

September 1993

Vol. XXIX No. 1

BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

This Fall Series of Monday Noon programs has been arranged by Lillian Stern and Robert Orr. These book reviews are sponsored by the Friends, and all are welcome to attend. So bring your lunch and purchase coffee.

Sept. 13 Shadow Government by Dr. Alan Axelrod
Reviewer: Robert L. Schulz

Dr. Axelrod of SUNY at Albany documents problems of "back-door spending" as it relates to "Government Authorities." Mr. Schulz is a native of Glens Falls, NY, and is an activist who personally has challenged N.Y.S. Legislators' practices.

Sept. 20 Operation Shylock, a Confession by Philip Roth
Reviewer: Peter Heinegg

In his new novel, Roth confronts his double, an imposter who wants to lead the Jews out of Israel to Europe. Mr. Heinegg, who teaches English at Union College, is a translator of theological books and has been a frequent reviewer for Friends' programs.

Sept. 27 English Patient by Michael Ondaatje
Reviewer: Jennifer Armstrong

This Canadian poet and novelist writes in a mosaic fashion about the lives of four occupants of an Italian villa near Florence at the end of World War II. Our reviewer is a ghost writer of dozens of books published by Bantam Books, writer of YA historical novels and young reader picture books.

Oct. 4 Heisenberg's War - The Secret History of the German Bomb
by Thomas Powers
Reviewer: Kenneth Schick

This is an account of a German scientist during World War II and allied efforts to determine the state of German physics at that time.

Kenneth Schick is Professor of Physics at Union College with special interest in "cosmology and relativity," the "foundations of quantum mechanics" and "extraterrestrial intelligence."

Oct. 18 The Real Anita Hill - The Untold Story by David Brock
Reviewer: Dr. Vivian Verdell Gordon

Dr. Gordon, professor in the African Studies Dept. at SUNY at Albany, has appeared on ABC's 20/20 and Nightwatch programs. She will examine the explicit documentation of facts about the Anita Hill - Clarence Thomas controversy which held Americans spellbound.

Oct. 25 Outerbridge Reach by Robert Stone
Reviewer: Marni Schwartz

This is a towering story of a man pitting himself against the sea, society and himself, written by a foremost novelist of his time. Marni Schwartz, freelance storyteller, is adjunct professor for the Education Dept. of Russell Sage College and the Corrections Program of the Junior College of Albany.



- Nov. 1 a. Oldest Dead White European Males by Bernard Knox
A defense of Greek culture against current scholarship.
- b. Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony by Robert Calasso
A fictional account of all Greek Mythology.
Reviewer of both books: Dr. Robert Donovan

Dr. Donovan, retired professor of the English Dept. at SUNY at Albany, has reviewed books for the Friends' programs in the past.

- Nov. 8 How Much is Enough? - The Consumer Society and the Future of the Earth by Alan Durning
Reviewer: Dr. Brad Lewis

Durning explains how the Psychology of consumerism "can redefine prosperity as poverty" making everyone under its influence feel cheated. Dr. Lewis, Professor of Economics at Union College, has written extensively on economics and has reviewed a number of books for the Books-Sandwiched-In programs.

IN MEMORIAM, CARL NIEMEYER

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library lost one of their most beloved members with the death of Dr. Carl A. Niemeyer, retired Union College Professor. He died July 3, 1993 at his home in Schenectady as a result of cancer which he had battled for a number of years.

Born in Quincy, Ill., Dr. Niemeyer was a 1927 graduate of the University of Kansas and earned a doctorate in English literature from Harvard University in 1933. After teaching at the University of Kansas and Grinnel College in Iowa, he served in Army Intelligence during World War II. He joined the faculty at Union College in 1946, becoming a full professor in 1954. He was teacher, linguist, lecturer, researcher, author and traveller as well as lover of arts, drama, theater, and opera.

In 1991 the Friends published a book of his poems, Poems at a Distance, which sold over 100 copies among his loyal friends. (Copies are still available from Frank Steiner, 399-7032.) For 25 years he was a frequent reviewer for Books-Sandwiched-In programs and presented many talks in the literature series. Dr. Niemeyer was a member of the American Association of University Professors, Phi Beta Kappa and the Modern Language Association of America.

Frank Steiner

CARL NIEMEYER MEMORIAL FUND

A memorial fund has been established by the Friends in memory of Professor Niemeyer. Contributions may be sent to Junice Wusterbarth, Treasurer of the Friends. Please make checks payable to the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, and indicate Niemeyer Memorial. The specific purposes of the Fund will be established later, but suggestions are welcome.

Walter Grattidge, President

SWORDS AND PLOUGHSHARES

On Sat., Oct. 16, at 11 a.m. in the McChesney Room, Mrs. Grace Thielpape will report on the 7th Annual Institute of the Children's Literature New England Group held in August at Harvard University. "Swords and Ploughshares" was the theme of the international gathering of authors, teachers, illustrators, publishers and librarians.

Mrs. Thielpape will discuss the books and ideas from the week-long conference, which focused on children's and YA books dealing with war and peace, conflict and reconciliation, in both contemporary and historical settings. Booklists will be available and everyone is welcome. Please call the Library if you plan to attend.

BOOK SALES

The Spring Book Sale was a success, taking in just over \$5,400, which is used for materials for the Branches to supplement the County budget.

A Mini-Book Sale held at Mohawk Mall on Aug. 21 brought in \$433.80 from the sale of paperbacks only. Special thanks to Marie Mercoglan, General Manager of the Mall, for her cooperation.

Now it's time to gear up for the FALL BOOK SALE, to be held Sat., Oct. 2 from 9 to 3:30. We have been receiving books, magazines and records all summer, but there is still time for more. Remember non-fiction, paperbacks and children's books are the best sellers. Please, books must be in good condition and NO Reader's Digest Condensed Books.

Sorting is continual and most important. If you can help with this, you may choose your own hours. Serious help is needed Fri. and Sat., Oct. 1 and 2, for moving materials and cashiering. If you can lend a hand or know someone who is interested, please call the library at 388-4500 or Pat Whitney at 374-2120. It will be much appreciated!

The Literacy Volunteers of America will have their usual Food Sale to make the day even better.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Summary of the year-end financial report, April 30, 1993, prepared by Junice Wusterbarth, Treasurer:

The Friends received membership contributions, gifts and memorials which with interest and other receipts totaled \$19,246.

We supported noon programs, children's programs at Central and the branches, Library Link which introduces disadvantaged children and their parents to the library world, library services at the jail, Young Adult and Library Week programs. Special gifts were Learning Toys, Oxford English Dictionary (CD), Encyclopedia of Adolescence, Adirondack Film Series, Colonial Festival, a VCR for Niskayuna branch and many more books and supplies.

A check from GE was received in June for \$7,195, matching gifts of GE employees and retirees.

A detailed report is posted on the Friends bulletin board at Central.

NOTE: Pat Whitney has a list of 40 people who have indicated eligibility for GE Matching Funds, but have not yet called the Foundation Matching Gifts Center, 1-800-462-8244. This represents a significant loss of income for the Friends.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

"Book Banquet," the Summer Reading Club, was a smashing success in the Children's Room and in all the branches. Attendance was up all over and wonderful stories, songs and crafts were enjoyed by all.

The following Fall Programs are provided by the Friends:

Children's Room

"Dancing with Wolves, Singing with Whales," with Elizabeth Shapiro
Sat., Sept. 18, 10 a.m. Ages 6-11 Registration required

"Marvelous Masks," a Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum Workshop
Sat., Oct. 16, 2:30 p.m. Ages 6-11 Registration required

Glenville Branch

"Caves of New York," with Emily Davis Mobley
Wed., Oct. 27, 3:45 p.m. Ages 6-11

BECOMING AMERICAN

A two-part series on "Becoming American" will be presented by local author Larry Rapant in the McChesney Room in October. Funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New York State Council on the Arts, these programs are sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Library Association and the Schenectady County Public Library.

The first program will be held Thurs., Oct. 7, at 7 p.m., and will be about the book The Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez by Richard Rodriguez. The son of working class Mexican immigrant parents, in a Spanish-speaking home, the author graduated from Stanford and Columbia Universities with graduate work at the Warburg Institute in London and the University of California at Berkeley. According to the publisher, "The heart of this author's argument is how to reconcile one's debt to one's people as it is defined by 'activists' with one's debt to oneself." Books will be available to read in preparation for the discussion.

On Thurs., October 14 at 7 p.m. the second program will be based on the video Mississippi Masala. Directed by Mira Nair, the film follows Indian refugees from Uganda and African-Americans who work with them in Mississippi, circa 1900. Extra videos will be available for borrowing before the program date; there will also be a library showing of the film at a date to be announced.

