

# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

September 1995

Vol. XXXI No. 1

### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN: FALL SERIES

Frank Steiner has arranged and coordinated the following Book Reviews. They are held in the McChesney Room of the Main Library on Mondays at noon. You may bring your lunch; beverages will be available.

Monday,  
September 11      **Commodore, by Patrick O'Brian**  
The latest novel about Aubrey and Maturin's nautical adventures in the 19th century British navy will be reviewed by Dr. Robert Donovan, Professor of English Emeritus at SUNYA and a frequent speaker at Friends' programs.

Monday,  
September 18      **Always Rachel, edited by Martha Freeman**  
The letters of Rachel Carson and Dorothy Freeman will be reviewed by Dr. Nancy Slack, Professor of Biology at Russell Sage College.

Monday,  
September 25      **Ladder of Years, by Anne Taylor**  
Anne Taylor's latest novel will be reviewed by Dr. Alan Nelson, Professor of English Emeritus at Union College.

Monday,  
October 2      **We the Jury, by Jeffrey Abramson**  
This book, which deals with the jury system and the ideal of democracy, will be reviewed by Judge Michael Eidens.

Monday,  
October 16      **Beyond the Double Bind, by Kathleen Hall Jamieson**  
Dr. Linda Steiner, Asst. Prof. of Communication at Rutgers University, will discuss the book dealing with women and leadership.

Monday,  
October 23      **In Defense of Elitism, by William A. Henry**  
Dr. Robert Maurovich, Dean of Student Affairs at Schenectady Community College, will examine this book by an ex-liberal, now a critic of our educational system.

Monday,  
October 30      **The Information, by Martin Amis**  
Dr. Randall Craig, Professor of English at SUNYA, will review this recent novel.



### POETRY DISCUSSION SERIES

Timothy McGowan has announced that for the third year, the Friends of the Library will sponsor a reading and discussion series on poetry of the 20th century. Entitled "**American Renegades: Misinterpreted Poets of the Modern Era**", the program will run in October on consecutive Tuesdays at 12 noon in the McChesney Room of the central library. This year's series will feature American poets who created innovative or experimental works, and as a result often found themselves at odds with the critics or the public of the time. Local poet Larry Rapant, who led our two previous sessions, will return as lecturer and facilitator of group discussion. Photocopies of the poetry to be discussed, as well as a critique of each poet, will be available at the library's Switchboard Office. The schedule of dates is:

Tuesday, October 3 -	<b>Robert Frost</b>
Tuesday, October 10-	<b>Carl Sandburg</b>
Tuesday, October 17-	<b>e e cummings</b>
Tuesday, October 24-	<b>Langston Hughes, Robinson Jeffers, Edna St. Vincent Millay</b>





## ELECTIONS TO FRIENDS' BOARD

At its annual dinner meeting on May 4, 1995, the Friends announced new members of the Board (and old members in new offices). Following are the officers serving for 1995-96: as President, Valerie Catlin; as 1st Vice President, Bernard Gerberg; as 2nd Vice President, Frank Steiner; as Secretary, Dorothy Brandon, and as Treasurer, Junice Wusterbarth.

The Board of Directors consists of the following: beginning a 3-year term (to 1998), Phyllis Bornt, Trudi Carpenter, Doris Clark, Faith Donovan, Werner Feibes, Pat Gosda, Katherine Lowe, Alan Nelson, Ennis Pilcher, and Frank Steiner. Those beginning a second 3-year term include Dorothy Brandon, Naomi Bristol, and Mildred Neslin. Board members continuing in office are Valerie Catlin, Bernard Gerberg, Walter Grattidge, Peter Oldow, Carol Raphael, Betty Wemple, Pat Whitney, Roger Whitney, and Junice Wusterbarth.

Retiring or resigning from the Board: Jo Adams, Roberta Berk, Annette Billmeyer, Marie Christine DeLorenzo, Eleanor Friedman, Elsie Maddaus, Roberta Maras, Anthony Ward, Eugene Zola.

At the dinner preceding the annual meeting, the program included a talk on "Literature and Film: The Last of the Mohicans," by Prof. Tom Kelly of Siena College. A special treat was the selections at the piano, played by young Jason Brucker, who included a part from his own Piano Sonata.

## SMALL BUSINESS CENTER

The central library has inaugurated a new reference service with the creation of the Small Business Information Center. Funded in part by a federal LSCA grant to the Mohawk Library Association by the New York State Library, the Small Business Center contains sources of information needed to start and operate a profitable small business. Materials on entrepreneurship, home-based businesses and franchising are also accessible. An important feature to check out are three specialized computer databases: "Business Dateline," "American Business Disc," and "Start Smart: Small Business Advisor." Advice can also be sought from a SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) representative available through the SB Center. To learn more about the SB Center and have a demonstration of the computer databases, contact Timothy McGowan (388-4524) or any of the library's Reference Librarians. They will be glad to assist you.

## THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Children at SCPL branches and the Central children's room read "The World Over" when they joined our 1995 Summer Reading Club. They traveled from continent to continent, recording the many hours they read. Many of the well-attended programs were supported by funds from the Friends. Story tellers included Nancy Gifford, Dorothy Mancini, and Lois Foight Hodges; singer-storytellers were Paul Strausman, Cathy Winters, and Bill Cliff. Also appearing were magician Chad Currin and naturalist Paul Meyers. Each session was excellent. The program, funded by Library Trustees and Friends of the Library, was well received by parents, grandparents, and children.

