged them to support increased aid for libraries.

OUR NUMBERS ARE INCREASING

NOTES FROM THE YOUNG ADULT CORNER

We now have 1,088 members as of Feb. 19. This is an increase of 102 since a year ago, or more than 10%!

New members since our last issue include:

- Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Becker and family
- Dr. and Mrs. Peter L. Scudera
- Nancy Boericke
- Barbara A. Eveland
- Yvonne Gardiner
- Bernard Healy
- Michael Kondratowicz
- Camille Laparra
- Nancy Lee
- Ellen L. Porter
- Mrs. Mary Schaffer

We are also sending complimentary copies of the Newsletter to County and State Legislators.

Pat Whitney, who efficiently keeps the records, requests that any changes of address be sent to her at 1117 Earl Ave., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309.

Editor's Note:

Betty Mathes, who faithfully and expertly types our Newsletter on her magic computer, is recovering from surgery. We wish her a speedy return to good health and will be glad to have her back on the job for the next issue.

Most librarians meet the teenage library patron when he asks for help with assignments at the Reference desk. In an attempt to provide the best reference service to teens while also maintaining the network of those who work with teens, the SCPL Young Adult librarian has been working on some cooperative activities. Jo Adams is to be one of the speakers at a conference in May on bibliographic instruction and library skills. This will be held at the Community College, and librarians from school, public and college libraries are invited to attend.

As part of the preparation, the map of the library which accompanies the adult department audio-cassette tour has been updated. Jo created the cassette tour in 1986 for National Library Week, with the help of Phyllis Ochs, Education and Job Information Center, and Susan Ledder, SCPL audio-visual section at that time. An updated version of the cassette tour, including the Health Information Section and computer catalogs will be ready by National Library Week. Jo is also taking slide photos to accompany the audio-cassette tour.

The teen library tour season is in full swing now. Area high school and junior high school teachers are bringing classes in each week to learn how to use the computer catalog, other indexes, and the process of finding information. Current topics for high school papers include teen-age pregnancy, date rape, child abuse, drugs and sports, homeless children, anorexia and pollution. This list of problems faced by today's teens illustrates the importance of introducing library skills in every imaginable way, skills which are really research skills that will help our young people cope in their world.

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JUNE 1990

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GALA OPENING AT GLENVILLE

It was a pleasant, sunny Sunday afternoon when more than 200 library friends, including County representatives, trustees, Friends, library volunteers and citizens turned out for the gala grand opening of the new Glenville Branch on April 29th. This is the ninth and largest branch of SCPL.

Uniformed Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, VFW members and even clowns added color, ceremony and enthusiasm to the event. The Girl Scouts from the BHBL Association of Mohawk Pathways G.S. Council assisted in the ribbon cutting ceremony and were gracious hostesses at the refreshment table. They also donated handbooks and badge books for all the various levels of scouting to the library. The Cub Scouts of Pashley School, Pack 20, conducted the flag ceremony and planted a hemlock tree to enhance the grounds. The VFW Post 4660, Mayfair-Glenville Chapter, presented a parade flag. Harold Wusterbarth, President of the Library's Board of Trustees, presided over the occasion.

Other gifts were the book, The Big Rock, by Bruce Hiscock, a local author, given by the S-G Children's Museum, represented by Joan Gould. Another tree has been donated by Rose Friello of the Glenville Concerned Citizens Committee in memory of George Burch, a former Glenville town councilman. Appropriately, it is a Heritage Birch Tree with a symbolic planting.

The Glenville Library Committee, co-chaired by Marge McGuire and Karen Bradley, sent out numerous invitations and planned the refreshments and made the cookies. The Friends of the Library donated \$100 to cover costs of the hospitality. The 5,000 square-foot facility was full of admiring and socializing friends, with some books even being taken out and others read. It was opened on February 27th and since then has received an unprecedented amount of use. The Branch is open Tuesday through Thursday, 2-5 and 6-9 p.m. and on Saturday 1-5 p.m. Story hours are Wednesdays at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Start marking your calendar now for the Books-Sandwiched-In programs to begin the first Monday after Labor Day, September 10th. At least six interesting reviews will be given on successive Mondays at noon in the McChesney Room. Selections are now being made which will be announced in the September newsletter. Heading the committee is Harry Stevens.