APPLICATION FOR COLLEGE

"How to Write the College Application Essay" will be discussed Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., in the McChesney Room, by Jeanne Jenkins, Asst. Dean of Admissions at RPI. Very popular with high school students, this program's date is very close to the deadline date for early admission decisions by many colleges.

NEW MEMBERS

The Friends welcome these new members: Elizabeth Abetti, James Baillie, George A. Broadwell, Thomas Collins, Chung Yeh Ho, Arthur G. Decker, Mr. & Mrs. William Isles, Bruce & Dot Macdonald, Ellen M. Miakisz, Ralph & Eleanor Miranda, Marjorie Molnar, Mrs. Althea R. Nelson, Marianne Pashler, Teresa Roben, Franklin & Joan Scheib, Ray Subha, Mary Linda Todd and Barbara Wylie.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn in charge of circulation, sent out about 900 newsletters in May with the help of these loyal volunteers: Laurie Brooks, Peg Fisher, Bill & Lois Isles, Helena Piotrowski, and Bill & Mary White. Help is always welcome. Call Millie, 399-1502.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

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| Membership | Patricia Whitney |
| | 1117 Earl Ave. |
| | Sch'dy, NY 12309 |
| | Tel. 374-2120 |

NEXT BOARD MEETING

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

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Corner of Liberty and Clinton Streets
Schenectady, New York 12305

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NOVEMBER 1992

VOL. XXIX NO. 2

FALL BOOK SALE

Almost \$5,500.00 -- that's the amount taken in to make this the second most successful book sale ever. As always, this was due to the combined efforts of a great number of volunteers who spent so much time in weekly sorting of donated materials, distributing posters, setting up, cashiering, selling and cleaning up afterward. Over 150 people worked to sell 856 boxes of books, magazines and records.

Pat Whitney, Chairman, wishes to thank each and every Friend who gave of their time and effort so enthusiastically to make this such a successful sale. Special thanks to all who donated items. The Friends would like to extend a very special thank you to Pat for coordinating this immense project. As you know, the proceeds are used for new books for the Branches.

LIBRARY SERVICE TO JAIL INMATES

The Friends provide library service to inmates at the Schenectady County Jail on a weekly basis. Volunteers are needed. It would involve 2 hours on a Wednesday morning, probably only once a month. If you are interested in lending a hand, please call Jean Sampson (393-3093).

MONDAY NOON PROGRAMS

The Friends of the Library plan and present the very popular Monday Noon Programs, held in the McChesney Room at the Main Library. You are invited to bring your sandwich. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are available.

The Books-Sandwiched-In (BSI) Fall series has just ended. Next week the Fall Literary series begins, to be followed by Fall/Winter Table Talks. Next year begins with BSI Winter series, followed by Science series, Spring Literary series, Table Talks, and ending with the Spring BSI series.

FALL LITERARY SERIES

Charles Trainor, Associate Professor in the English Department at Siena College will be the speaker at these Monday noon programs. Robert Orr is the coordinator.

Nov. 16 "The Literary Heritage of the Capital District."

The list of writers who have lived and worked in the Capital District reads like a Who's Who of American fiction and includes such luminaries as Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, and Herman Melville. The area's literary heritage continues unabated to this day: Kurt Vonnegut began his writing career here; William Kennedy's Albany novels have won national acclaim.

Nov. 23 "Shakespeare: The Man and His World."

This talk offers a look at Shakespeare's life and the lively times of which he was a part. It focuses on the known biographical facts and on the London theatrical world in which he moved and flourished.

TABLE TALKS

Nov. 30 "Why do Americans hate politics - or do they? The 1992 Campaign."

Speaker: Dr. Joseph Board, Robert Porter Patterson Professor of Government at Union College.

An explanation of the 1992 political campaign with special emphasis on the reasons why Americans have become disaffected by politics in recent years. Is the situation changing?

Dec. 7 "Cleaning up the mess. Strategy for implementing the Superfund."

Speaker: Dr. Robert T. Nakamura, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs, Rockefeller College, University at Albany.

Superfund is the single most expensive program in world history. How are we doing? What are we doing? How might it be better?

Dec. 14 "Do we have dictatorship in the work place? Worker cooperative, an example of workplace democracy."

Speaker: Professor Richard Shirey, Professor of Economics and head of the Economics College, Siena College.

The Employee Ownership Project of the Albany Region is a non-profit technical assistance center. It creates and supports employee owned and employee managed firms. How does this project operate in the U.S. and around the world?

These Monday noon Table Talks have been coordinated by Gene Zola and Mildred Maras of the Friends.

ADIRONDACK CENTENNIAL SERIES

Sat., Nov. 7 - 2:00 p.m.

Naturalist Dean Davis will present a live wildlife demonstration about "Reptiles and Amphibians of the Adirondacks."

Tues., Nov. 17 - 7:30 p.m.

Maryde King will give a slide program about "Rare and Interesting Wild Flowers of the Adirondacks."

Mon., Nov. 30 - 7:00 p.m.

Local guidebook author Bruce Wadsworth will talk about "Hiking and Camping in the Adirondacks Over the Past 100 Years."

Ken Wagner, who arranged this series, would like to thank the Friends for their financial support as well as for their ideas and assistance in securing additional funding for these programs.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Sat., Nov. 14 - 3:00 p.m. - Children's Room

Come and meet Karen Beil, local author, whose newly published Grandma, According to Me will be available for sale and autographs. This program is in honor of National Children's Book Week, Nov. 16 - 22.

Thurs., Nov. 19 - 3:30 p.m. - Woodlawn

Dorothy Mancini will be on hand to help celebrate Children's Book Week for children ages 6-11 from both Woodlawn and Niskayuna.

THINK APPLESAUCE

Don't forget to bring in those Mott's proof-of purchase labels from apple products. Each label is worth 25¢ towards the purchase of new children's books. This national campaign by Motts, USA ends Nov. 30, 1992. Remember apple juice, apple sauce and apple fruit snacks.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership to date this year is 935, including 62 newcomers.

Towards the end of November we shall send out reminders to those who have not renewed this year. Our membership year is May 1 - April 30 and renewals should be made shortly after the first of May. Please check your records and send in your renewal if you have not done so. Thank you.

FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Author Daniel Hayes will speak on "Writing a Novel" to young people ages 11 and up, on Thurs., Nov. 12 at 4 p.m. in the McChesney Room. His first novel, The Trouble with Lemons, was selected as one of the "Best YA Books of 1991" by the American Library Association. The program by Mr. Hayes, who teaches English at Troy High School, is sponsored by the Friends. And the book is now out in paperback.

GE MATCHING FUNDS

Our anticipated income from G.E. Matching Funds is approaching \$4,000, but only if you notify G.E. that you have made a contribution. Please call them if you have not done so. Foundation Matching Gifts Center, 1-800-462-8244, to make us eligible.

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Mildred Neslin, Newsletter Circulation Chairman, and Rudy Dehn, Co-chairman, coordinate the collating and mailing of the Friends' Newsletter, assisted by many volunteers. Our thanks to the following who helped in September: Annette Billmeyer, Laurie Brooks, Ken and Cora Cromme, Bill and Lois Isles, Florence Scheels, Frank Steiner and Owen Sutton.

If you would like to help with this project, please call Millie at 399-1502. The next issue will be mailed the last week of December.



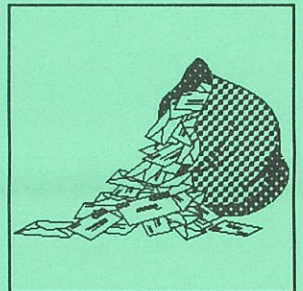
HELP!

The U.S. Postal Service is VERY UNFORGIVING when you don't inform this Newsletter of your change of address, even a temporary one. Here's what happens:

Your copy of the Newsletter doesn't get delivered to your new address. Instead, the Post Office returns it to us, with your new address noted, and charges us 35 cents for each item returned.

Now this creates a lot of paperwork, and expense, and you don't even have a Newsletter to show for it! Seriously, for those who migrate south for the winter and return to the cooler climate for the summer, LET US KNOW AHEAD OF TIME! Drop us a post card with the change of address - the Postal Service will supply you with them, and you will receive the Newsletter you are looking forward to.

A phone call will do just as well. Call Pat Whitney at 374-2120.



WARM WELCOME TO NEW FRIENDS

Betty Bennis
 Mr. & Mrs. Boulden
 Mrs. Mary Cain
 Doris C. Downes
 Hilary-Anne Holiday
 Leah Leonard
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Lowe, III
 Michael E. Montgomery
 Julia H. Norton
 Mary B. Phelps
 Hannah S. Powell
 John & Claire Purdy
 Enrique Ramé
 Mr. & Mrs. Jackson L. Reynolds
 Robert J. Tipple
 Mrs. Loretta Tys

K. Scott Kilbourn and Diane C. Bengtson-Kilbourn were listed incorrectly in the September Newsletter. We regret the error.