Branches and Central Children's room were very pleased to receive a portion of the recent book-sale funds to purchase various items such as puppets, paperbacks, magazine subscriptions, and some reference materials.

## REPORT FROM THE SPRING BOOK SALE

Our Spring Used Book Sale was held on May 20, and netted **\$5,100.00**. Without the hard work of the volunteers in sorting, boxing, bringing down the boxes, setting up, selling and cashiering, acting as treasurers and distributing flyers, such a sale would be impossible.

This year we would particularly like to acknowledge the volunteer help of the following people in these ways: Mr. Michael Saccocio brought three men from the City Mission on Friday afternoon. Joseph Lostrito of Law, Order and Justice provided us with two young men both Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. John Audino, Union College football coach, sent George Tiggler from his team to help. On Saturday morning we had S/M Sgt. Charles Lucia with a crew from the Air National Guard Air Life Group. On Saturday afternoon, Schenectady High School Key Club members Michael Dutt, Jonathan Paul, Lisa Singh, and Dan Zagata arrived along with Jodi Gilman from the Temple Gates of Heaven.

Our sale this year included 1,487 boxes of hardcover books, paperbacks, children's books, magazines and records. We had a \$10.00 gift certificate from Grand Union and two boxes of donuts from Dunkin' Donuts.

We had our usual number of willing and enthusiastic volunteers from the Friends as well as posters, flyers, and public service announcements on the air. I would like to thank the Schenectady Gazette and the Niskayuna Journal for publishing photographs.

We thank the staff of the Library for their cheerful assistance whenever it is needed. My thanks to all who gave of their time and effort to make this a success, to all who donated materials for the sale, and of course to all those who made purchases.

- Pat Whitney, Chairman of the Book Sale





## FALL BOOK SALE — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

We are getting ready for our next book sale, to be held Saturday, September 23, rain or shine, at the Central Library. We start the sale at 9:00 AM, go to a half-price sale at 2:00 PM, a \$1 bag sale at 3:00 PM, and end with a give-away at 3:30 PM. The Literacy Volunteers of America will be there as usual with their Bake Sale.

Books, records, and magazines have been coming in steadily; in fact, we have a large number of children's books and records, as well as adult records.

Our Best Sellers are children's books, paperbacks, and all kinds of non-fiction. We cannot use old textbooks, weekly news magazines, RD condensed books, or National Geographics. We need materials only in Good condition, please.

Prices for adult items are: 50¢ for hardcover and large paperbacks, 25¢ for regular paperbacks, 15¢ for magazines, and 25¢ each for records. Children's items are: 50¢ for hardcover, 25¢ for paperbacks, 10¢ for magazines, and 25¢ for records.

### Volunteers Needed!

We need help on Friday to bring materials down from storage and set up in the McChesney Room. On Saturday we need help from 7:30 to 9:00 AM to set up barricades, set up tables on the patios, move remaining materials out to the patios, and get signs posted. We also need cashiers and floaters on two-hour shifts from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. And naturally a clean-up crew starting at 3:30.

I would like help on publicity also, to distribute flyers in busy areas of the city.

I would appreciate extra plastic grocery bags and large paper bags for the Bag Sale.

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

—Pat Whitney, Book Sale Chairman

### **MATCHING GIFTS FROM G.E.**

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library gratefully acknowledges the donation of \$7,033 from the "More Gifts, More Giving" program of the General Electric Company. This is the third year in which contributions of \$15 or greater by eligible GE employees, surviving spouses and retirees have been matched by the GE Foundation. This year's gift includes \$5,358 for membership and memorial gifts, and \$1,675 in gifts for the Piano Fund. The Friends express special thanks to the GE Foundation for its help.

### **FRIENDS DONATE BOOKS**

The Friends were pleased to donate \$850 to purchase the Library of America series for the newly-dedicated Elizabeth Harriman Bean Branch Library in Niskayuna. The series presents classic American writing in attractive, durable volumes which will be of value for years to come. The Friends have previously donated sets to most of the other branches.

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Membership Chairman Pat Whitney announced in May that as of March 21, the Friends of the Library numbered **679**; that number included **64** new members in the previous year. The total anticipated Matching Funds for membership contributions was \$3,628.00. We welcome these new members: Lynn Baker, Olimpia Pelosi Billmeyer, Wonja Brucker, Thelma Carter, Sylvia Curley, John DeGeorgio, Joseph J. DiGesare, Peter H.S. Dillard, Albert E. Edmonds, Robert Englebach, Werner Feibes, Barbara & Bob Fleischer, Kathuryn E. Green Hicks, Elaine & Marvin Lubert, Mr. & Mrs. J. Markey, Frank Ranucci, Mrs. Anne M. Rich, Mary Scicchitano, and Brad Smith.

### **NISKAYUNA BRANCH**

The heavy use of the new Niskayuna Branch Library continues unabated. The staff and volunteers are barcoding and inventorying library materials as fast as possible in order to accelerate the automation of circulation at the branch library. The present manual system is overloaded and cannot cope effectively with the high circulation.

On Sunday, July 23, volunteers and staff under the leadership of Wonja Brucker and Jill Bendick planted 21 flowering crabapple trees on grounds of the new Niskayuna branch library and town hall. The trees were donated by Frank Popolizio in memory of the children killed in the Oklahoma bombing tragedy. Other trees were donated by the town tree council and by the Gilbert Harlow Garden Club and the Rosendale Garden Club of Niskayuna.

