

September 1992

VOL. XXVIII NO. 1

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Schenectady County is fortunate in having a library system in which its citizens can take great pride. Through the Central Library and its several neighborhood branches it serves the diverse needs of our citizens. However, its continuing strength depends on the dedication and support of many parties: the Director and Staff, the Volunteers, we, the Friends, the Library Trustees, the Mohawk Valley Library Association, and the County Manager.

The recent opening of a branch library for Niskayuna in the Mohawk Mall emphasizes the important parts played by all these groups in supporting our library facilities and services in these difficult times. The Board of the Friends thanks all who played a part in the relocation, even if it will only be for a short term. Special thanks are due the owners and operators of the Mohawk Mall who invited the Niskayuna Branch to be one of their occupants.

Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a digest of the Friends budget for the 1992-1993 year. A significant fraction of the funds are spent in supporting programs and book purchases. The Newsletter is the principal vehicle for keeping you abreast of these programs and activities. New this year is the designation of the Friends as a matching grant recipient under the "More Gifts - More Givers" program of General Electric. We encourage all Friends who are eligible to use this method of doubling their contributions.

We invite everyone to attend and participate in the various programs.

Walter Grattidge

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### LIBRARY IN THE MALL

The biggest library event of the summer was the opening of the Niskayuna Branch Library in the Mohawk Mall. A festive Open House on August 3 was attended by government officials, trustees, staff, volunteers and the many friends of the library.

Almost 100 new borrowers have been registered so far and circulation is excellent. If you haven't been there yet, please stop by and see for yourself what a cheery and inviting place it is.

Hours are: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 1-8 p.m. and, starting Sept. 12,  
Sat. 1-5 p.m.

Story Hour will be on Wednesdays; children must be pre-registered.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you is expressed to the 40 volunteers who provided 273 hours of vital help in opening the new branch. Many came several times to pack, unpack and shelve the more than 8,000 books from their temporary homes at the Glenville branch and the Bookmobile. This mammoth task was accomplished in four days. Special appreciation goes to volunteer Ron Needle, who assembled all the shelving single-handedly. Also a big thank you goes to staff members Phyllis Bornt, Naomi Bristol and Wonja Brucker.

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### STAFF RECOGNITION COFFEE HOUR

The staff of Central and the Branches will be honored at Central Thursday, September 17, from 9-11 a.m. Wilma Bradt is arranging the event, assisted by Helen Piotrowski, Jane Somers and Ken Wagner.





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### FALL BOOK SALE - September 26th

Here it comes -- the second tremendous book sale of the year. Saturday, Sept. 26, at 9 a.m. the barriers go down and the grand rush is on, with half price sale at 3 p.m., bag sale at 4 p.m. and giveaway at 4:30 p.m. And don't forget the patio food sale by the Literacy Volunteers of America.

A lot of good help is needed to make this sale a success. On Friday, the 25th, from 1 p.m. on, books will be brought down from storage to be set out in the McChesney Room. Saturday, starting at 7:30 a.m., the outdoor patios will be set up with tables, barricades and books.

All this work is accomplished by volunteers as well as a crew from Social Services, who also return later to clean up. According to Co-Chairman Pat Whitney, cashiers and "floaters" are needed for two-hour shifts. Many of our volunteers have been working a good many years; we'd like to recruit younger and stronger persons to help.

Books, magazines and records have been coming in all summer, and more are welcome until two weeks before the big day. This allows time for sorting, boxing, labeling, etc. Take them to your branch or leave at the loading platform at Central, marked for the Book Sale. Ring the bell to notify Maintenance.

**Best sellers are:** children's books, reference and paperbacks, also non-fiction covering sports and travel, home and crafts, music and art, nature and war. Please be sure that all books are clean, free from mildew or must, be complete and not torn. Consider "Would you buy it yourself?" And, please no Reader's Digest Condensed Books, weekly news magazines or old text books.

**Needed:** Volunteers to distribute fliers in their immediate neighborhoods. Also, does anyone have any old card tables to donate to the cause? Need only be secure enough to be used twice a year. If you can help in any way, please call Pat Whitney at 374-2120 or leave a message at the Library switchboard, 388-4500.

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### BOARD ADOPTS BUDGET

The Board of the Friends at its June meeting adopted a Budget for 1992-1993 totalling \$13,615. The income derives principally from contributions from the membership of the Friends, including an anticipated minimum of \$3800 in matching funds from General Electric's More Gifts -- More Givers program.

The principal items of expenditure include \$2500 for the Newsletter; \$1300 for Friends-sponsored noon programs; \$2000 for the Library Link Outreach program; \$300 each for the Jail Library and for Literacy Volunteers; \$500 for other operating costs; and the remainder, approximately \$6700, for the support of specific programs and services at the Central Library and the Branches, as recommended by the Library Director and Staff. In addition, it is anticipated that the proceeds of the Book Sale held during the year will provide a further \$10,000 to be allotted to book purchases for the Branches.