MEMORIAL FUND

Many contributions have been received in memory of Mrs. Audrey Weidler, a very active member of the Friends of the Library, who passed away in August. The memorial fund is being used to purchase books on gardening and related topics.

NEEDED AT NISKAYUNA

If you have a TV or VCR which you are replacing, please consider donating to the Niskayuna Branch for use in children's programming.

Next Friends Board Meeting
 Tuesday, January 26, 1993

FRIENDS OF SCPL

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LITERARY SERIES

These Monday Noon programs have been arranged by Cathy Buckwalter and Kathy Ylvisaker. The book reviews are sponsored by the Friends and all are invited to come and bring a lunch to the McChesney Room at Central.

Nov. 15 Free Speech for Me, But Not for Thee by Nat Hentoff

X Reviewer: Francis H. Anderson, Professor Emeritus of Law,
Albany Law School

This book is a startling report about people from the left and the right who chip away at free speech. Hentoff, long associated with the Village Voice of New York City, insists that the best way to defend free speech is to uphold the general rule for it. He has earned solid respect by consistently opposing all infringements on free speech.

Nov. 22 Kindly Inquisitors by Jonathan Rauch

Reviewer: Dr. Thomas O. Kelly, Professor of History and American Studies at Siena College

"Kindly Inquisitors" are the antique bigotry anti-hate speech advocates who have recently begun to call for rules and regulations outlining verbal harassment and restricting the spread of words and ideas.

TABLE TALK SERIES

Also held Mondays at Noon, these programs have been coordinated by Mildred Maras, chairperson, assisted by Wilma Bradt, Bernadine Herskin and Louis Stern.

Nov. 29 The National Health Program

Speaker: Dr. Martin Strosberg, Director of Health Systems Administration Program at Union College

Dec. 6 The New York State Constitution - The Process of Amendment and Change

Speaker: Assemblyman Paul Tonko, of the 105th District (Montgomery County and parts of Schenectady County)

Dec. 13 Youth and Violence

X Speaker: Grace Thielpape, teacher and reviewer of young adult fiction, who attended the Children's Literature New England Conference held in August at Harvard University, on the theme "Swords and Ploughshares". She will discuss the book, Deadly Consequences: How Violence is Destroying Our Teenage Population and a Plan to Begin Solving the Problem, by Deborah Prothrow-Stith with Michael Weissman.

LIBRARY PIANO FUND - A Progress Report

Last Spring the Board of the Friends, at the request of local musical groups, authorized the establishment of the Library Piano Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to raise \$35,000 in order to obtain a replacement piano for the instrument currently in the McChesney Room at Central.

The response has been highly gratifying. The total reached to-date is over \$27,000, or three-quarters of the goal. Friends, other members of the public, musical groups and students have contributed over \$13,500, the GE Foundation has certified over \$8,500 in matching gifts, and recently, the Schenectady Foundation has made a grant of \$5,000.

The committee thanks all who have contributed to this significant project and invites others to help us reach our goal. The installation of a new instrument early next year would be a wonderful send-off for the Library's Centenary.

Marianne Pashler & Walter Grattidge
Co-Chairpersons, Library Piano Fund

OPEN POETRY READINGS

The Library will present two Open Poetry Readings, hosted by local published poet, Larry Rapant. They will be held Mon., Nov. 1, at 7 p.m., and Thurs., Nov. 4, at 12 Noon, in the McChesney Room. All local poets and lovers of poetry are invited to come, listen, read and be a part of the rebirth of poetry in Schenectady.

THE POET AS SOCIAL BAROMETER

The Schenectady County Public Library has been selected as one of ten libraries in eastern New York to host "Poets-in-Person, New York," a reading, listening and discussion program series on modern American poetry.

The series will examine trends in American poetry since World War II and look at the ways in which the work of six leading poets reflects the rapid change in our society. Each session will include a lecture/discussion on the featured poets with Larry Rapant, community scholar, serving as leader.

Held on consecutive Tuesdays at 12 Noon in the McChesney Room, the featured poets are:

- Nov. 9 - W.S. Merwin - "Unchopping a Tree". His spare and odd-looking poems, offer us insights into our mishandling of relationships with nature and the environment.
- Nov. 16 - Gary Soto and Rita Dove - "Alternative Voices". Writing out of their Hispanic and Black heritages, they exemplify the increased diversity and sensitivity of American poetry today.
- Nov. 23 - Sharon Olds and Adrienne Rich - "From the Women's Point of View". Provide us with a variety of female perspectives on conjugal relations, families, child-rearing and feminism.
- Nov. 30 - Allen Ginsberg - "And The Beat Goes On". One of the prime movers of "The Beat Generation," who were instrumental in the thrust toward greater spontaneity and directness in contemporary poetry, offers us his straight talking or automatic hymns to social experiments of all kinds.

A set of half-hour audio tapes of the poets discussing and reading from their works is available for checkout at the library. Funding in part is being provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

JAIL LIBRARY NEWS

Maryde King recently agreed to take the major responsibility for the library at the Schenectady County Jail. She has been doing the scheduling, and has been maintaining good relations with Jail officials. Jean Sampson continues to help along with other members of the committee: Al Briggs, Kay Dixon, Florence Tobiessen and Agnes and Roland Peteler.

Books have been moved to the new jail facility. There are some problems with shelving and the library area will be changed. However, we are being allowed inside weekly now, and believe the long-term outlook for library service is good.

Jean Sampson

VOLUNTEERING IN NURSING HOMES

Someone is needed to take over for Kathy Fitzmaurice who has been selecting and delivering books to three people at Silver Haven Nursing Home. She has been going on a regular schedule of about twice a month.

Also, the Geriatric Center at Ellis Hospital is interested in having a volunteer to select and take books around to people there. They are impressed by Elsie Maddaus' work at Baptist Retirement Center and feel there are ten to twelve people at the Ellis Center who would like to receive books regularly. They would transport the books between the library and the hospital.

Please call Phyllis Bornt at 388-4500 if this is something you could do.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The Children's Department is enjoying the use of the "Button Machine" purchased with funds from the Friends. Many volunteers at the Fall Book Sale were sporting "BE A FRIEND" buttons.

The following programs are all sponsored by the Friends:

CHILDREN'S ROOM - Sat., Nov. 20, 2:30 p.m., ages 6-11

"Meet the Author" - Jennifer Armstrong, who has written the critically acclaimed Steal Away, Hugh Can Do, and Chin Yu Min and the Ginger Cat.

SCOTIA - Wed., Nov. 10, 3:45 p.m., ages 6-12

"Build It" - Lego workshop with Barbara Bennett.

GLENVILLE - Wed. Nov. 10 and Wed., Nov. 17, 3:45 p.m., ages 6-9.

"Hands around the Library: Quilt Making for 6-9 year olds," with Bernadine Syzdek.

DUANE - Tues., Nov. 16, 3:30 p.m., ages 6-11.

"Celebrate Children's Book Week" with storyteller Mary Murphy.

NISKAYUNA - Wed., Nov. 17, 3:30 p.m., ages 5-11

"Celebrate Children's Book Week" with storyteller Nancy Gifford.

WOODLAWN - Thurs., Nov. 18, 3:45 p.m., ages 5-11

"Celebrate Children's Book Week" with storyteller Nancy Gifford.

WOODLAWN - Thurs., Dec. 9, 3:45 p.m., ages 5-11.

"Beads Galore" with Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum. Create a sculpture with beads or make jewelry. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

BOOK SALE

We had a very successful Fall Book Sale on October 2. Our receipts were \$5,154.71, bringing our total for the year to \$11,501.00 and the total since the sales started in 1973 to \$145,000. That is something to be very proud of.

As always, if we did not have a dedicated staff of volunteers, it would be impossible to achieve these figures. This year's sale included 1,170 boxes of books, magazines and records. There were 11 sorters throughout the year and 127 workers Friday and Saturday. We thank all who helped in any way, and Vera Chase for donating a card table to the cause.

Our next sale is scheduled for May 7, 1994. In the meantime we plan to hold another mini-sale of paperbacks only, so keep an eye out for announcements.

Pat Whitney

STAFF COFFEE

On September 30 the Friends of the Library honored the staff of the Library and its Branches with a Coffee Hour. The event was well-attended with delicious food attractively presented. Eleanor Friedman and Roberta Berk were co-chairmen and wish to thank everyone who helped.