Those who have been unable to attend Monday noon meetings may now borrow video tapes of them from the Library, thanks to John Harnden and Explorer Troop No. 7. He has also taped the annual dinner meeting, at which Eleanor Brown spoke on the Mohawk Riverfront, and the literary series.

USE THE "CADILAC"

More than 1.5 million books, records, manuscripts, and other items became available to library users in the greater Capital District on April 24th, when computers were installed in libraries throughout the area which can display the wealth of knowledge held by libraries like RPI, Union College, SUNY at Albany, SCPL, Albany Public and other large and small libraries in the area, including those in MVLA and SALS, covering eight counties.

The Capital District Library Access Catalog (CaDiLaC) has been produced by the Capital District Library Council, a group of 450 libraries, including academic, public, school, medical, governmental, corporate, and other special libraries. The current discs contain 1.5 million titles which works out to be 2.4 million items. Library users will now be able to search the CaDiLaC computer and then ask their local library to request the item they want.

FRED TROMEL REMEMBERED

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

Fred Tromel's spirit will live on in our library to which he gave so much of his time and talents. He was a modest man and wanted no great recognition. However, following his death on May 10th, it seemed fitting for those attending the next Monday Books-Sandwiched-In to pay tribute to him through the following appreciation presented by Adele Brown, long-term librarian, volunteer and friend.

"All of us in the Friends of the Library were saddened by the death of Fred Tromel last Thursday and we extend to Nell Tromel our sympathy.

Fred Tromel was a man of many parts: scientist, scholar, humanitarian, friend. Most of us here knew him as an active supporter and board member of the Friends of the Library, occasional reviewer for Books-Sandwiched-In, and especially for more than 10 years as a volunteer with his wife, Nell Tromel, for the Schenectady County Jail Library, and for this library as a worker on the Book Sale. Both of these are 52-week-a-year jobs.

Fred was chiefly responsible for the sorting of all non-fiction books for the sale. Just a few months ago I said to Marjorie Woods that without the Tromels the work on the semi-annual Book Sale would grind to a halt. Of course, that is not really true----there are many other devoted volunteers, but none, with the exception of Marjorie herself, has been so faithful or has taken so much responsibility for seeing that the Book Sale was the great success it has been. But in the end I feel those of us who knew Fred Tromel remember him above all as a friend...It was a privilege to

The Governor's Conference on Libraries is scheduled for November 28-29 in Albany, reports Jane Somers, Legislative Chairman of the Friends.

In preparation for that conference, library users in New York State are invited to attend open hearings with the following themes: "Democracy," at Syracuse, July 12th; "Productivity," at Buffalo, July 17th; "Literacy," at the Bronx, July 19th; and "The Role of Libraries," on Long Island (site TBA), July 24th. Public library readers will be able to give brief testimony about what their library means to them.

The testimony from these open hearings will be used for discussion at open regional meetings, scheduled at several sites state-wide for August 28th. In the day-long regional meetings those attending will be asked to write resolutions, based on the information from the hearings, which may influence library progress and development during the next ten years. Also, at these meetings delegates will be nominated from those present to go to the Governor's Conference in Albany.

Thirty-three delegates from the November Conference will be nominated to go to the White House Conference on Libraries in Washington, D.C., July 9-13, 1991. It will be noted that there was no increase in State Aid to Libraries in New York State this year, nor for the past five years.

have known him and worked with him. And we shall all miss him very much."

Memorial gifts for books may be given to the Friends in Fred's name.



SPRING BOOK SALE IS BIG SUCCESS



Another great book sale has come and gone smoothly, successful as always thanks to all of you who volunteered in sorting, setting up, cashiering, bringing in and buying the thousands of books.