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### BOOKS FOR THE BRANCHES

At its August meeting, the Board of the Friends authorized the release of \$5000 from the Book Sales Fund for the purchase of books for the Branches, with consideration to be given to the acquisition of children's books.





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**BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN**

The Fall series of Monday noon-hour book reviews is about to begin. They are held in the McChesney Meeting Room at the Main Library. Bring your sandwich and buy your coffee and tea. Katie Rich and Dorothy Settle have arranged these excellent programs for us.

- Sept. 14 GIVE WAR A CHANCE by P. J. O'Rourke  
Reviewed by Carl Strock - Daily Gazette columnist
- Sept. 21 REINVENTING GOVERNMENT by David Osborne and Ted Gaebler  
Reviewed by Karen Johnson - former Mayor of Schenectady
- Sept. 28 Holiday
- Oct. 5 BURDEN OF DESIRE by Robert MacNeil  
Reviewed by Al Zink - former broadcaster for WGY, WRGB & WMHT
- Oct. 12 Holiday
- Oct. 19 A CLOSED EYE by Anita Brookner  
Reviewed by Dr. Carl Niemeyer - retired Union College English professor and frequent lecturer and reviewer for the Friends.
- Oct. 26 THE SEARCH FOR GOD AT HARVARD by Ari L. Goldman  
Reviewed by the Rev. Linda Hoddy - assistant minister at the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, who completed her own theological training at Harvard in the spring of 1992.
- Nov. 2 THE OVERWORKED AMERICAN by Dr. Juliet B. Schor  
Reviewed by Dr. Roberta Maris - psychologist on the staff of the Child Guidance Center in Schenectady.
- Nov. 9 EARTH IN THE BALANCE by Senator Al Gore  
Reviewed by Dr. Volker Mohnan - professor at SUNYA and former director of the Atmospheric Research Center there.
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**MORE PROGRAMS TO COME**

The Fall Literary Series, coordinated by Robert Orr, will be held at noon on Nov. 16 and 23. Charles Trainor, Associate Professor in the English Department at Siena College, will be the speaker. The first program will be "The Literary Heritage of the Capital District" and the following one, "Shakespeare: the Man and His World."

Looking still farther ahead, the Fall/Winter Table Talks are being planned by Eugene Zola for Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14.

More details about all of these programs will appear in the November Newsletter.

**YA UPDATE**

**October** - Jeanne Jenkins, Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduate Admissions at RPI, will speak to high school seniors and juniors on "Writing the College Application Essay." Ms. Jenkins has been here before and is always well-received.

**November** - Daniel Hayes, English teacher at Troy High School, will present a program about writing novels for young people. His first novel for teenagers, The Trouble with Lemons, was published last year and chosen as one of the "Best YA Books of 1991" by the American Library Association, and will be out in paperback this fall. With his appearance, SCPL will be celebrating both National Authors Day (Nov. 1) and National Young Readers Day (Nov. 11).

Watch for dates of these events in the monthly calendars.



SCPL CHILDREN, AND LIBRARIANS TOO, learned a lot about our state from the several talented leaders and their exciting events, in the highly successful Summer Reading Program, made possible with funding from the Friends. Watch for the flyers about more fascinating things to come this fall!



**TWO VOLUNTEERS HONORED**

The Board of the Friends recently recognized and honored Audrey Weidler and Marjorie Woods for their volunteer services to the Friends and for their long-time support of the Schenectady County Public Library. Books which reflect their personal interests will be acquired for the library and will carry a recognition plate. (Mrs. Weidler passed away August 22, 1992).

**WELCOME TO NEW FRIENDS**

Rose M. Angerami  
K. Scott & Diane C. Bengtson  
Adron B. Butler  
Ann Elliot  
Maria Esposito  
Elissa Freedman  
Dale & Kristine Gjerde  
David & Patricia Gosda  
Marie L. Haberl  
Ruth & Herman Karnes  
Lisa Marie's Unisex Salon  
Cathrine D. Macy  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Neuhaus  
Wanda C. Niegowski  
Mary Pidgeon  
Mrs. Thomas C. Prefore  
Suzanne Shackelford  
Julia A. Staunton

**MORE GIFTS - MORE GIVERS**

Approximately \$3800 has been earmarked for the Friends under the General Electric Foundation matching gifts program. We thank all GE employees and retirees for their generous response. All gifts of \$15.00 and up are matched on a dollar-to-dollar basis.

As of this year surviving spouses are eligible. Additional gifts may be reported as increments of \$15.00 are reached. The GE Foundation Matching Gifts Center at 1-800-4-MATCH-GE will need your name, SS number, date, Friends' zip code (12305) and amount of gift.

Next Board Meeting - October 27, 1992.

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

**APPLE SAUCE LOVERS, UNITE!**

The Children's Department is participating in a national campaign sponsored by Motts, USA to buy children's books with proofs-of-purchase (which must include UPC code) from Mott's products.

Acceptable products are: Apple Juice (not cans); Apple Sauce; Juice Boxes; Apple Sauce Fruit Snacks.