Dear Friends of the Library,

On behalf of the Library Staff, both at Central and the Branches, I would like to thank you for the wonderful coffee hour you presented at the library September 30th. It is always gratifying when an organization, as dedicated to the Library as the Friends, expresses its appreciation of the service the library staff provides. Thank you for all your time and effort in planning, organizing and preparing this coffee hour.

*Sincerely,
Ken Wagner, A/V Dept. SCPL*

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Anne Maciariello is a gem of a volunteer. She started volunteering for the Children's Department in July 1992 doing varied tasks including clerical work, shelving and anything else requested of her by Jane Holzherr, Donna Grossman or Serena Butch.

In 1993 upon reading in the Newsletter that someone was needed to review Young Adult books, she immediately answered the call by offering her services. She was now working on two volunteer jobs: one, reading and reviewing YA books for YA librarian Jo Adams, while continuing her work in the Children's Room.

For the past eight months Anne's husband's job required extensive travel and she chose to accompany him. She felt badly about having to stop all work at the library but could continue to review books while on the road. Her career was with computers, so she would use her skills to produce beautifully arranged reports for twelve to fifteen books each month. Anne's travelling schedule has slowed down and we are please to have her back. She is a very quiet, pleasant, diligent and efficient person and is a pleasure to work with. She has taken on more volunteer responsibilities and the staff with whom she works are eternally grateful and appreciative for the countless hours and great work that she performs. As Coordinator of Volunteers, I want to add my own heartfelt thanks and wish that Anne Maciariello could be cloned.

Roberta D. Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Central - People are needed to help organize and rearrange the periodical collection.

S.O.S. for people to help garden to make the grounds more attractive.

All Branches - People are needed for clerical work, shelving books and shelf readers.

Training and supervision are provided. Please call Roberta Berk at 388-4521 or 388-4500.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Millie Neslin and Rudy Dehn, in charge of Newsletter circulation, were assisted in September by: Annette Bilmeyer, Ruth Dailey, Bill & Lois Isles, Elsie Maddaus, Helena Piotrowski, Florence Shields, Frank Steiner and Owen Sutton. Many thanks. Next time the mailing will be quite close to Christmas so if you can help then, call Millie at 399-1502.

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

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to: Jennie M. Cummings, Jean Feustel, Teri Harrison & Tim Stephen, Louis F. Liburdi, Gilbert Wesley Purdy and Martha V. Sauve.

BOARD MEETING DATES

Tues., Jan. 25, 1994, 7:30 p.m.
Tues., Mar. 22, 1994, 7:30 p.m.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| President | Walter Grattidge |
| Co-1st Vice Pres. | Wilma Bradt |
| Co-1st Vice Pres. | Eugene Zola |
| 2nd Vice Pres. | Marie C. DeLorenzo |
| Secretary | Betty Wemple |
| Treasurer | Junice Wusterbarth |
| Newsletter Ed. | Dorothy Brandon |
| Newsletter Cir. | Mildred Neslin |
| | Rudy Dehn |
| Membership | Patricia Whitney |
| | 1117 Earl Ave. |
| | Sch'dy, NY 12309 |
| | Tel. 374-2120 |

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2812 Rosendale Road
Schenectady NY 12309

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Schenectady Library will celebrate its Centennial Year during 1994. The Board of the Friends have joined with the Board of Trustees and the Staff of the library to draw up and provide a series of programs and activities to be held throughout the year. These will both remind us of our heritage and sustain our present communal cultural life. We hope all our members will join in the wide range of activities planned.

Our ancestors founded and supported an important civic institution. It is our fortune to have inherited the results of their good works. However, it is now our responsibility to ensure its continuation and pass on a vital organization for future generations.

Walter Grattidge, Friends President

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Throughout 1994 the Library will be celebrating its Centennial Anniversary. Many activities are being planned in commemoration of this special event. A Steering Committee comprised of Friends of the Library, trustees, staff and citizens has been established.

Some of the activities being planned include the celebration on January 9 of the return of Sunday hours at the central library, the dedication of the new piano for the McChesney Room, lectures by local authors, a Library Fair Day on Saturday, June 4 and a birthday party in November or December commemorating the actual establishment of the Library and receipt of its charter from the Regents of the State of New York. There will also be a commemorative postal stamp cancellation on the officially designated centennial anniversary date. More information will follow in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.

Ronald L. Lagasse, Director, SCPL

SUNDAY HOURS AT THE LIBRARY

The Central Library will be open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m. beginning Jan. 9.

On this first Sunday opening, the Friends of the Library and the Library Trustees will host a reception for the public as a way of expressing appreciation to the County Manager, the County Legislature and the citizens of Schenectady County for making the restoration of Sunday hours a reality.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the McChesney Room, slides on the library will be shown and musical entertainment will be provided. Come join us in this inaugural event ushering in the Centennial Anniversary of the Library.

Ronald L. Lagasse, Director, SCPL

TULIPS IN THE SPRING

Thanks to a cooperative effort between the staff and the Friends of the Library, we can all look forward to a burst of color in the Spring. Jo Adams, Annette Billmeyer, Mary Dunham, Walter Grattidge and Frank Steiner worked very hard to plant 318 tulip and grape hyacinth bulbs that were purchased with a donation from the Friends. We are very appreciative of the Friends' generosity as well as the great effort it took to do all the planting. This is an exciting start to what we all hope will be an ongoing effort to improve the landscaping at the Central Library.

Antonia Rader, Reference Librarian

GREAT DECISIONS - 1994

The 1994 Great Decisions Series will begin Tuesday, February 1, and continue for eight Tuesdays. Meetings will be held in the McChesney Room at the Central Library. Morning sessions will meet 10:00-11:30 a.m. and evening sessions will be held 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The discussions are free and open to the public.

A briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association will be on sale in January. Flyers with complete information will be available at the library. For further information please call Erma Ruth Chestnut at 346-0552.

Topics will include: Conflict in Yugoslavia: Quest for Solutions; South Africa: Forging a Democratic Union; Ex-Soviet Bloc's Environmental Crisis: Whose Problem? Who Pays?; Trade with the Pacific Rim: Pressure or Cooperation; Defense: Redefining U.S. Needs and Priorities; Argentina, Brazil, Chile: Democracy and Market Economics; Islam and Politics: Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia; New World Disorder: U.S. in Search of a Role.

PAPERBACK BOOK SALE

The Friends held a mini book sale on Sat., Dec. 11, at Mohawk Mall, selling paperback fiction and childrens' easy reader and picture books. Our profit for the sale was \$273.00. That means over 1,000 books were sold!

We thank Marie Mercoglan, General Manager of the Mall, for giving us permission to hold the sale in front of the Niskayuna Branch Library, and for all her cooperation in the details of setting up.

Our volunteers took time off from their busy holiday schedules to act as cashiers and floaters. They, and chairman Pat Whitney, deserve sincere thanks.

POETRY SERIES

The recent four-part series on modern American Poetry, which was held in the McChesney Room, was most successful. As a lead-in to the programs the library sponsored an afternoon and an evening session of open poetry readings where area poets and writers read from their works.

Attendance at the poetry readings and at the four lectures, which dealt with various leading contemporary poets, totaled over 170 - a response which was beyond the library's highest expectations.

A major factor in the success of the series was Larry Rapant, community scholar and poet, who did an outstanding job of analyzing the poetry and facilitating the wonderful group discussions. Appreciation must also be given to the National Endowment for the Humanities who provided financial assistance. We are grateful to the Friends of the Library for being instrumental in obtaining grant approval from the NEH and for providing funds for video taping the series. We are also thankful to the Friends for being the "core" audience of those who attended.

Timothy McGowan, Head of Reference & Adult Services

Those who may be interested in a similar poetry series are invited to a program, "Real Poetry for Real People" to be held at the Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery on three Tuesdays in March - March 8, 15, and 22, at 1 p.m. For details call the Library at 673-2314.

The programs will be presented by the award-winning writer, poet and humanist scholar Diane Gallo and will feature works of the following poets: W.S. Merwin, Maxine Kumin, Sharon Olds, Allen Ginsburg, Gwendolyn Brooks, Gary Soto and Rita Dove.

IN MEMORIAM

Many of you knew Miss Ruth Adams from the Children's Department of the Schenectady County Public Library. Perhaps you did not hear of her sudden death on September 21, 1993, in Blue Hill, Maine, shortly after her 81st birthday. Miss Adams came to Schenectady in 1945 and devoted her career to the development and promotion of childrens' library services. The Childrens' Room treasures her outstanding collection of eggs which is on display there each spring.

BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

Start the New Year right with the Jan.-Feb. series of Monday Noon Book Reviews, held in the Library's McChesney Room, and arranged by Cathy Buckwalter and Frank Steiner. Come with a sandwich and take advantage of hot chocolate, as well as coffee or tea.