### **FACILITIES IMPROVE**

Considerable improvements have been made to library facilities this summer. Work has begun on restoring the facade at the Duane Branch. New handicapped parking spaces designed in accordance with ADA standards have been painted in designated areas of the central library and the Glenville branch library parking lots. ADA-approved door closures have been installed at the Mont Pleasant, Rotterdam, and Quaker Street branch libraries. At the Scotia, Duane, and Woodlawn branches, the handles on doors into the main entrances and bathrooms have been replaced by ADA-approved hardware. At the central library, sliding glass doors have been installed at the Liberty Street entrance.

An FM-based assistive listening device for the hearing-impaired has been incorporated into the sound system of the McChesney Room. FM receivers are now available to those requesting them.



## PAT WHITNEY HONORED AS VOLUNTEER FOR FRIENDS

Last spring, Pat Whitney was recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Council on Community Services for her volunteer efforts on behalf of the Friends of SCPL. She was also honored at the annual dinner of the Friends, in May. As organizer of the Friends' Book Sales, she recruits and coordinates the work of over 100 volunteers for each sale; during her tenure over \$100,000 has been raised from these sales. The proceeds have gone to purchase books for the branch libraries. Pat also serves as membership chairman for the Friends and is the liaison with the GE Foundation for their "More Gifts-More Givers" Matching Grant Program. We are all indebted to Pat and to Roger, her husband, for their dedicated service to the Friends, the library, and the community.

## CHECK OUT THIS CHECKOUT!

It's hard to miss the new equipment near the checkout desk of the Central Library. Similar to a bank ATM, the new automatic self-service checkout machine should prove a valuable addition for patrons. Readers who do not have overdue materials can charge out books on their own. Presently they cannot charge out audiovisual materials, though that may come later.

## BRUCKER NEW COORDINATOR

Ronald L. Lagasse, Library Director, is pleased to announce the appointment of Wonja Brucker as Coordinator of Branches. She will also continue her responsibilities as head of the Woodlawn/Duane/Niskayuna branches.

## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

The task of assembling each Newsletter is headed by Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn. For the March and April issues, they were assisted by Bill & Lois Isles, Helena Piotrowski, Florence Scheels, Bernie & Dorothy Gerberg, Owen Sutton, Bill & Mary White, Peg Fisher, Dick & Jan Sills, and Helen & Frank Steiner. Our thanks to all!

## NORTHEAST FLIGHT NINETY-FIVE

The county library and other county agencies will have displays and informational materials at the air show scheduled at the County Airport on Saturday and Sunday, September 9-10, 1995. **Volunteers are needed for the library booth, for 2-hour shifts.** If you can help, call Mary Miller at 388-4608.

## BOARD MEETING DATES

October 24 1995	7:00 p.m.
January 23, 1996	7:00 p.m.
March 26, 1996	7:00 p.m.

## FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Valerie Catlin
1st Vice Pres.	Bernard Gerberg
2nd Vice Pres.	Frank Steiner
Secretary	Dorothy Brandon
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Ed.	Alan Nelson
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin
	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Patricia Whitney
	1117 Earl Ave.
	Sch'dy NY 12309
	Tel: 374-2120

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

November 1995

Vol. XXXI No. 2

### TABLE TALKS—Fall 1995

Coordinated by Peter Oldow

- November 20      **“The General Motors-Hamilton Hill Connection: A Blueprint for Change”**  
Brian S. Wright, Chairman of Hamilton Hill-Vale Neighborhood Alliance and Chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Schenectady/Glenville Economic Development Zone Administration Board
- November 27      **“Japan and the U.S., Allies or Enemies”**  
Dr. Bradley Lewis, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Union College
- December 4        **“New Economics in the Modern World”**  
Dr. Stephen Schmidt, Assistant Professor of Economics, Union College
- December 18      **“Yugoslavia Destroyed: A Metaphor for Our Times?”**  
Dr. Stephen Berk, Professor of History, Union College



### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN: WINTER 1996

Coordinated by Dr. Robert Orr and Lillian Stern

- January 8        ***A Long Fatal Love Chase*** by Louisa May Alcott, a long-lost bit of Alcott's early gothic romance writing; and ***Louisa May Alcott Unmasked: The Collected Thrillers***, edited by Madeleine Stern. These two books will be reviewed by Dr. Constance Ostrowski of Schenectady County Community College.
- January 22        ***My Own Country*** by Abraham Verghese. A doctor in a rural Tennessee town encounters a strange epidemic. Reviewed by Dr. Deborah Orr, a consulting psychologist who works with brain-damaged persons.
- January 29        ***My Old Man and the Sea*** by David Hays and Daniel Hays. A father and son discover new territories in each other when they sail on a 17,000 mile voyage around a continent. Reviewed by Jerry Carroll, retired USN and Great Lakes sailor.
- February 5        *God - a History*  
***The Unsolved*** by Kazuo Ishiguro, the most recent novel by the author of ***The Remains of the Day*** is the story of a famous pianist. Reviewed by Prof. Peter Heinegg of the English Department at Union College.
- February 26        ***Therapy*** by David Lodge is a new novel by the English author of nine previously published works. It will be reviewed by Prof. Jeffrey Berman of the SUNYA English Department.
- March 5            ***My American Journey*** by Colin Powell with Joseph E. Persico. The autobiography of General Powell will be reviewed by Professor Joseph Board of the Political Science Department at Union College.