Each label is worth 25¢ towards the purchase of new books! So, start saving and bring them to Central or any branch.

**SUMMER TEEN VOLUNTEERS**

Thank you and our sincere appreciation to: Erin Adams, Tracy Anderson, Justine Azalone, Katy De Lorenzo, Sarah DeLorenzo, Emma Gilbert, Brian Hwang, Katrina Sokol, Anne Que and Eve Sorum.

**LUNCHEON FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was packed with 118 people. Special Service Awards were given to Gertrude Plumley, John Scasny and Alice Van Heusen. Professor Stephen Berk gave a stimulating talk, entitled "A World in Change."

**NEEDED:** People to shelve books at Central & Niskayuna;  
Someone to take library service to Kingsway Arms Nursing Home;  
Qualified person to assist young Adult Librarian in reviewing YA material. Call Robert Berk, 388-4521 or 388-4500.

**FRIENDS OF SCPL**

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BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

Jan 4. Fire Along the Sky  
by Robert Moss  
Reviewer: Larry Hart

Schenectady's City and County Historian, local history author and columnist, will talk about this fictional account of Sir William Johnson.

Jan. 11 The Diversity of Life  
by Edward O. Wilson  
Reviewer: Carl George

Prof. George of the Biology Dept. of Union College will review this book, drawing on his special interest in ecology and the environment.

Jan. 18 Holiday

Jan. 25 Ordinary Men: Reserve Battalion 101 and the Final Solution  
by Christopher Browning  
Reviewer: Stephen Berk

Prof. Berk of Union College's History Dept., who has a particular interest in Eastern Europe, will review this treatment of the Holocaust.

Coordinators for this series are Pearl Lichtenstein and Ann Stamm.

Feb. 1 A Landing on the Sun  
by Michael Frayn  
Reviewer: Randall Craig

Prof. Craig of the English Dept. of SUNYA considers the story of a British civil servant who investigates a 15-yr-old murder involving questions of espionage.

Feb. 8 Down from Troy: A Doctor Comes of Age  
by Dr. Richard Selzer  
Reviewer: Steve Barnes

Dr. Selzer's latest book, about growing up in Troy, will be examined by Schenectady native Barnes, recent Boston University graduate and now Troy Record writer.

Feb. 15 Holiday

Feb. 22 Who Will Tell the People: The Betrayal of American Democracy  
by William Greider  
Reviewer: Thomas Kelly

Prof. Kelly of Siena College's History Dept. and the Director of American Studies will review this book which looks at most of the major institutions of the American political system.

GREAT DECISIONS

The 1993 Great Decisions Series in Schenectady will begin Tues., Feb. 2, and continue for eight Tuesdays. Meetings will be held in the McChesney Room with a morning group at 10-11:30 and an evening group at 7-8:30.

Topics for 1993 discussions include: U.S. in a New World: What Goals? What Priorities?; Germany's Role: In Europe? In the North Atlantic?; Children at Risk: Abroad and at Home. Other topics are concerned with China, United Nations, Russia, India and Pakistan, and Trade and the Global Economy.

Flyers are available at the library and a briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association will be on sale. For further information call Erma Ruth Chestnut at 346-0552.





## ONCE UPON A TIME

**Saturday Specials** for 6-11 year olds - 3:00 p.m. - Central Children's Room

**Jan. 16 IN ANCIENT EGYPT**

Learn about the boy King and an Egyptian Cinderella in this story/craft program.

**Jan. 23 \*IN THE LAND OF SHADOWS**

Enjoy the ancient art of shadow puppetry with the Scotia/Glenville Children's Museum. Please register. (Program is 1½ hours in length).

**Jan. 30 IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

Hear stories about knights and castles, then make a royal craft to take home.

**Feb. 6 IN COLONIAL AMERICA**

Find out what Colonial children like to do and make a toy that they might have played with.

**Feb. 13 IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND**

Celebrate Valentine's Day with stories and a fancy valentine making party.

**Feb. 20 IN THE WILD WEST**

Be a pioneer or a cowboy in this story/craft program.

**Feb. 27 IN THE WORLD OF STORIES**

Take a "Once Upon a Time" journey with guest Storyteller Carol Connolly.

**Mar. 6 IN A NEW LAND**

Find out what it was like to come to America from far away and meet the Statue of Liberty.

**SPECIAL SCHOOL VACATION WEEK PROGRAM - Wed., Feb. 17th 10-11 a.m., Gr. 2-5**

**\*AN ACTING WORKSHOP** with Helena Binder Bress

Play some theater games and learn acting techniques while you improvise scenes with the help of this talented local actress. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

\*These programs are provided with funds from the Friends of SCPL.

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn were ably assisted by the following in the preparation of the November Newsletter for mailing: Peg Fisher, Kathy Lippet, Dorothy Peterson, Florence Scheels and Owen Sutton. The next time they will need help will be during the second week of March. Call Millie at 399-1502 if you will be available.