SOME IMPRESSIVE FIGURES FOR THIS GREAT EFFORT -- \$5,063 taken in

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 549 boxes of hard cover books | 27 sorters through the year |
| 101 boxes of paperbacks | Set up by 18 volunteers |
| 123 boxes of children's books | and 8 from Social Services |
| 88 boxes of magazines | 62 treasurers, cashiers, salespersons |
| 20 tables from Glendale Home | 2 clowns |
| 18 tables from Unitarian Church | 300 posters, 22 distributors |
| 4 boxes Dunkin' Donuts' Munchkins | 3 men transported tables with a County Truck |

And who do you think master-minded all of this? Why, Marjorie Woods, of course, as she has year after year after year. Many, many thanks and cheers, Marjorie!

LIBRARY LINK REACHES OUT

Library Link continues to be a popular and busy program. Several camps have already booked for summer story times. Let's hope the weather is good for outdoor programming.

On May 23rd, Nancy Gifford and Jo Adams were presenters at the "Bridging the Gap" conference at SCCC which was to share information about teaching library skills at various age levels in the different educational systems from elementary school through universities.

Since the public library covers a much greater age and geographic range of people, Nancy and Jo perceived information gaps in some other institutions. They attempted to fill these gaps by pushing public library services. Library Link was strongly promoted since it is unique in meeting the needs of those students who can't come to the library.

CAN YOU HELP?

TEENS - Needed for summer volunteer work doing various jobs, mostly clerical.

CIRCULATION - Lots of new registration cards to file.

WOODLAWN - Can you give us some time maintaining pamphlets and keeping them up to date?

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

It was an enlightening conference which reinforced the idea that the public library must increase its efforts to make itself known in the community. Even professional librarians in the academic world don't seem to understand the full breadth of our resources.



CELEBRATE SUMMER — READ AND HAVE FUN

CHILDREN

All Friends are invited to drop in and enjoy the Summer programs for children they will be sponsoring. Storyteller and Musician Bill Cliff will begin with "Fun Fest: Songs and Stories for Summer" at the Duane Branch June 12 at 3:30 p.m. Bill will be the guest performer for "Summer Safari" Summer Reading Club programs at Niskayuna Branch August 1 at 2:30 p.m., at the Woodlawn Branch August 2 at 2:00 p.m. and for the final Summer Reading Program at the Scotia Branch August 15 at 2:30 p.m. with "Travelers Return."

Storyteller Ellen Lee will provide Safari travelers with "Tiger Tales and Tails" at Duane Branch, July 17 at 2:00 p.m. A "Safari Sing-Along" with Randy Mauger will speed the reading journey in the Children's Room on July 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Mary Lou Ricardo will present "Wildlife Rehabilitation in New York State" at the Woodlawn Branch on July 5 at 2:00 p.m. and at the Niskayuna Branch on July 18 at 2:30 p.m. Musician Maureen Ashton will perform with a variety of folk instruments for the concluding Summer Safari Reading Club Meeting at the Glenville Branch, August 16 at 2:30 p.m.

-Lois Foight Hodges

TEENAGERS

A Summer Short Story Celebration series planned for teenagers will begin July 17th and will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesdays through August 7th in the Ronald C. Dixon Room under the leadership of Jo Adams, coordinator for Young Adult activities, who attended the Great Books Foundation recently to prepare herself for this type of discussion. She is promoting it through heads of English Departments and librarians in junior high schools and high schools.

The Young Adult Department also has scheduled a summer reading series for incarcerated teens at the Tryon Secure Center, beginning July 23rd and meeting July 30, August 6th, and August 20th. The stories chosen for the Tryon series will include Raymond's Run, by Toni Cade Bambara, Bad Characters, by Jean Stafford, The Parsley Garden, by William Saroyan, and Debbie Go Home, by Alan Paton. Sixteen young women will participate.

The funds for the Junior Great Books that will be used for both series have come from the Friends. Jo Adams is also lining up an exciting Summer Action Series for teens on dance, tying in with the SPAC N.Y. City Ballet season, and books by some of their members.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the Friends of the Library annual dinner meeting, four new Board members were welcomed: Bernard Gerberg, Edgar Brown, Kathryn Scudera and Jack Ward. A three-year term was extended for Board members Jane Somers, Pat Whitney, and Roger Whitney. Appreciation was expressed to the retiring Board members Ruth Anne Evans, Joseph Maras, Kathryn McCary, Robert Orr and Jean Slanker.