### FALL 1995 LITERARY SERIES—WAR: FACT AND FICTION

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- November 6        ***The Things They Carried*** by Tim O'Brien  
A forty-three year old Vietnam veteran's fictional account of his experience as a twenty-three year old footsoldier will be reviewed by Jack Rightmyer of the English Department at Bethlehem Middle School.
- November 13        ***My War*** by Andy Rooney, and  
***My American Journey*** by Colin Powell  
Paul Grondahl, feature writer for the *Times Union*, will comment on Rooney's reminiscences of World War II and Powell's best-selling autobiography of a military life.



## THE BOOK SALE: HARD WORK EARNS FUNDS!

The Fall Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of SCPL, was held on Saturday, September 23 at the main library. The chairman, Pat Whitney, has reported total earnings of \$5,172.00.

As usual, an immense effort by volunteers made the large sale possible. These stalwarts sorted books, boxed them, set up the display tables, distributed flyers, gave guidance to buyers, and served as cashiers. The sale included 942 boxes of hard-cover books, paperbacks, children's books, magazines and records.

This year, we would particularly like to acknowledge volunteer help from these people:

- Michael Saccocio, who brought four men from the City Mission on Friday afternoon;
- Joseph Lostrito, of Law, Order & Justice, who provided three helpers on Friday, and three more on Saturday;
- the Air National Guard Air Lift Group, represented by SMS Alfred Black, TSgt. Charles Hermance (and his son Jason), TSgt. Edward Lambert, MSgt. Davis Willoughby, TSgt. Robert F. Ragan, Jr.;
- County Legislator Alfred DeAprix, Jr., who served as cashier in the afternoon;
- Grand Union and Shop 'n Save, who donated \$10 gift certificates;
- Dunkin' Donuts of 1200 State St., for two boxes of Munchkins;
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, for the loan of nine tables.

A large number of willing and enthusiastic volunteers from the Friends also contributed their invaluable help at the sale. Others took care of posters, flyers, and Public Service announcements on the air. The Schenectady Gazette and the Niskayuna Journal published photographs. Many other Friends supplied bags for the buyers.

Pat Whitney also thanks the staff of the Library for their cheerful assistance whenever it was needed. And of course we all thank the un-numbered readers who throughout the year contributed materials for the sale. And the buyers themselves!

This regular yearly sale provides valuable funds for the support of projects organized by the Friends.

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### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Each issue of the Newsletter reaches you from the hands of a group of assemblers headed by Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn. This month we thank those who put together the September issue: Bill & Lois Isles, Dorothy & Bernie Gerberg, Helen & Frank Steiner, Mary & Bill White, Peg Fisher, Ellen Rode, Flo Bigelow, Helena Piotrowski, Rudy Dehn, and Mildred Neslin. Hats off!

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### OUR NEW FRIENDS

We welcome new names to the roster of Friends of Schenectady County Public Library. From Scotia we have Pauline Bodden, Hank & Pat Buczkowski, and Marjorie J. Maas; from Burnt Hills, we greet Evelyn Currie, and from Niskayuna, Martha Neugebauer and Mildred Weissmann. Those from Schenectady include Kristine Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. George L. Chermack, Sr., Cheryl Isles, Mrs. A. J. Kussman, Amelia Lombardi, Neva Mahoney, Frances Warren, and Jean Wildgrube. We're glad to see new members!

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### MEMBERSHIP — RENEW!

Our membership to date numbers **876**. The membership year runs **May 1 to April 31**. If you have not renewed your membership this year, please catch up now! Send your check ("Friends of Schenectady County Public Library") for \$5 to \$100 to Junice Wusterbarth, 395 Daniels Ave., Schenectady 12304, or to her c/o Schenectady Public Library. You'll save us a mailed reminder!

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### G.E. MATCHING FUNDS — AND YOU?

We anticipate about \$4,540 from G.E. Matching Funds, but if your contribution qualifies for a matching gift, **you** must notify the G.E. Foundation Gifts Center. We know that some eligible Friends have not notified G.E. If you're not sure, check by calling them at 1-800-462-8244.

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### CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?

If you change your address (either temporarily or permanently), you can help by letting us know, so we can save the 32¢ when your mailing is returned to us. If you change, please call **Pat Whitney** at **374-2120**, or send a card to Friends at the Central Branch of the Library.

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### FRIENDS OF SCPL

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2nd Vice Pres.	Frank Steiner
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Newsletter Ed.	Alan Nelson
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	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Patricia Whitney
	1117 Earl Ave.
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	Tel: 374-2120

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### BOARD MEETINGS:

January 23, 1996	7:00 p.m.
March 26, 1996	7:00 p.m.

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

December 1995

Vol. XXXI No.3

### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN: WINTER 1996

Coordinated by Dr. Robert Orr and Lillian Stern

"Books Sandwiched-In" is a series of Book Reviews, held every Monday noon in the McChesney Room of the central library on Clinton Street. You may bring a sandwich lunch, if you like; beverages are available. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired.

- January 8      *A Long Fatal Love Chase* by Louisa May Alcott, a long-lost bit of Alcott's early gothic romance writing; and *Louisa May Alcott Unmasked: The Collected Thrillers*, edited by Madeleine Stern. These two books will be reviewed by Dr. Constance Ostrowski of Schenectady County Community College.
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- February 5     *God: A Biography* by Jack Miles, reviewed by Prof. Peter Heinegg of the English Department at Union College, is a secular reading of the Hebrew Bible, treated as a literary work.
- February 26    *Therapy* by David Lodge is a new novel by the English author of nine previously published works. It will be reviewed by Prof. Jeffrey Berman of the SUNYA English Department.
- March 5        *My American Journey* by Colin Powell with Joseph E. Persico. The autobiography of General Powell will be reviewed by Professor Joseph Board of the Political Science Department at Union College.