Jan. 3 The Call of the Toad by Gunter Grass

Reviewer: Frank Steiner

The author of the famous novel, The Tin Drum, has returned to his native city of Danzig (Gdansk) to write a poignant, irreverent book about two people who find adventure in love and business. Mr. Steiner, a retired GE engineer and former lecturer in German at SUNYA, has reviewed a number of books for the Friends' programs.

Jan. 10 Drawn to Trouble: Confessions of a Master Forger by Eric Hebborn

Reviewer: Amy Blumberg-Goldbas

These are memoirs of a real-life master forger describing his roller coaster career with the art establishment and questioning our standards of what makes a work of art valuable. Mrs. Goldbas is Art Class Program Coordinator at the Albany Institute of History and Art. She is also a program consultant for the NYS Council on the Arts and has had a lifelong love affair with art.

Jan. 24 Truman by David McCullough

Reviewer: Joseph Board

This recent biography of Truman is considered to be one of the best examinations of the life of the former president. Our reviewer is Professor of Political Science at Union College and also teaches law courses at Albany Law School. He has been a frequent reviewer at Friends' programs.

Jan. 31 The Rest of Life by Mary Gordon

Reviewer: Dr. Constance Ostrowski

The author presents three novellas, each portraying a strong, interesting and admirable woman who has been deeply damaged by her dependence on a man. Dr. Ostrowski, Schenectady County Community College, obtained her doctorate in communications and rhetoric with a thesis on metaphor, and is particularly interested in the feminist approach to literature and language.

Feb. 7 The Diary of H.L. Mencken, edited by Charles Fecher

Reviewer: Dan Lynch

Mencken's Diary is a full-blooded, well-rounded and even shocking document that is franker than his other published writings. Mr. Lynch is a Times-Union columnist, journalist and author. His new book, Yellow, has just been published.

Feb. 14 Rameau's Niece by Cathleen Schine

Reviewer: Randall Craig

In her third novel, Cathleen Schine writes a witty story about a woman historian, married to a Columbia University professor of English. She is translating an 18th Century French manuscript and this work leads to comic, erotic adventures. Randall Craig is Professor of English at SUNYA and a frequent speaker at our programs.

Feb. 28 The Foundation of Age by Betty Friedan

Reviewer: Dr. Rudy Nydegger

The author of The Feminine Mystique explodes the myths of aging, just as 30 years ago she exploded the mirage of the contented housewife. Dr. Nydegger, Professor of Psychology at Union College, has previously given a "Table Talks" presentation on aging.

MARCH IS FOR SCIENCE

Because the March Science Series will start before the next Newsletter is mailed, we want you to know of the first program, arranged by H.M. Strong and W. Grattidge.

Mar. 7 "PCB's and the Hudson River"

Speaker: Dan A. Abramowicz, Manager, Environmental Laboratory, GE CR&D
Natural PCB degradation in the Hudson River results in dramatic improvements.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The following programs for children are all sponsored by the Friends. They include some from a series of career-related programs for 6-11 year olds at the Central Library.

CHILDREN'S ROOM - Sat., Feb. 19 - 2:30 p.m. Illustrator Thor Wickstrom
 Sat., Feb. 26 - 2:30 p.m. Musician Terri Roben
 Sat., Mar. 5 - 2:30 p.m. Scotia/Glenville Children's
 Museum-"Reel Fun"
 REGISTRATION REQUIRED

HAMILTON HILL - Tues., Jan. 18 - 4:00 p.m. Singer Paul Strausman
 Tues., Feb. 15 - 4:00 p.m. Stories for Black History Month
 with Gloria Jean Mosley

MONT PLEASANT Wed., Jan. 19 - 3:30 p.m. Singer Paul Strausman

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Friends are pleased to welcome these new members: Doris Downs, Glenda Firreno, John Hawley, Kay Kaiser, Mr. & Mrs. R. H. McMahan, Vincent Miller and Susan Wolcott.

Our membership to date stands at 1,046 renewals and 43 new members since May 1. Pat Whitney would like to remind you gently to check and see that you have sent in your renewal for the year. Also, anyone eligible for matching gifts (GE, Power Technologies, Inc., Martin Marietta, IBM, New York Telephone) should be sure that they have notified their company.

NURSING HOME VOLUNTEERS

Phyllis Bornt's plea for a volunteer to take books to Ellis Hospital's Skilled Nursing Center, which was in the last Newsletter, produced results. A Friend will begin this service in January. A volunteer is still needed to visit three people at Silver Haven who would like to receive books twice a month.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn, in charge of circulation, wish to thank these volunteers who sent out the Nov. Newsletter: Annette Billmeyer, Laurie Brooks, Bill & Lois Isles, Helena Piotrowski, Florence Shields, Frank Steiner, and Bill & Marietta White.

BOARD MEETING DATES

Tues., Jan. 25, 1994, 7:30 p.m.
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MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

For many years now, the Schenectady Library and its Branches have used volunteers from the community to assist the staff and provide a level of service not possible without such assistance. For example, in 1993 an average of 127 citizen volunteers gave an average of 1,323 hours each month to library services at Central and among the branches. This is the equivalent of 8 additional staff members and the equivalent of some \$160,000 in annual salaries, were it to have been reimbursed. This does not include contributions of volunteers to special projects, such as Branch openings and Book Sales, or include LOJ assigned personnel to library activities.

Friends of course play a large part in manning the volunteer slots and providing invaluable support to the regular staff. All users of the library throughout the County need to acknowledge this valuable civic contribution. Thank you to all who volunteer.

However, such a high level of volunteer participation cannot occur without organization and coordination. For the past 12 years this has been in the capable hands of Roberta Berk. Roberta has recently left the part-time position of Coordinator of Volunteers and on behalf of the Friends and the Community, I want to acknowledge her hard work, her pleasant personality, and especially her perseverance in developing and maintaining this significant library asset. Thank you, Roberta, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. (Thankfully, Roberta will continue as a member of the Board of the Friends). The library is currently seeking a replacement for the Coordinator position.

PIANO REPORT

The campaign for funds to obtain a new piano for the McChesney Room is sufficiently far along towards its goal that a replacement instrument, a Steinway Model B Grand Piano, has been selected and negotiations completed for its acquisition. It will be dedicated and formally conveyed to the Trustees of the Library at a Ceremony and Concert on Sunday afternoon, March 20, at 2:30 p.m.

At the time of writing we are close to 90% of the goal of \$35,000. Contributions to help us wrap up the campaign are still encouraged. Special thanks to all who have subscribed, and to the Schenectady Foundation for a grant, and to the GE Foundation for matching funds. Special acknowledgements are in order to all who assisted in organizing the campaign, raising the funds and selecting the chosen piano.

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL

1994 is the Centennial Year of the Schenectady County Public Library. A series of events at both Central and the Branches are being organized. At Central, a series of special programs, usually one a month on Sunday afternoons will be held. On March 20 the dedication of the new piano will take place. On April 17 there will be an observance of a Victorian Sunday. On May 15 Larry Hart, County Historian, will speak.

On Saturday, June 4, watch for Library Fair Day. This will be an indoor-outdoor community-wide event with music, food, community organization booths, clowns, balloons and attractions for the entire family. A special attraction will be the auctioning of "Theme Baskets," contributed by various community organizations, businesses and individuals. All proceeds from this project will be used for new books and materials at Central and the Branches.

Further details on these programs will be found in this Newsletter and in library flyers. All are invited and urged to attend and help the Library as it looks forward to its Second Century.

SCIENCE ROUND THE TABLE

Walter Grattidge and Herb Strong have organized the March Science Series to be held Mondays at 12 noon in the McChesney Room. Bring your lunch; coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be available.

- Mar. 7 "PCB's and the Hudson River"**
Speaker: Dan A. Abramowicz, Manager, Environmental Laboratory, GE CR & D
 Natural PCB degradation in the Hudson River results in dramatic improvements.
- Mar. 14 "Image Guide Therapy - 3D Surgical Planning"**
Speaker: Harvey Cline, Physicist, GE CR&D
 Computer graphics provide support for the surgeon.
- Mar. 21 "Great Extinctions in Earth's History"**
Speaker: Robert N. Hall, Retired Physicist, GE CR&D
 A dozen times in the geological past, violent events extinguished most life on earth. What caused these catastrophes and might we expect another?
- Mar. 28 "The Internet, the Library and You"**
Speaker: Professor Leo Geoffrion, Head, Computer Center, Skidmore College, and Robert Sullivan, Reference Librarian, SCPL
 An introduction to the Information Highway and the Library's part in it.
-

SPRING LITERARY SERIES - MONDAYS AT NOON

Gioia Ottaviano has arranged for two programs to be presented by Dan Di Nicola, Features Reporter for WRGB NewsCenter 6 and Columnist for Gazette Newspapers.