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## COLONIAL DAYS

"Salem Possessed! The Witchcraft Delusion of 1692," a slide and lecture program by Rutland, Vermont, author Peter Cooper, will be presented on Saturday, February 6, at 2:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room. (Age 12 and above).

As part of Schenectady's Colonial Days Festival, this program helps to relive the terror and heroism of that time, while introducing new information and insights.

Mr. Cooper is the author of THE SECRET PAPERS OF JULIA TEMPLETON and co-author with Daniel Neary, Jr. of VANISHING VERMONT. He formerly did publicity work for the Vermont State Fair, and has presented a variety of programs to many Vermont schools, churches and historical societies.

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## SCIENCE SERIES

Dr. Walter Grattidge and Dr. Herbert Strong announce the Monday noon Science Series in March:

**March 1: SOME ASPECTS OF SCIENCE IN SIBERIA**

Prof. Nikolai V. Sobolev  
Visiting Professor, Department of Geology, Union College.  
Academician, Russian Academy of Sciences.

**March 8: RADIO FREQUENCY HEATING FOR SOIL REMEDIATION**

Dr. William Edelstein  
Physicist, GE CR&D

**March 15: HOW LARGE IS THE UNIVERSE & HOW DO WE KNOW IT?**

Prof. Kenneth L. Schick  
Physics Department, Union College

**March 22: INCINERATION**

Paul John, Environmental Engineer  
Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS

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## SAVE THE DATE - May 1, 1993 - SPRING BOOK SALE

Here is a message from Marie De Lorenzo, Volunteer Coordinator for the Friends of the Library:

The Friends of the Library need your help as a volunteer. Our biggest project, the BOOK SALE, is not as easy as it seems. There are many steps to be taken before the sale. Donated books and magazines come into the library - they must be sorted and put on shelves into categories. Next they are put into boxes ready to be brought downstairs the Friday before the Sale. This is 6 months of preparation. There are many ways you can volunteer. Just 2 hours a week or a month would help so much. Will you call me, Marie De Lorenzo, 393-4711? There are other committees also which I shall be very happy to explain. They, too, need volunteers. Give me a call, from 9 to 3, it's fun - Please!

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The Newsletter is published five times a year:  
January, March, May, September and November



**A CHANCE TO HELP**

At Central: Someone with some expertise in Mac computers and able to offer instruction using Microsoft Works.

At Niskayuna Branch: People to shelve books and do other clerical jobs. Training and supervision will be provided.

At Quaker Street Branch: Persons to help with bar coding for the automation project.

If interested, please call Roberta Berk at 388-4521 or 388-4500.

**ATTENTION, G.E. PEOPLE!**

You've heard about the Matching Fund program. Perhaps you aren't aware that you must notify them within one year of your library contribution. Call Foundation Matching Gifts Center to make the library eligible. The number is 1-800-462-8244 (1-800-4-MATCH-GE) and be ready with your name, SS number, date, Friends' zip code (12305) and amount of gift.

**SEASONAL ADDRESS CHANGES**

Pat Whitney's plea for winter addresses for members has brought in six responses. This will help those members receive their mail on time and save the Friends from paying extra postage. Thank you.

**NEW AT NISKAYUNA**

The Niskayuna Branch acknowledges with grateful appreciation the donation of a 19" TV from Mr. and Mrs. Ennis Pilcher. If anyone has a VCR they would be willing to give, it would be used for children's programming.

**ANOTHER CHANCE TO HELP**

As reported in the last Newsletter, Jean Sampson is in charge of the important work of the Friends in providing library service to inmates at the Schenectady County Jail. She has one volunteer, but is still looking for more. If you could give two hours a month on a Wednesday morning, call Jean at 393-3093.

**NEW MEMBERS**

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members of the Friends of the Library. We hope they will take advantage of the many wonderful programs which the Friends plan and present. Also, perhaps they will find time to participate in the many volunteering opportunities available.

Welcome to: Mary Jane Beaulieu, Ruth Bredlau, Michael Doherty, Ann Maciariello and Rosalind Marx.

NEXT MEETING OF THE FRIENDS BOARD will be Tuesday, January 26, 1993.

**FRIENDS OF SCPL**

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| President        | Walter Grattidge   |
| 1st Vice Pres.   | Jo Adams           |
| 2nd Vice Pres.   | Katherine Dixon    |
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|                  | 1117 Earl Ave.     |
|                  | Sch'dy, NY 12309   |
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Friends of Schenectady County Public Library  
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 Schenectady, New York 12305

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

New York State is fortunate in having many different types of libraries to serve its citizens in all situations and walks of life. These types range from community-based public libraries to special law, medical and business libraries; to libraries for the blind and the physically impaired as well as those confined to institutions and jails. Libraries can serve everybody in this Information Age.

Here in Schenectady County, the Friends organization continues to support the Director, his Staff and the Trustees in providing library and cultural services to our citizens. During the recent Colonial Festival Week, the programs and events staged at the library, while highlighting elements of our heritage, also served to remind us that an informed, participating public is still essential to the maintenance and strengthening of our democratic system.