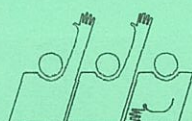
### FEBRUARY-MARCH: GREAT DECISIONS

"Great Decisions, 1996," the National Nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association Discussion Series, will be held at the Schenectady County Public Library, beginning Tuesday, February 6, and continuing for eight consecutive Tuesdays.

Morning sessions will be held in the McChesney Room from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Evening sessions, if enough people are interested, will convene at the same location from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the same days. The same discussion leaders will facilitate both morning and evening sessions each week. The public is invited to participate free of charge.

- February 6:      "Foreign Policy and the U.S. Political System," led by Howard Gerlaugh
- February 13:     "The Intelligence Community," led by Richard Mehan
- February 20:     "Mexico," led by Pearl Lichenstein
- February 27:     "Economic Cooperation in the Asian Pacific," led by Curt Lord
- March 5:         "Water," led by Carl Grund
- March 12:        "Failing Nation States," led by Erma Ruth Chestnut
- March 19:        "Africa," led by Bob Fritz
- March 26:        "NATO," led by Alex Brown

For more information, call Erma Ruth Chestnut at 346-0552.





## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ron Lagasse, Director of the Library, reported that on Saturday, August 26, the Government Center Task Force of Schenectady 2000 organized a landscape workday at the Central Library. Reference librarian Toni Rader led a large group of volunteers in extensive weeding, tree-trimming, and plantings of perennials. The landscaping of the library is much improved, and more enhancements will be made in the spring of 1996.

A similar workday was held on the grounds of the Niskayuna Branch Library on Sunday, September 24. A very attractive Japanese garden, the gift of Dr. Giknis, has been established on town property adjacent to the branch library. Mr. Wusterbarth reported that window seats will soon be constructed in the bay windows in the new Niskayuna library, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Weinstein.

On Saturday and Sunday, September 9-10, the library and other county agencies set up displays at the Schenectady County Airport in conjunction with the Flight 95 air show. The library's display focused on books featuring the construction of paper airplanes. Visitors were able to construct a paper airplane, a very popular activity for the many children who stopped at the library booth.

County personnel recently installed vinyl siding on the front of the Duane Branch Library. The section beneath the windows has been covered with high-impact tile, which creates a very attractive facade. A new sign will be added to the front of the library.

The Summer Reading Program was very successful at the central library and branches, which saw a registration of 1,011 children, and a total attendance of over 3,900 children.

The Niskayuna Branch is now automated. The process was accomplished in slightly over two months. Automation was a priority because staff found it difficult to handle the increased volume of circulation by traditional manual procedures.

At the December meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Lagasse reported that overall circulation had increased by 2.83% as compared with the same period in 1994. Circulation at the new branch library in Niskayuna increased by over 69%.

Esther Swanker announced that she and Marjorie Woods attended the recent YWCA Women of Achievement Awards dinner, at which Melinda Myers was recognized for her numerous contributions to our community.



## MEMBERSHIP YEAR CHANGES

The fiscal year of the Friends will change to July 1 - June 30, beginning in 1996. That means that the membership year will also change. Pat Whitney, Membership Chairman, has announced that notices for renewal of annual dues will be sent out toward the end of April, and should be returned with a check to the Treasurer as soon as possible thereafter. More details will be sent with the notice of renewal in April.

## GREETINGS TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following people as new members of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library: **Mr. & Mrs. M. F. Barton, Leslie Becker, Sylvia & Bob Briber, Belle S. Brunelle, Stephanie Hogan, and Suanne Tharp.**

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

## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

The November issue of the Newsletter was assembled by the following good people, led by Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn: Dick & Jan Sills, Frank Steiner, Florence Scheels, Owen Sutton, Beth Fritz, Helena Piotrowski, Mary White, Florence Bigelow, Bill & Lois Isles, and Alan Nelson.

### FRIENDS' BOARD MEETING DATES

January 23, 1996 - 7:00 p.m.  
March 26, 1996 - 7:00 p.m.

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

March 1996

Vol. XXXI No.4

### TABLE TALKS: SPRING 1996

Coordinated by Gene Zola, Lillian Stern and Gioia Ottaviano

NOTE: "Table Talks," "The Science Series," and "Children's Literature" meet at noon on Mondays, in the McChesney Room of the central library on Clinton Street. You may bring a sandwich lunch, if you like; beverages are available. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired.

- April 22      **The Role and Function of HMO's in the Health Field**  
Jerome G. Stewart, President and CEO of St. Clare's Hospital
- April 29      **Current Concerns in the Legal Profession**  
Cris Cioffi, partner in the law firm of Carpenter & Cioffi P.C., recently elected to the Schenectady County Legislature
- May 2         **Liberals, Conservatives, and Libertarians: Who are they? What are their basic economic views?**  
Dr. Sheldon Schmidt, Assistant Professor of Economics at Union College



### THE SCIENCE SERIES

Coordinated by Walter Grattidge

- March 11     **"Applications of Superconductivity"**  
Garry Morrow, Vice-President of Intermagnetics General
- March 18     **"Light on the Wing: the Colors of Butterflies"**  
Professor Helen Ghiradella, Department of Biology, SUNY Albany
- March 25     **"What 2nd - 5th Graders Learn by Computer"**  
Janne Mathes, Computer Teacher at Schalmont Central Schools
- April 1       **"Some Applications of Satellites"**  
Roy Anderson, Engineer (retired) at GE Research & Development Center



### SPRING 1996 LITERARY SERIES: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- April 8       **Books for Children.** Janet Hutchinson, owner of the Open Door Book Store, will review the current trends in literature for children.
- April 15      **"Once Upon a Time ..."** Nancy Gifford, Children's Librarian, will discuss Folk Literature for children of all ages.