April 4 War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy
 Published in the late 1860's, this great work of Russian fiction covers the era of the Napoleonic Wars and its far-reaching effects on the country and the people. Reacquaint yourself with this epic as Mr. Di Nicola opens a 1994 approach to a literary classic.

April 11 Up in the Old Hotel by Joseph Mitchell
 This collection of "Profiles" and "Reporter-at-Large" pieces from the New Yorker magazine of several decades ago describes the off-beat citizens of the Big City as they move through their daily lives seeking the meaning of it all. The 1992 edition of Mitchell's work brings together out-of-print material for today's reader.

SPRING TABLE TALKS

Programs for the Spring Series of Table Talks will be announced soon. Watch for newspaper publicity and library flyers. Dates will be Mondays at noon: April 18, April 25 and May 2.

SPRING BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

This series will be held May 9, 16, 23, June 6 and 13. Details will be in the next Newsletter.

FRIENDS PROGRAMS ON CHANNEL 11

The Monday noon programs are videotaped and are aired on Channel 11 on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. of the same week.

FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Bright new cushions adorn the Central Story Hour Room, thanks to a generous gift from the Friends. Replacing well-worn 25-year old cushions, these handmade wool squares were imported from Turkey and purchased in New York City.

The children were surprised by the new look at first, but soon found the colorful pillows comfortable and plump. The many designs and colors complement the story room perfectly. Thanks to the Friends, our Centennial year began with a most welcome gift to the Children's Room.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The theme for National Library Week, April 17-23, is the same as the Library's Centennial theme, "Looking Forward to the Next 100 Years."

- The celebration starts Sunday, April 17, with a re-creation of a Victorian Sunday Afternoon, reminiscent of the era in which the library was founded. The day will include a Victorian fashion show, a demonstration of vintage dancing, high tea at 4 o'clock, and Victorian crafts, music and readings throughout the afternoon. We need help baking for the tea; and volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Contact Elsie Maddaus or Toni Rader if you are willing to bake or if you have any ideas for displays, period artifacts, interest in planning events or helping out where needed.
- The National Library Week tradition of the Wednesday Evening Read-Aloud will continue. People from the community will select and read their favorites.
- Larry Rapant, a local poet, will present a program of poetry reading.
- Adult Reference Librarian Bob Sullivan will offer a program for the public on Internet. This is a new electronic network which connects us all with data and information worldwide.
- During the week Central and the Branches will be promoting a Registration Derby for the library to encourage new users.
- Dean Davis will be at the library during the week with many of his exotic animals.
- The final Sunday, April 24, will find the Children's Room hosting a Centennial Birthday Party, concluding a county-wide Creative Writing Contest for the children.

There are other programs being planned that are still in the tentative stages. Please watch for National Library Week publicity for the full schedule. We hope everyone will participate and enjoy the many fine activities planned.

Toni Rader, for the Committee

JUNE 4, 1994 - FAIR DAY,

LIBRARY CENTENNIAL

The main event of the Library Centennial Fair Day will be the auction of Theme Baskets.

These baskets will be provided by local groups and businesses. Each basket will feature various items, all related to a central theme, based on a book or tape.

If your group or organization needs help in choosing a theme or a book title, the following local book stores will be glad to offer suggestions AND a discount on Centennial Basket book purchases:

BOOK NOOK - 1606 Union St., Schenectady
Contact: Judy Hoff - 346-0075

BURNT HILLS BOOKS - Grand Union Plaza, Burnt Hills,
Contact: Marcia Lupe - 399-7004 (after 2 p.m.)

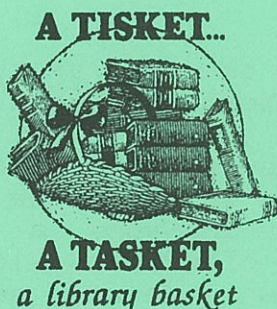
CORNERSTONE BOOKS - 1732 Union St., Schenectady
Contact: Beth Spencer - 374-8627

LITTLE PROFESSOR - Mayfair Plaza, Glenville
Contact: Jan Tabor - 399-2665

OPEN DOOR - 128 Jay St., Schenectady
Contact: Janet Hutchinson - 346-2719



(Continued on next page)



HELP WANTED:

A TISKET A TASKET A LIBRARY BASKET

**A PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE LIBRARY'S CENTENNIAL AND
TO INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY IN THE CELEBRATION
It is secondarily a fund raiser for the library**

The idea of the project is to ask community groups and local businesses to put together or contribute to "BASKETS" which have as a centerpiece a book or other type of library material (cassette, CD, etc.). Other items in the basket carry out the theme.

These are some examples used by the Washoe County Library which originated the idea:

Presumed Innocent by Scott Turow and a presumed good lunch with Judge Mills Lane in his chambers, catered by The Gavel Deli. Keep yourself organized by hardwood-trimmed desk tray and wooden gavel (with brass plate for engraving) donated by Siri Office Supply. Boxing lover a plus; boxing gloves donated by Toys R Us.

Measure for Measure by William Shakespeare - Enjoy this cleverly themed collection of musical items. Complete basket by Amici della Musica group of the Reno Chamber Orchestra containing floating notes paperweight, notepad and post-its, cocktail napkins, shoelaces, composers' signature mug and 2 tickets to Reno Chamber Orchestra's performance of Messiah on Dec. 13th.

Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway - You don't have to be old to be King of the Sea with this basket by Blue Bounty. Start with a \$15 gift certificate for fresh seafood and then make it delicious with a variety of gourmet items like batter mix, clam chowder, and seasoning mixes.

The Complete Adventures of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
Any gardener would love to have a stuffed rabbit donated by World of Toys, gardening tools, watering can and seeds donated by Moana Nursery, camomile tea and garden sign, and the book donated by It's My Room.

Notably Norwegian and Scandinavian Christmas cookbooks
You don't have to be Norwegian to enjoy these cookbooks, set of specialty cookie tins and Norwegian goodies (including some homemade). Also includes 2 tickets to annual Smorgasbord. Entire basket donated by Daughters of Norway.

Pigs by Robert Munsch - Crated and as cute as can be are the pigs in the basket by Parent-Teacher Aids which includes several stuffed pigs, Wilbur jigsaw puzzle, pig notecards and other porcine provisions.

**AN AUCTION OF BASKETS IS PLANNED AS THE MAIN EVENT OF THE
LIBRARY CENTENNIAL FAIR DAY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1994**

NEEDED: LOTS OF HELP

1. Volunteers to approach community groups and businesses - bring the message to organizations to which they belong or have connections.
2. Volunteers to assist (if needed) with basket assembly, sprucing up.
3. Volunteers to assist with auction.
4. Volunteers to arrange for refreshments, musical entertainment and serve as hosts.
5. Volunteers to assist with publicity and promotion.

Please call us if you will help or for more information
Staff Coordinators: Margery Beeler 388-4545
Serena Butch 388-4513
Dorothy Neff 386-2246

SPRING BOOK SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 7

It's that time again. Our Spring Sale will be held at the Central Library Saturday, May 7, rain or shine. We open at 9 a.m., half-price sale at 3 p.m., \$1 bag sale at 4 p.m. and end with giveaway at 4:30. The Literacy Volunteers of America will have their usual food sale.

Books, magazines and records have been coming in steadily and more will be gladly accepted. 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, paperbacks, and all kinds of non-fiction. NO old text books, weekly news magazines, RD condensed books or National Geographic magazines. Only materials in good condition.

A lot of good help is needed for this sale. We are reaching a point where we must have younger and stronger volunteers. In addition, to 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 (on two hour shifts), and then clean up.

Unless we have plenty of publicity, no one will know about our sale. We need volunteers to distribute posters in their neighborhoods.

If you can lend a hand as an active Friend, please contact Pat Whitney at 374-2120 or leave a message at the Library, 388-4500.

Funds from the Book Sale are used to purchase books for the Branches.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - APRIL 19, 1994

Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, April 19, when the Friends of the Library will hold their Annual Meeting and Dinner in the McChesney Room, beginning at 6:15 p.m.

The speaker will be Dr. Gabriel Basil, President, Schenectady County Community College. The title of his talk will be "The Community College and Other Institutions for Life Long Learning."

In addition, there will be election of officers and directors. Arrangements are in the capable hands of Annette Billmeyer and Wilma Bradt, with Classic Caterers once again serving their delicious food.

Tickets are \$10.00, payable to the Friends of SCPL. Mail to Pat Whitney, using the form below. The deadline for reservations is Monday, April 11.