As part of the democratic process, representatives of the Trustees and the Friends were on hand at Library Day at the Legislature, held on February 9th last in Albany. Meetings were held with local legislators and their staffs to remind them of the important social and economic impacts that libraries provide and the significant part that New York State funding plays. A joint legislative hearing on libraries has been scheduled to be held in early March. While many legislators acknowledge the important contributions of libraries, the challenge continues to be to have the actual state funding provided be at the levels authorized in earlier legislation.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter are details on Library Week to be celebrated from April 19 to 24th. The theme is "Libraries Change Lives". It is clear from the participation in library activities here in Schenectady County that many of our citizens look to the library to make an important contribution to their lives. The Friends invite your active support to broaden our ability to serve.

Walter Grattidge

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**SCIENCE SERIES**

Dr. Walter Grattidge and Dr. Herbert Strong announce two more Monday noon programs in the current March series:

- ~~Mar. 15~~ "How Large is the Universe & How Do We Know It?"  
Prof. Kenneth L. Schick, Physics Department, Union College
- Mar. 22 "Incineration".  
Paul John, Environmental Engineer, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, NYS.

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**MISS CATHERINE TOWER**

The death of Miss Catherine Tower on February 3 ended a long career of total dedication to the Schenectady County Public Library. Formerly Head of Technical Services for about 30 years, she continued on after her retirement in her role as extraordinary volunteer.

Her work for the Friends' Book Sales was well known and appreciated. Working tirelessly for long hours, Miss Tower used her unique experience and knowledge of books to help speed and define the mammoth sorting process involved in the year-round work of preparing for the book sales. She will be greatly missed for her many contributions to the life of the library by all who worked with her.

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**NEXT BOARD MEETING of the Friends of SCPL - Tuesday, March 23.**



### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK - APRIL 18-24

Plans are underway to celebrate National Library Week, April 18-24, with a variety of programs reflecting the theme, "Libraries Change Lives." Kicking off the week on Monday, April 19, at noon in the McChesney Room, Dr. Lloyd Thomas, psychologist and Daily Gazette columnist, will speak on enhancing wellness, in the first of the Friends' Table Talk series.

Other noon programs at Central include a slide program presented by Charlie Leonowicz, a bobsled driver in last year's Winter Olympics, on Wednesday, April 21, and a talk by Cynthia Billie on Thursday, April 22, on using your time more efficiently.

The fourth annual Great New York Read-Aloud will be held on Wednesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Children's Room. It's always fun to hear well-known members of the community read from their favorite books and share refreshments after the program. The Duane Branch is holding its own read-aloud for boys and girls on Thursday, April 22 at 3:30 p.m., called "An Afternoon of Neighborhood Stars."

The National Library Week Committee would like to thank the Friends of the Library for the financial support that enables the library to offer programs and to purchase Library Week posters for display in all the libraries.

We invite all the Friends to attend the programs and to participate in the "Libraries Change Lives" writing campaign. From April 5 through April 24 cards will be available at the Central and Branch libraries for those who wish to tell in 100 words or less how the library has made a difference in his or her life. These statements of support will be collected at the local libraries and forwarded to the American Library Association where they will be used as part of the Association's national legislative and promotion efforts on behalf of libraries.

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### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The Children's Department is sponsoring a Poster Contest for National Library Week on the theme, "Libraries Change Lives," for children in grades 1-7 who live in or go to school in Schenectady County. Entry forms with guidelines are available at all SCPL Libraries. Entries are due by Friday, March 26.

Many of the events for children before and during National Library Week are sponsored by the Friends.

Tues.	Mar. 16,	3:45,	Woodlawn	"Shades of Green" stories,	Carol Connolly
Tues.	Apr. 13,	2:00,	Woodlawn	"Fun with Chemistry,"	Dee Strenisa
Sat.	Apr. 17,	1:00,	Quaker St.	"Age of Dinosaurs,"	S-G Children's Museum
Sat.	Apr. 17,	2:00,	Rotterdam	Karen Beil, author of <u>Grandma According to Me</u>	
Tues.	Apr. 20,	4:00,	Hamilton Hill	"Origami for Everyone,"	Barbara Bennett
Wed.	Apr. 21,	3:30,	Mont Pleasant	"Origami for Everyone,"	Barbara Bennett
Thurs.	Apr. 22,	3:30,	Duane	"An Afternoon of Neighborhood Stars",	read-aloud
Sat.	Apr. 24,	2:00,	Children's Room	Author and illustrator, Thor Wickstrom, will present "Children as Illustrators and Illustrating for Children."	

A reception following Mr. Wickstrom's program will honor the winners of the Poster Contest for children. All entrants are invited.

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#### NISKAYUNA RECEIVES VCR:

The staff at the Niskayuna Branch appreciates the anonymous gift of a VCR for use in children's programming.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Michael Eggleston, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Goers, Loni F. Palcovic and Lidia & Benj. Pasamanick.