(And these remaining sessions from continuing series:)

**BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN:** (at noon in the McChesney Room)

- March 5:      ***My American Journey*** by Colin Powell with Joseph E. Persico. The autobiography of General Powell will be reviewed by Professor Joseph Board of the Political Science Department, Union College.

**GREAT DECISIONS:** (at 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the McChesney Room)

- March 5:      **"Water,"** led by Carl Grund  
March 12:     **"Failing Nation States,"** led by Erma Ruth Chestnut  
March 19:     **"Africa,"** led by Bob Fritz  
March 26:     **"NATO,"** led by Alex Brown



**Announcing:** The Spring Book Sale, on May 4. See page 3 for details.



### RECITAL IN McCHESNEY ROOM

R. Findlay Cockrell, member of the Music Department at SUNY-Albany and conductor of the University Orchestra, presented an exciting and enjoyable piano recital on Sunday afternoon, December 3, in the McChesney Room. Guest artist was violinist Jonathan Chu, a ninth-grader at Niskayuna High School. The program included works by Mendelssohn, Gottschalk, Saint-Saens, Chopin, Bach, and Beethoven. Over 100 persons attended the recital which was arranged by the Piano Committee of the Friends.

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### MYSTERIES, PUZZLES, AND CODES

Jo Adams, of Young Adult Services, has reported the great success of the Summer Action Series: *Mysteries, Puzzles, and Secret Codes*, held every Thursday last August. Ninety-two young people attended some or all of the programs. Cooperation from the Boy Scouts of America, the American Cryptogram Association, and the U.S. Navy helped to enliven the reading-enrichment series. Friends of SCPL funded the programs.

Booklists were distributed at the beginning of the series. One of the bibliographies, *For Your Eyes Only*, was encrypted by volunteer Victoria Schiavone, in a code from the *Codemaster* columns of *Boys Life Magazine*, which gave permission to copy and distribute it. The Scouts also donated a short video about the history of secret codes.

An introduction to the computer game C.Y.P.H.E.R. formed the second program, and free time for the library's MACs was made available. Charlotte Rounds, a teacher from Slingerlands and a member of the American Cryptogram Association, presented code-writing games. The largest audience watched the Navajo Codebreakers video from the library's collection. Members of the audience included teens from the Schenectady Respite Program. The series concluded with a demonstration of naval semaphore.

Each participant experienced an average 20-45 hours of extra reading for pleasure.

### FRIENDS AID WMHT

A team of Friends of SCPL staffed the telephones at WMHT's fund-raiser on December 2, 1995. These were the people who extended the helping hand in this good cause: Phyllis Bornt, Valerie Catlin, Faith Donovan, Walter Grattidge, Dorothy Meyer, John Meyer, and Patricia Whitney.

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### LINKS TO THE YOUNG

Library Link, directed by Nancy Gifford, has completed ten years of successful programming in the community. The target has been children who did not or could not come to the library, in the hope of attracting them to our books and services. Funds come from an annual grant from the Friends of the Library, matched by a grant from the New York State Division for Youth. Each year, Nancy Gifford travels to schools with her bag of books, puppets, and drawing board, to read and tell stories to children. In nearly 200 programs in 1995, she reached over 5100 children! Each year, some of the Links funds have gone to a popular "Teacher Resource Center," located in the Children's Room, with special books and materials to help teachers and parents improve their teaching of children.

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### LITERACY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Literacy Volunteers of America-Schenectady, Inc. is looking for patient, flexible volunteers to help adults learn to speak English. Full training is provided to tutors, and no foreign language background is needed for this one-to-one tutoring. There is a special need now for women volunteers to work with Afghan women during daytime hours, **but all volunteers are needed and welcome.** Tutors should expect to commit 1-2 hours a week for this interesting, challenging, and rewarding work. A daytime training begins on March 18, and evening training will be offered in May. For more information, call Literacy Volunteers at 372-9819.

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### TWO SPRING PROGRAMS FROM ADULT SERVICES

(facilitated by local author and lecturer Larry Rapant)

#### MIXED MEDIA MATINEES (Sunday Afternoons, 2:00 p.m., in the McChesney Room)

- March 17: A program by the Every Other Thursday Nite Poets.
- March 24: Poetry and other entertainment by Three Guys from Albany
- March 31: Dirck Toll and Diane Gallo exploring comedic aspects of prose and poetry.
- April 14: (at 1:00) Poet/artist Mildred Bauer Kerr and folk singer Randy Mauger.

#### THE AMERICAN CENTURY: Religion and the Search for Values

(Tuesday at Noon, in the McChesney Room)

- March 26: *Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux*, by John Niehardt.
- April 2: *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, the classic novel by Willa Cather
- April 9: *The Company of Women*, by Mary Gordon.
- April 16: *The Search for God*, by Ari Goldman
- April 23: *Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years*, by Sarah and A. Elizabeth Delany



## ***Spring Book Sale — May 4, 1996 !***

Pat Whitney has announced the details of the next Book Sale, to be held on Saturday, May 4 (rain or shine) at the Central Library. The sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. A half-price sale will begin at 2:00 p.m., and a \$1 bag sale at 3:00 p.m. (At 3:30, EVERYTHING GOES!)