=====
******ANNUAL DINNER******
APRIL 19, 1994

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

Number attending _____
Amount enclosed _____ (\$10.00 per person)
Name(s) _____

Mail to: Pat Whitney, 1117 Earl Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309,
by Monday, April 11.

LIBRARY LANDSCAPING

The Trustees, the Library Staff and the Board of the Friends all recognize the challenge and opportunity to improve the landscaping environment at the Central Library. A start was made last summer by the Staff by an after-work planting party and then in the fall when volunteers from the Staff and the Friends planted tulips.

Now a grant of \$500 has been received by the Friends from the Greenhouse and Indoor Plant Association (GAIPA) for landscaping at Central, with the plans and objectives of Schenectady 2000 in mind. We are excited about the opportunity this money represents. Ideally, we need to form a garden group that would adopt the Central Library as their special interest. Consider being part of such a group. Contact Walter Grattidge, Junice Wusterbarth or Toni Rader.

Right now we are looking for ideas on:

- PLANTS, such as Hosta, to be donated or to buy with GAIPA money
- Appropriate PLACES to plant them
- PEOPLE available in the spring to prepare beds and help plant

If you have appropriate plants you would be willing to donate please let these people know.

Walter Grattidge and Toni Rader

NEW MEMBERS

Once again the Friends are happy to welcome new members: Alfred & Barbara Brothers, Mrs. Ruth Carter, Robert A. Donovan, Ann Elliott, Mr. & Mrs. Robert O'Neill, Neal V. Robbins, Mrs. Kenneth Rockwell, Joseph H. Stocks III and Ms. Rosemary Taylor.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Following the Annual Meeting, a brief Board Meeting will be held in the McChesney Room Tuesday, April 19.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Millie Neslin, Circulation Chair, was assisted in the holiday newsletter mailing by these helpers: Annette Billmeyer, Bill & Lois Isles, Helena Piotrowski, Janet & Dick Sills, Frank Steiner, Owen Sutton and Bill & Mary Etta White.

PRE-SCHOOL STORYHOURS for ages 3-5 will resume Sat. mornings at 10 from March 19 through April 16. No registration required.

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 2812 Rosendale Road
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May 1994

Vol. XXIX No. 5

CENTENNIAL FAIR

A major activity in the Library's year-long celebration of 100 years of service will be the Centennial Fair to be held June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Central Library. Community groups have been invited to join us on this special day and tables are being offered to those desiring to publicize their services to the community. Musicians and other performers will add to the festive atmosphere and food vendors will provide sustenance.

Highlight of the fair is the A-Tisket-A-Tasket Centennial Basket auction. Baskets with a book or tape as a centerpiece have been solicited from a wide range of community organizations, businesses, and individuals, and the response has been wonderful. We expect to come close to our goal of 100 baskets for 100 years of service. Some of the baskets will be on display in the library in May and all will be on view in the McChesney Room from the opening of the fair at 10:00 a.m. on June 4th. Some will be auctioned via silent action, which will conclude before the oral auction begins at 2:00 p.m. We're sure that auctioneers Don Weeks and Steve Fitz will make this an exciting event, the proceeds from which will be used to purchase books for the library. Watch for the Auction Catalog, which we expect to be ready by mid-May.

We need lots of help with the auction. If you can give us an hour or two (or more) to serve as a table monitor, spotter, "runner", or cashier, please let me know by calling me at 388-4545.

Margery Beeler, Assistant Director, SCPL

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN

May 9 **The Creators by Daniel Boorstin** Reviewer: Rosemary Benedict
Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Daniel Boorstin brings to life more than 3,000 years of achievement in the arts. our reviewer is a free-lance writer and former reporter for the Schenectady Gazette. At present she is the editor of the Communicator, a local publication.

May 16 **Robber Bride by Margaret Atwood** Reviewer: Marjorie E. Karowe
This novel discusses the war between the sexes, suggesting that if women are to be equal to men, they must share both the capacity for villainy and the responsibility for moral choice. Ms. Karowe is a lawyer in Schenectady with a practice limited to employer-employee relationships.

May 23 **The Culture of Disbelief by Stephen Carter** Reviewer: Lois Owens
Carter explains how to preserve the vital separation of church and state while embracing, rather than trivializing, the faith of millions of citizens. Lois Owens is a Director of the Educational Opportunity Program and Assistant Professor in Liberal Arts at SUNY Cobleskill, as well as Adjunct Professor of Africana Studies at the University at Albany.

June 6 **The Kennedys- Profile of Power by Robert Reeves**
Reviewer: Emmett McCarthy

The author presents JFK, the action-oriented President as he really was-tough, courageous, and flawed. Mr. McCarthy has been an inveterate Kennedy watcher since the 1956 Democratic convention. He is employed by the N.Y.S. Department of Social Welfare.

June 13 **No Other Life by Brian Moore** Reviewer: Amy Wilentz
This novel is about a messianic priest-turned-politician in a place that sounds a lot like Haiti. Ms. Wilentz is the author of The Rainy Season: Haiti Since Duvalier. She writes about Haiti and Latin American affairs for various publications, including the New York Times, New Republic, Atlantic Monthly, and the Los Angeles Times. She is also a contributing editor to The Nation magazine.

OPERA PLUS

At 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, 1994, Opera Plus will perform a program called "Melodies for Spring" in the McChesney Room of the Schenectady County Public Library. Janet Stasio, soprano, Stephanie Melvin, mezzo-soprano, and Dan Lawlor, tenor, will be accompanied by pianist Joann Rautenberg in selections from light opera and operetta. The music will include songs from The Merry Widow, Paganini, Die Fledermaus, Tales of Hoffman, and La Perichole.

The members of Opera Plus have been performing together since 1991. They appeared this spring as guest artists with the RPI orchestra. Their recital in the Music a St. Anthony's series was acclaimed by Ron Emery of the Times Union who said, "The concert was prepared to the professional nub- an in control presentation by some very keen local talent... The singers did a smashing job..."

These talented artists from the Capital District have generously offered this concert to support the Library Piano Fund.

Meme Pittman

GRACE THIELPAPE- A VERY SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

Several years ago, after working as a steady volunteer for other departments in the library, Grace Thielpape offered to review young adult fiction. She brought years of experience with children and their literature, and told me that she was ready to read whatever teenagers were reading. I recognized a brave person and I welcomed her help. Over the years she has given thousands of hours to the task of reading, evaluating, classifying, and talking about modern fiction for teenagers. At her own expense she traveled to Williams College and Harvard to attend week-long conferences with authors and others who care about young people and their books. She shared this information with us in her programs "Rogues and Rebels" and "Swords and Ploughshares". Valuable materials concerning violence prevention were added to the library's collection based on Grace's recommendations. She created the efficient way I've kept track of the hundreds of novels that we discussed, and she found connections in newspaper articles and current films to the ideas and situations depicted in these novels for teens.

When Grace took a brief break to concentrate on her other activities, three new volunteers were needed to pick up the slack. She returned to help, and, as this is being written, is preparing to mark a milestone, the review of her 1000th novel. The occasion will coincide with this year of her 90th birthday. The reviews she's given have helped me to recommend books to teachers for their whole language curriculum, to parents who want to encourage their teenagers to read, to graduate students looking for books to add to their bibliographies, to people who give gift books to teens, and to the teenagers, who are unaware of the cooperation and preparation necessary to put a book into their hands and say, "You might like this one, it's about..." It was a lucky day for so many people when Gracie walked into our lives.

Jo Adams, Young Adult Services Librarian

LIBRARY OF AMERICA VOLUMES AT BRANCHES

With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon foundation and matching funds, five branches were offered the opportunity to acquire ten new volumes in the Library of America series. The Board of the Friends authorized \$750 to provide the matching funds to enable the branches to apply for the grant. Included among the ten volumes are works by Henry James, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Sarah Orne Jewett, Frederick Douglass, Sinclair Lewis, two volumes of American Poetry, and a volume on the Constitutional debate. The volumes are all beautifully bound, with readable type, on acid-free paper for long life.

The Friends supported acquisition of the first sixty volumes in the series for five branches several years ago with a gifts of over \$2000.

SUMMER ACTION SERIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Friends-funded Summer Action Series for teens will begin Thursday, July 14, at 2 p.m. in the McChesney Room and continue each Thursday afternoon until August 11. Millicent Lenz, Assistant Professor at the SUNY School of Information Science and Policy, will begin the series with a talk about humor in young adult fiction. Dr. Lenz will discuss some classics in humorous books for teens as well as newer titles. Parents, grandparents, and friends of teens are also invited to this discussion. In response to perennial requests from young people for books about cartoons, cartooning, and cartoonists, the next three programs about how to draw cartoons will be led by Schenectady art teacher Kathleen O'Connell-Lyons. The Series will finish on August 11 with cartoonist John Hebert, illustrator of X-Men Adventures for Marvel Comics. Mr. Hebert, who has spoken in area libraries and schools, will share his experiences with teens who may be thinking of creating cartoons as a career.