#### MEMORIAL GIFTS: The Friends of SCPL acknowledge gifts in memory of Mrs. Audrey Weidler and Miss Catherine Tower.

NEWSLETTER MAILING: Millie Neslin thanks those who helped last time: Laurie Brooks, Lois & Bill Isles, Helena Piotrowski, Frank Steiner and Owen & Betty Sutton.



**SPRING LITERARY SERIES - Mondays at Noon**

Frank Steiner announces two lectures to be delivered by Prof. Carl Niemeyer entitled: FOR ADULTS ONLY; TWO CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

- Mar. 29 Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
- Apr. 5 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland/Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll

**TABLE TALKS - Mondays at Noon**

- Apr. 12 "The Art of Fund Raising"  
Mary Lizzul, Director of Rensselaer Annual Fund, RPI
- Apr. 19 "Words, Reading and Health"  
Dr. Lloyd Thomas, area psychologist and Daily Gazette columnist

These talks have been coordinated by Jo Adams and Elsie Maddaus.

**BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN - Mondays at Noon**

- May 3 Steinmetz by Ronald Kline  
Reviewer: Dr. George Wise

Dr. Wise, a public relations writer at GE's R & D Center has a PhD in History of Technology. He will discuss the recent biography of Steinmetz as inventor and social reformer.

- May 10 Primitive People by Francine Prose  
Reviewer: Hester Shapiro

Hester Shapiro has been a frequent book reviewer for BSI. This book describes the life of a Haitian au pair for an eccentric family in an art colony in upstate New York.

This BSI series has been coordinated by Frank Steiner. The remaining programs for May and June will be described in the next Newsletter.

**GOOD FOOD AND GHOST STORIES**

Circle your calendars on Tuesday, April 20, for the Annual Friends of the Library Dinner in the McChesney Room at Central at 6:15 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. R. Ned Landon, retired GE speechwriter. His subject will be "Ghost Stories", and will deal with ghost writing.

Once again we will enjoy the delicious food from Classic Caterers. Wilma Bradt is in charge of arrangements.

Tickets are \$9.50, payable to the Friends of SCPL. Mail to Pat Whitney, using the coupon below. The deadline for reservations is Saturday, April 10.

**\*\*\*ANNUAL DINNER\*\*\*  
APRIL 20, 1993**

**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$9.50 per person)  
 Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Pat Whitney, 1117 Earl Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309 by April 10



**RECYCLING BOOKS AGAIN**

Here comes another big Book Sale! And you come too--Saturday, May 1. The barriers go down at 9 a.m. with half-price sale at 3 p.m., \$1 bag sale at 4, and giveaway at 4:30. The Literacy Volunteers of America will have their usual food sale to make the day even better.

Books, magazines and records have been coming in steadily and more are needed. Bring them to your Branch or leave them at the loading dock at Central, marked Book Sale. Ring bell to notify Maintenance.

Best sellers are children's books, reference, paperbacks, and all kinds of non-fiction. No old text books, weekly news magazines or RD Condensed Books. Only books in good condition.

A lot of good help is need for this sale, especially younger and stronger helpers. Besides the continuing sorting and boxing ahead of time, concentrated help is required Friday and Saturday to move cartons down from storage, set things up, help browsers, act as cashiers, and then clean up. At the Fall Sale there was exactly one book left!

Pat and Roger Whitney, co-chairs, need a treasurer and assistants. If you can lend a hand as an active Friend, please call them at 374-2120 or call the library 388-4500.

Funds from the Book Sale are used to buy books for the Branches. Since last May \$8000 has been spent. This is much appreciated.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Central - People for shelving books and shelf-reading; also clerical tasks.

Children's Dept. - A person is needed for clerical work; and someone for shelving books.

Quaker St. - People are needed for bar coding.

Branches - People are needed for clerical tasks and shelf reading and shelving books.

Training and supervision is provided. If interested, please contact Roberta Berk at 388-4500.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A Nominating Committee has been chosen to recommend new members to the Board of the Friends. Suggestions for names to be considered are solicited and may be passed on to President Walter Grattidge.

**EJIC REQUEST**

Do you get the Times Union every Sunday? Would you be willing to donate your copy of the employment section to the library on a regular basis?

The Education and Job Information Center needs a copy of the Sunday Times Union want-ads donated on a regular basis. If you would be willing to do this, please call Phyllis Ochs, EJIC Coordinator, at 388-4510.

**FRIENDS OF SCPL**

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2nd Vice Pres.	Katherine Dixon
Rec. Secretary	Gwen Deiber
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Ed.	Dorothy Brandon
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Membership	Patricia Whitney
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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we come to the end of our Program Year, it is appropriate to thank all the members of the Friends and the library staff who have participated in or supported any of the wide range of our activities. The majority of events that the Friends sponsor are the result of one or more members devoting time and energy to details of organization and presentation. The Book Sales, the production and distribution of the Newsletter, the Monday noon programs, library services at the County Jail, day care centers, etc. all reflect 'behind the scenes' commitment. Others volunteer their efforts in providing support services to the library, both at Central and at the branches. On behalf of the community -- Thank You!