Mr. Gerberg, formerly a Mechanical Engineer at KAPL, is an active volunteer in many areas. At SCPL he helps with the Friends' booksales, as well as mending books when they get damaged--"and do they get damaged!". He also is a volunteer tax counsellor for the elderly, has volunteered at an army base in Israel, and chauffeurs his wife to her volunteer job at the Annie Schaeffer Day Haven.

Mr. Brown has been in Schenectady for forty years. For many of those years he was a research chemist in the Silicon Products Division of General Electric; he was also an active boy Scouter. Now retired, he has been volunteering at the Library for 3 years. His volunteer services have included fixing audio-visual equipment, updating the volumes of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, and helping with the barcoding project for automated circulation.

Ms. Scudera is a transplant from New York City, where she recently earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration. She worked for five years as a lending officer at Manufacturers Hanover in New York City, and for 2 years with a Hospital Chaplaincy program, where she served on the administrative team. She and her husband moved to Schenectady in June, and she started working as a library volunteer in December. She is working on the barcoding project for automated circulation at Duane Branch.

Mr. Ward has been volunteering in the Technical Services Department at the library for five years, helping with cataloguing. About ten years ago he volunteered at the reference desk evenings, and enjoyed the experience so much that he came back for more after retiring from his work as an Electrical Engineer at General Electric.

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR RENEWAL?

There has been a heartening response to the renewal notices sent out by Pat Whitney this spring, and 24 new memberships with more coming in. Now, if each member brings in a new member, we will be able to do twice as much! Pick up a blue slip with Friends information at the circulation desk to pass on to a friend.

We welcome the following new members:

Lynn F. Cook	Rita Croteau	Geraldine Gallagher-Lopez
Kathleen Muller	Mr. and Mrs. A. Palmer	Dorothy Petersen
Beth Robertson	Cynthia Shultz	Jeannette Stevens
Mrs. G. W. Kellam	Ron Klupka	Trisha Basford
Robert R. Cahall	Jean Hanrahan	James B. Keating
Ms. Sophie Pisk	Mrs. Robert Wieseman	Mr. & Mrs. James Schmidt
Matthew Moross	Philip A. Panella	Laurence & Kathryn Greenwald
Kimlyn Baird	Vince Castelli	The Siegal Family

THANKS TO THE FRIENDS

The new custom-made brochure rack in the McChesney Room and the Display/Exhibit Panel for the Children's Department are among the gifts the Friends have given the Library this past year.

All the money raised from the spring and fall Book Sales is spent on additional books for the branches. The 60 volume set of The Library of America, which was purchased with help from grants, is also being used at the Branches. On order is a 12 volume Guide to American Law, a reference set for the lay person.

The Friends help support the Outreach departments which include Library Link for pre-school and school age children, books and programs for the elderly, the Jail Library and Literacy

Volunteers. They also fund the always popular Young Adult summer activities.

The Film Series at Central Library and many other special programs are made possible through the Friends' contributions. Well known and well attended are the continuing Monday noon meetings of Books-Sandwiched-In, Table Talks, and Science and Technology, planned and run by the Friends. Hospitality is offered at the annual Staff Coffee Hour, which 75 members attended, the Volunteer Luncheon and at special occasions such as the opening of the new Glenville Branch.

The Friends also assist in planning and sponsoring National Library Week activities, and attend Library Day at the State Legislature.

REPORTS AND NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



COMMITMENTS FOR 1990

In 1990, the Library will increase its already strong commitment to serve the rapidly growing Hispanic Community. The award of a federal grant will provide for a series of orientation programs focusing on key library services that can be of assistance to Hispanics in areas such as parenting, health, and job information.

A similar commitment will be made to continuing and extending services to the growing population of the elderly, including those who are homebound or lack transportation to the Library.

BRANCHES

The automation program will continue with Woodlawn and Scotia converting to automated online circulation, and the collections at the Rotterdam, Mont Pleasant and Duane Branches are being inventoried and barcoded in preparation for automated circulation. The continuing increase in use of all services at the Niskayuna Branch Library and the growth in the size of the collection indicate a need in 1990 to plan an appropriate expansion of this facility.