Jo Adams, Young Adult Services Librarian

SUMMER READING CLUB

Summer Reading Club begins the last week of June with opening parties at the branches and at the Central Children's Room. The theme this year is "READ AROUND THE CLOCK" and many of the special programs and performers will be funded by Friends of the Library.

The Children's Room would like to display "Novelty Clocks" for the month of July to go along with the Summer Reading Club theme. If any Friends have novelty clocks that they would be willing to lend for the display case (always locked), please contact Donna Grossman at the Central Children's Room, 388-4540.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

From April 17-23, the Central Library and branches observed National Library Week with a wide variety of events and programs for adults and children, including "Victorian Sunday", a "Celebrity Read-Aloud", animal shows, clowns, an update on Schenectady 2000, and many others. Support for National Library Week was received from Freihofer Baking Co.; Frank Gallo, Florist; Friends of the Library; Golub Corp.; Library Board of Trustees; and McDonalds.

"As chairperson for National Library Week this year, I would like to thank the Friends for their generous support. We were able to fund two Dean Davis Animal Shows that were attended by over 200 children, as well as purchase refreshments and accessories for the Victorian Tea on Sunday, the Read-Aloud on Wednesday evening, and the children's award party on the following Sunday. The Registration Derby prize money was a bonus this year that was greatly appreciated by Central and all of the branches.

I would also like to thank the Friends for supporting the Sunday tea with your delicious baked goods and enthusiastic participation. Over 200 people attended. Many came in costume, adding to the festivities, which included singing, dancing, exhibits, and of course, the goodies.

As the Friends' representative to the National Library Week committee, Elsie Maddaus was a very interested and hard-working liaison and contributed greatly to our committee. Again, thanks to all of the Friends for your wonderful support."

Toni Rader

SPRING TABLE TALKS

The Spring Series of Table Talks was not ready to be listed in the March Newsletter. The programs were held on Mondays at noon as follows:

- April 10 **"From Genetically engineered Tomatoes to a Super Human Being. What Is the Future of Cloning?"**
Speaker: Joseph Salvo, Ph.D., Manager of Field Technologies and Environmental Labs, GE CR&D; also adjunct faculty at Albany Medical College, University at Albany, and Union College.
- April 25 **"Marching To a Different Drummer: The Supreme Court as a Marginal Institution"**
Speaker: Martin Edelman, Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Department, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany. He is the author of numerous books and articles on American Constitutional law and the Israeli judicial system.
- May 2 **"Update on HIV- the Great Pandemic"**
Speaker: Dr. Edward Doucet, practicing internist from Clifton Park, N.Y., will discuss his concern about AIDS and its effect on the future.

ANNUAL MEETING

At the annual Friends Dinner on April 19, the following slate of officers and directors was approved by the membership:

Officers 1994-95

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Acting President | Walter Grattidge |
| 1st Vice President | Eleanor Friedman |
| 2nd Vice President | [to be filled] |
| Secretary | Betty Wemple |
| Treasurer | Junice Wusterbarth |

Board of Directors 1994-95

First three-year term

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Peter Oldow | Anthony K. Ward | Brett Goldin |
| Roberta Maras | Valerie Catlin | |

Continuing in office

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Jo Adams | Roberta Berk | Annette Billmeyer |
| Dorothy Brandon | Naomi Bristol | Marie Christine DeLorenzo |
| Eleanor Freidman | Bernard Gerberg | Walter Grattidge |
| Elsie Maddaus | Mildred Neslin | Jane Somers |
| Betty Wemple | Pat Whitney | Roger Whitney |
| Junice Wusterbarth | Eugene Zola | |

Dawn Kim, a fine young pianist, played the new piano, and guest speaker Dr. Gabriel Basil, President of Schenectady County Community College, spoke with enthusiasm about lifelong learning and the college's and library's commitment to it.

For a copy of the Friends' Annual Report, contact Walter Grattidge.

JAIL LIBRARY SERVICE

Library service to the Schenectady County Jail has been provided by a committee of the Friends. They report a constant need of popular paperbacks, especially those in Spanish, those reflecting black interests, and poetry. Donations would be appreciated to augment the materials provided by MVLA and by the Friends Board.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The end of April marks the close of the Friends' Board and Budget year. The 1993-94 year was marked by many successes in the Friends' programs and activities. To highlight a few:

The Dedication Ceremony for the new Steinway Piano was held on Sunday March 20th in the McChesney Room. Following the transfer of the Fonda Baldwin piano to the management of the Glendale Home, the new piano was formally presented to the Library Trustees. The support of the citizens and the Schenectady and GE Foundations has been most gratifying and we have now reached over 92% of the financial goal. The musical program presented at the ceremony made it a memorable occasion. This acquisition marks a new chapter in the musical life of the community.

The replacement of the story-time cushions in the Childrens' Room at Central was a timely project, as was the matching grant to continue a further ten volumes of the American Classics Series at five of the branches. The new extension of the County jail was completed during the year and a group of volunteers from the Friends has manned the library there most faithfully. We salute their public service.

The Spring and Fall Book Sales continue to be well supported, with additional paperback mini-sales held at Mohawk Mall; all arranged and conducted by Pat and Roger Whitney and the many volunteers they recruit. As a result of their efforts over \$12,000 was provided the branches over the year for acquiring new books and other library materials.

The week of April 17th to 24rd was celebrated as National Library Week with many special programs arranged by both the Library staff and the Friends. The Friends' Annual Meeting was a most enjoyable occasion with good food, sparkling renditions of piano selections by Dawn Kim, a freshman at Niskayuna High School and an important address by Dr. Gabriel Basil, President of the Schenectady County Community College regarding the parallel interests of the College and the library in fostering lifelong learning for all citizens of our County.

Since the Friends are strongly supportive of the library services and many of its members are volunteers both at Central and at the branches, we give a special welcome to Mary Miller who has taken on the responsibility of Coordinator of Volunteers. We wish her well and use this occasion to encourage interested members of the Friends who wish to volunteer to contact Mary at Central.

On behalf of the membership and myself, I express our gratitude to all those who at this time are ending their periods of service as a program coordinator, officer or member of the Board of the Friends. To them and to those continuing, we thank them for their diligence, efforts and devotion to an important community sustaining endeavour. To the incoming members we welcome their willingness to help lead the Friends' organization and their acceptance of the attendant obligations for service. Let us look forward to another year of strong support for the library and the many services it offers the citizens of Schenectady County.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Mr. Lagasse is pleased to announce that Mary Miller has assumed responsibility for coordinating the library's volunteer program. Mrs. Miller has had a great deal of experience working with volunteers in the Circulation Department.

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

The annual luncheon to honor volunteers will be on June 7th. Contact Mary Miller for more information.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Four hours per week to work in the multilith office at cutting, stapling, collating, and folding. Contact Mary Miller.

MEMBERSHIP

Our total membership for this year stands at 1,096 renewals and 57 new members.

We would like to thank all those who applied for matching funds during the year. Our anticipated Matching Funds from the GE Foundation is \$14,762, which reflects \$4,257 in renewals, \$765 in memorial gifts, and \$9,740 for the Piano Fund. Despite reminders some people did not call GE, and as a result we lost several hundred dollars.

By this time you will have received your renewal notices. We would appreciate payment as promptly as possible so that we can meet our anticipated obligations in good order. All memberships are due on May 1 of the current year.

NEW MEMBERS

The Friends are happy to welcome new members: Charlie and Bonnie Cook, Trudy Ferguson, Marion Grimes, Mr. & Mrs. David Kessler, Wen Liang Soong, Lorinda Spraragen.

VASES NEEDED

The Friends of the Library would appreciate donations of bud vases for the annual dinner and other functions. Any style or number are welcome. Contact Annette Billmeyer.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Millie Neslin and Rudy Dehn, in charge of preparing the Newsletter for mailing, were helped the last time by the following Friends: Annette Billmeyer, Laurie Brooks, Ken Fritz, Elsie Maddaus, Helena Piotrowski, Florence Scheels, Sully Sullivan, Mary and Bill White, and Pat and Roger Whitney.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 24, 1994 at 7:30 p.m

FRIENDS OF SCPL

Acting President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Ed.
Newsletter Cir.

Membership

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Eleanor Friedman
[to be filled]
Betty Wemple
Junice Wusterbarth
Valerie Catlin
Mildred Neslin
Rudy Dehn
Patricia Whitney
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