As usual, the Literacy Volunteers of America will be there with their Bake Sale.

Contributions of books, records, and magazines have been coming in steadily. Children's books and records, as well as adult recordings, are already in good supply. Best sellers are children's books, paperbacks, and all kinds of non-fiction. If you can contribute your available books or records, please make sure they are in Good condition. But please **do not bring** old textbooks, weekly news magazines, Reader's Digest condensations, or National Geographics!

Books are priced at great-bargain rates: 50¢ for hardcover and large paperbacks, 25¢ for regular paperbacks, 15¢ for magazines and 50¢ each for records (or 3 for \$1.00). Children's items will be sold for 50¢ for hardcover, 25¢ for paperbacks, 10¢ for magazines and 25¢ for records. A limited number of "Better Books" and Cookbooks will be available at specially marked prices.

Pat Whitney always needs many volunteers for this busy time. Help is needed on Friday (May 3) to bring materials down from storage and set up in the McChesney Room. On Saturday, helpers are needed from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. to set up barricades, erect tables on the patios, move materials out to the patios, and post signs. Cashiers and "floaters" can be scheduled in 2-hour shifts from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. And naturally a clean-up crew beginning at 3:30!

Volunteers are needed for publicity too, to distribute flyers in busy areas of the city. Suggestions are welcome as to the best places to advertise!

The Bag Sale will need extra plastic grocery bags and large brown paper bags —contributions of those are welcome too!

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

*You are invited . . . . .*

### **ANNUAL DINNER MEETING • TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1996 • 6:15 p.m.**

You are cordially invited to the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library, to be held in the McChesney Room at the Main Library.

Program: **"The Complete Story of the Design of Your Central Library, as Told by Its Architect"**  
(Architect Werner Feibes will discuss [with slides] the design and construction of our Library.)

Menu: Classic Caterers will serve chicken breast stuffed with cranberry rice in orange sauce and oven browned potatoes, with salad, dessert and beverage.

Following dinner, a short business meeting will be conducted. Please join us during National Library Week to celebrate the importance of SCPL in our community. The cost to attend is \$10.50, payable to Friends of SCPL. Please complete the reservation form below and return it with payment by Friday, April 5, 1996.



**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK • APRIL 14-20, 1996**  
**Activities at Schenectady County Public Library**

- Sunday, April 14, 1:00 p.m.      **Mixed Media Matinee:** Mildred Kerr, Artist, & Randy Mauger, Folk Singer
- Monday, April 15, evening      **Education & Job Information Center Program**
- Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.      **Read-Aloud**, with Peter J. Guidarelli (County Representative), Cristine Cioffi (County Representative), Janet Hutchinson, (proprietor, The Open Door), Melinda Meyers (SCPL Trustee), Larry Rapant (writer, critic, teacher)
- Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.      **The Electronic Journey: Favorite Roadside Attractions** (notable sites on the Internet, presented by Susan Penney, Library Media Specialist)
- Friday, April 19, noon      **American Century Series:** Larry Rapant will lead a discussion on religion and values, examining the book *The Company of Woman*, by Mary Gordon.
- Sunday, April 21, afternoon      **Young Schenectady Musicians Concert**

**NEWSLETTER WORKERS**

The December issue of the Newsletter was assembled and prepared for mailing by this team of workers, to whom we give thanks: Bill & Lois Isles, Mary & Bill White, Joan & Dick Sills, Florence & Win Bigelow, Betty & Owen Sutton, Helena Piotrowski, Annette Bilmeyer, Alan Nelson, and Mildred Neslin.

**WE GREET NEW MEMBERS**

We're delighted to welcome the following people as new Friends of Schenectady County Public Library: **Mr. & Mrs. M.F. Barton, Marilyn Beames, Leslie Becker, Sylvia & Bob Briber, Belle Brunelle, Stephanie Hogan, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kmetz, Lorraine Miskinis, Mary O'Keeffe, Suanne Tharpe**

**LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!  
CAN YOU HELP?**

Mary Miller, Coordinator of Volunteers at SCPL, is looking for helpers to process information from library surveys into the database. This is an on-going task, until all surveys have been done. Please call Mary Miller at 388-4500. Help is also needed to finish bar-coding the storage books at the central library. Supervision and training are provided. Call for an appointment at 388-4500.

Mary calls attention to the diligent work of Mark and Mike Hill, who have been helping patrons with the self-checkout machine on Saturday afternoons, as well as distributing and collecting the library surveys. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped to issue these useful surveys.

**FRIENDS OF SCPL**

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| President        | Valerie Catlin     |
| 1st Vice Pres.   | Bernard Gerberg    |
| 2nd Vice Pres.   | Frank Steiner      |
| Secretary        | Dorothy Brandon    |
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| Membership       | Patricia Whitney   |
|                  | 1117 Earl Ave.     |
|                  | Sch'dy NY 12309    |
|                  | Tel: 374-2120      |



# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

May 1996

Vol. XXXI No. 5

### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN: May and June

Coordinated by Cathy Buckwalter

NOTE: Books Sandwiched-In, a continuing series of book reviews, meets at noon on Mondays, in the McChesney Room of the central library on Clinton Street. You may bring a sandwich lunch, if you like; beverages are available. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing impaired.