The opening of the Glenville Branch in February was the culmination of its planning and construction during 1989. Since then, about 50% of its collection has been circulating, or 5,000 a month.

STATISTICS

At Central Library circulation increased by 7%, to over 500,000. Almost 20,000 children attended 859 programs there. The growing importance of AV services is reflected in a 10% increase in the number of patrons receiving assistance.

Impressive statistics for 1989 reported at the annual meeting included:

100,000 reference questions asked and answered; fastest growing service
28,000 video cassettes circulated
42,000 children's books circulated
3,000 books to nursing homes with over 100 visits by volunteers
100 volunteers giving 14,000 hours service

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

National Library Week is always a busy programming week for the Library and 1990 was no exception. This year's programs centered on the environment and started with Environmental Information Day on Saturday, April 21, at Central. Twenty-one community organizations participated with booths representing a wide range of environmental issues, programs and activities. There were two lectures in the morning, folk music at various times and at 3:00, Making-A-Difference awards were presented to 14 individuals or organizations for their contributions to the environment. The McChesney Room was packed for the event which seemed to be very much appreciated by both award recipients and the groups that had nominated them.

The numerous other programs scheduled at Central and Branches went very well. The Friends held their annual dinner in the McChesney Room which was attended by 70 people. It was especially nice to see both Miss White and Miss Foley there. Eleanor Brown, former trustee and Friends' president, gave a fascinating account of the progress which has been made in improving the Mohawk Riverfront in the past 25 years.

A particularly interesting program took place on Wednesday evening. Central staged a celebrity read-aloud program as part of the statewide celebration called "Night of 7000 Stars".

Channel 6 sportscaster Budd Mishkin, WGY radio personality Don Weeks, Gazette columnist Carl Strock and county representatives Betty Bean and Don Ackerman read from various writings of their choosing to a very appreciative audience. Everyone enjoyed the occasion and we hope to continue this type of program in the future.

As usual, the Friends' support of National Library Week activities stretched far. The Friends made possible the Schenectady Children's Theater presentation and Christopher Shaw's performance on Environmental Information Day. Additional contributions were made to the Audubon Society, as a thank-you for the loan of the Audubon prints on exhibit at Central for the month of April, to funds which made possible refreshments at Environmental Information Day, the "Night of 7000 Stars", and the awards ceremony for the Children's Department's writing contest. This was a great week of programming for the Library, and Friends' support made possible both vital parts of that programming, and some very nice touches, such as the presentation of iris boutonnieres for the "Making-A-Difference" award winners on Environmental Information Day. Once again, the Friends have enabled the Library not only to expand programming, but also to do it with a sense of style.

-Margery Beeler

KEEP THEM READING AT BRC

One of our much appreciated services to the elderly is providing those in nursing homes with a book visit every other week. Those at Baptist Retirement Center hope this can continue, but only if one or two of you want to and can help with these visits.

As the program has worked in the past, the volunteer comes to the Central Library to choose the books the week before (about an hour's time). These books, which are then checked out and put in canvas bags, are picked up the day of the visit. Distribution and visiting with the readers, including taking requests and picking up books, takes about two hours.

The library has purchased a book truck which is left there to be used in the program. And a willing gentleman has volunteered to help by taking the books up to BRC and returning them to the library.

Please call Phyllis Bornt at 382-3515 if, as a Friend, you would like to brighten up someone's long days and transport them from their beds to other lives and other places through books.

BETTER VIDEO VIEWING

Through the offices of Senator Farley, Assemblyman Tedisco and Assemblyman Tonko, SCPL has received a grant for purchase and installation of a video-cassette projector and large screen for use in the McChesney Room. This will be a great addition to the usage and enjoyment of our programs.

GIFTS OF BOOKS

Additions to the SCPL shelves of books on American and political history, which were Ronald C. Dixon's special interests, have been made possible by gifts to the Friends in his name. Also, some volumes from his personal library are being given to the library to supplement and replace books in these categories, as well as biography.

Mr. Dixon served on the Board of Trustees for 23 years, 11 as president. He died in March 1989.

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