I would also take this opportunity to thank the officers and members of the Board who have been most attentive to the programs and issues that have come before us. In the coming year I am sure we can look forward to further exciting and productive programs.

At a time when libraries are facing social and economic challenges and are expected to continue to serve their users, the existence of the Friends confirms the confidence of our citizens in the Library and its staff.

Walter Grattidge

### BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

This Spring Series, coordinated by Frank Steiner, began in May and has already had two excellent programs: May 3, Steinmetz by Ronald Kline, reviewed by Dr. George Wise; and May 10, Primitive People by Francine Prose, reviewed by Hester Shapiro. As with all Monday Noon programs, sponsored by the Friends, you may bring your lunch and purchase coffee.

**May 17**     A Pot of Paint by Linda Merrill  
Reviewer: Dr. Robert Donovan

Dr. Donovan, retired professor of English, SUNYA, and frequent reviewer at BSI, will examine this book dealing with an English court case about the painter James Whistler and the art critic John Ruskin.

**May 24**     Sex, Art and American Culture by Camille Paglia  
Reviewer: Cathy Buckwalter

Paglia's controversial book has been widely discussed. Cathy Buckwalter, a retired business woman (Advertising and public relations) with a BA in English from Brooklyn College, will present her first review for us.

**June 7**     Toujours Provence and A Year in Provence by Peter Mayle  
Reviewer: Helen Steiner

Helen Steiner, a retired teacher and frequent traveller, will examine two books by Englishman Peter Mayle recounting his amusing experiences of living in the Provence region of France.

**June 14**     Freud Diaries, The Last Decade translated by Michael Molnar  
Reviewer: Dr. Jeffrey Berman

Dr. Berman, professor of English at SUNYA, with special interests in psychology and literature, has been a frequent speaker at BSI. The Freud diaries cover the period 1929 to 1939 in Vienna and London.





### CAMPAIGN FOR NEW PIANO

The Board of the Friends, in cooperation with the Music Groups in the community, has authorized a Fund Raising program over two years, with a goal of \$35,000, to replace the piano in the McChesney Room. Marianne Pashler and Walter Grattidge are co-chairs of the Fund Raising Campaign, with Al and Katherine Lowe co-chairs of the Honorary Campaign Committee.

The Friends' Board and the Library Trustees have each designated \$500 to the Fund. Confirmation has been received that the GE Foundation will match contributions of \$15.00 or more from eligible GE employees and retirees. Musical Groups and individual musicians will be holding musical events at which donations will be sought; the public will be solicited; and applications for grants will be made to local foundations.

The McChesney Room serves as a popular meeting room for the community. In addition to being the site of lectures, book reviews, meetings and exhibitions, it is used over 40 times a year for musical events for which a concert class piano is a necessity. The current instrument was presented to the Library in 1969 in memory of Alice Fonda, a long-time trustee of the Schenectady County Public Library. However, it is undersized for the room and its action has been technologically superseded.

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### APRIL VOLUNTEERS

April is a month of deadlines and events. The first thing that comes to mind is April 15 - 12:00 midnight when all tax returns are to be mailed. The Reference Dept. has been handing out tax forms to the public for many years. However, the combination of a congenial library staff, new and more special forms needing to be copied every year, and the hundreds of procrastinators have made the library a very popular and extremely busy place two weeks preceding the April 15 deadline.

Librarians were spending too much time on tax forms which greatly interfered with the many other services for which they are responsible. A special project to use volunteers to help with the tax forms during this busy season was started in 1990 and the number of days and hours has expanded each year. By 5 p.m. on the last day a record number of 115 people came in for forms. We felt that there would not be a need for a volunteer during the evening hours, but we were wrong. The staff said they were bombarded with panicky patrons until closing. Twenty-seven volunteers put in 81 hours to assist the staff in providing one of the many extended services that the public has come to expect from their library. To quote one of the reference librarians, "We could never have done it without these wonderful volunteers."

Library Week is also celebrated in April. After the library became automated, it was felt that there were many patrons who needed help in working the computer catalogues known as the CD Rom. Three years ago a special project in which library volunteers would assist patrons in learning the CD Rom became an integral part of the Library Week Program. This year from April 19-23, 18 volunteers were available throughout that time contributing a total of 41 hours.

April is indeed a very busy month. All this extra help and hours is in addition to the regular volunteer work that goes on each day. Although these devoted volunteers have been thanked before, I would like to reiterate the enormous appreciation and gratitude sincerely felt by the staff and myself for their unselfish dedication to the library.

Roberta D. Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers

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### SUMMER NEWS FOR CHILDREN

"Book Banquet," a Summer Reading Club, will be celebrated at the Central Children's Room and all SCPL Branches. A "feast" of storytellers, music and story-craft programs will be available for readers in grades 1-7 who join the club. A "Science in the Summer" program will be held at the Glenville Branch, on Aug. 2, 3, 5, 6 for children in grades 1-2, and for grades 3-5, sponsored by MVLA, GE Elfun Society and the Hall of History.