- Monday, May 13      **The Letters of Ayn Rand**, edited by Michael S. Berliner, and **Ayn Rand: Russian Radical**, by Chris M. Sciabarra. These books will be reviewed by William Thomas, writer and economist.
- Monday, May 20      **The Secret World of American Communism**, by Harvey Klehr, John Earl Haynes, and Fridrikh L. Firsov, reviewed by David Evans, CPA, partner at Urbach, Kahn & Werlin.
- Monday, June 3      Three by Stephen King: **Rose Madder**, **Dolores Claiborne**, and **Gerald's Game**, all reviewed by Robert Jacquay, Director of William K. Sanford Library in Colonie.
- Monday, June 10     **Beautiful Loot: The Soviet Plunder of Europe's Art Treasures**, by K. Akinsha and G. Kozlov. The reviewer will be Virginia Das, Artist and Head of the Art Department at Albany Academy for Girls.
- Monday, June 17     **A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books**, by Nicholas A. Basbanes, plus **The Blue Suit: A Memoir of Crime**, by Richard Rayner. These will be reviewed by Sally Patterson, Director of the Bryn Mawr Bookshop in Albany.



And from the current series, **Table Talks**:

- Monday, April 29    **Current Concerns in the Legal Profession**  
Cris Cioffi, partner in the law firm of Carpenter & Cioffi, P.C., recently elected to the Schenectady County Legislature
- Monday, May 6      (note corrected date)  
**Liberals, Conservatives, & Libertarians: Who are they? What are their basic economic views?**  
Dr. Shelton Schmidt, Asst. Professor of Economics, Union College



DON'T FORGET . . .

## SPRING BOOK SALE !

SATURDAY, MAY 4 — 9:00 to 4:00  
at the CENTRAL LIBRARY

BOOKS      RECORDS      MAGAZINES





## JOB INFORMATION

Calling all June graduates and job hunters! Phyllis Ochs, Coordinator of the Education and Job Information Center, has announced a series of how-to-job-hunt programs.

- On Saturday, June 8, at 10-11:30 a.m., Theresa DaBiere-Craig will present a workshop on preparing a resumé.
- On Tuesday, June 18, at 7-8:30 p.m., M. Christian Bender, Director of the Career Center, will talk about preparing for job interviews.
- On Monday, June 10, at 7-8:30 p.m., Phyllis Ochs will discuss researching the hidden job market.

These programs are part of a series offered at four Mohawk Valley Libraries this spring, under the auspices of a grant to the MVLA Education and Job Information Center.

In addition, a summer job hunting program for teens is scheduled at the Schenectady library on May 20 at 3:30 p.m., and a "Dress to Impress" program on September 9 at 7:00 p.m.

All programs will be held in the library's McChesney Room.

## COLONIAL SCHENECTADY

The Colonial Shenectady Project, Inc., a volunteer group formed to promote interest in Schenectady's colonial period, has prepared a very informative walking-tour packet about the historic stockade. Entitled "Colonial Schenectady, An American Crucible," the packet consists of a map of the original stockade area and an audio cassette describing major points of interest, colonial era housing and other fascinating gems of information.

The map and cassette are packaged in an attractive carrying case, making it a wonderful gift for family and friends. The packets are available in the library director's office for \$14.95; of this amount \$4.95 will be retained by the Friends of the Library for their activities and projects. Checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Library.

## OUR PRODUCTION STAFF . . .

The March Newsletter was assembled and prepared for mailing by these people: Helena Piotrowski, Bill White, Dick & Jan Sills, Laurie Brooks, Ellen Rode, Kathy Lippitt, Dot & Bernie Gerberg, Rudy Dehn, and Mildred Neslin. Our thanks for their help!

## VOLUNTEER ALERT

Mary Miller, Coordinator of Volunteers for the Public Library, reports that the task of "inputting" the library survey data is ending. She cites the value of the expertise of Walter Grattidge, Debbie McCambridge, Kris Campbell, and Beth Kelty. "The next project," she says, will be the phone survey. As soon as information is available, I will post what kind of help we will need."

## HELP SOMEONE TO READ THIS!

Literacy Volunteers of America-Schenectady, Inc. is looking for patient and flexible volunteers to help adults improve their reading and writing skills. The one-to-one tutoring is an interesting, challenging, and rewarding volunteer experience. Tutors should expect to commit 1 to 2 hours a week.

Full training is provided for volunteer tutors. A series of training sessions will be offered 6:45-9:45 p.m. on May 2, 7, 14, 16, 21, and 28. The training will take place in the McChesney Room of SCPL.

Interested? Call Literacy Volunteers for more information, at 372.9819.

## ERROR, ERROR, ERROR . . .

We blush to acknowledge some mistakes in the dates of events listed in our last issue of the Newsletter. The review of *My American Journey* was held on March 4 (not March 5 as listed). And the Table Talk, "Liberals, Conservatives, and Libertarians" will meet on Monday, May 6 (not May 2). The editor apologizes for any inconvenience these errors may have caused you.

## NOTICE: MUSIC LOVERS

A video of an organ concert from the Round Lake Auditorium will be shown in the McChesney Room on Wednesday, May 22, at 12:00 noon. The organist is Professor Dean Billmeyer, of the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis. Dean is a 1973 graduate of Niskayuna High School.

## FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Valerie Catlin
1st Vice Pres.	Bernard Gerberg
2nd Vice Pres.	Frank Steiner
Secretary	Dorothy Brandon
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Editor	Alan Nelson
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin, Rudy Dehn
Membership	Patricia Whitney
	1117 Earl Ave.
	Schenectady, NY 12309
	Tel. 374-2120

## NEW FRIENDS . . .

This month we greet as new Friends Shirley & Donald Krauter of Scotia, Sylvia Liebman of Schenectady, and Ruth-Lou Peterson of Alplaus. Welcome!



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