**ANNUAL MEETING**

At the Annual Friends Dinner meeting in April the following slate of officers and directors was unanimously approved by the membership:

**Officers, 1993-94**

President	Walter Grattidge
Co-1st Vice Presidents	Gene Zola and Wilma Bradt
2nd Vice President	Marie Christine DeLorenzo
Secretary	Betty Wemple
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth

**Board of Directors, 1993-94**

<b>First Three Year Term</b>	<b>Second Three Year Term</b>
------------------------------	-------------------------------

Cathy Buckwalter	Ed Brown
Betty Wemple	Bernard Gerberg
	Roger Whitney
	Pat Whitney

Other continuing Board Members are: Jo Adams, Roberta Berk, Annette Billmeyer, Wilma Bradt, Dorothy Brandon, Naomi Bristol, Marie Christine DeLorenzo, Katherine Dixon, Gwen Deiber, Eleanor Friedman, Walter Grattidge, Elsie Maddaus, Mildred Neslin, Helena Piotrowski, Jean Sampson, Don Schein, Jane Somers, Junice Wusterbarth and Eugene Zola.

Our guest speaker, Ned Landon offered entertaining and insightful looks at ghost-writing. He drew attention to two items in the Personals column of the Daily Gazette. Three days later, two more appeared.

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**YA SUMMER COMPUTER PROGRAM**



The Friends-funded summer series for teens will focus on computer learning this July in a cooperative project with the Union College Science and Technology Entry Program for Schenectady middle school students. The SCPL Young Adult Dept. has invited Ellen Law, a computer science teacher at Duanesburg High School, to introduce software programs recently acquired from Mr. Don Rittner and American MENSA, Ltd. The Library has a new Macintosh computer as part of the Library literacy program, funded with a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Students use computers for homework and term papers and have used the Library's Apple computers for almost ten years. The MAC doesn't have a printer yet, but students have been saving their work on floppy disks to have printed elsewhere. Word processing software programs with graphics components can help them create illustrated papers.

Becoming computer literate will not only be fun, but will help them feel a sense of accomplishment. Sitting in on the series will be members of the local MENSA group, who will be available in the fall to help with the MAC. The YA series will be videotaped and added to our collection.

**MINI BOOK SALE**

The Friends held a mini book sale of paperbacks only on April 3rd, at the Mohawk Mall, realizing a profit of \$481.00. We had the help of a group of young people from the First United Methodist Church, under the leadership of Barbara Armstrong, as volunteers for the task of moving the boxes of books from the stacks to the tables in front of the Niskayuna Branch Library at the Mall. They deserve many thanks from the Friends. As usual, we had a dedicated group of volunteers from the Friends all during the day for selling and cashiering, and they get my sincere thanks also.

Pat Whitney



**FRIENDS PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

The Program Committee, with Wilma Bradt and Gene Zola as co-chairpersons, welcomes ideas and volunteers to assist in the planning and implementation of the 1993-94 library lecture series. We will continue our Monday Noon Programs throughout the fall, winter and spring as follows:

- Books-Sandwiched-In. Three series of book reviews of general interest.
- Literary Series. Two series by literary professionals discussing books recognized as classics.
- Table Talks. Two series about topics of local, national and international interest.
- Science Series. A distinguished series of programs concerned with science and/or the environment.

Since this entails over 30 programs, the committee needs assistance with subjects, presenters, even types of formats and new populations to reach. If you wish to be involved, call Gene Zola at 374-2596.

**GIFT TO NISKAYUNA**

The Niskayuna Branch has received a VCR as part of a very generous gift from Marie Christine DeLorenzo. The staff would like to express its sincere appreciation for this gift.

**NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS**

Millie Neslin wishes to thank her crew of workers for helping with the last Newsletter: Peg Fisher, Bill & Lois Isles, Elsie Maddaus, Dorothy Peterson, Helena Piotrowski, Owen Sutton, Bill & Mary White and Pat & Roger Whitney.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Alice Smith Duncan, Robert J. Fowler, Melissa S. Gordon, Caroline Kloss, Mrs. Mona Lapham, Louise Lincoln, Chase Mensing, Ralph A. Nocera, William & Meme Pittman, Peter S. Settle & Virginia McCoy, Gordon R. Smith and Mrs. Delores Witkowski.

**SEPT. NEWSLETTER** - Deadline for news will be Tues., Aug. 17, 1993.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

Tues., May 25, 1993 - 7:30 p.m.

**VOLUNTEER JOBS**

**Central - Circulation**

One or two people needed on Mondays and Thursdays from 3-4:00 to assist in magnetizing returned books.

People needed for shelf-reading and shelving books.

**Central - Children's Dept.**

People to shelf-read and to shelve books.

**TEEN VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

**Central and Branches**

Teen help wanted for shelving books and other clerical work.

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