

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

September 1996

Vol. XXXII No.1

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN: FALL 1996

Coordinated by Frank Steiner

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, Sept. 9 **The Flaming Corsage**, by William Kennedy. This recent novel will be reviewed by Patrick Kurp, of *The Daily Gazette*.
- Monday, Sept. 16 **The Demon Haunted World**, by Carl Sagan. The reviewer will be Professor Kenneth Schick, Physics Department, Union College.
- Monday, Sept. 23 **The Man Who Stole the Atom Bomb**, by Norman Moss, and **Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb**, by Richard Rhodes. These two books will be discussed by Walter Grattidge.
- Monday, Sept. 30 **Sister / Brother: Gertrude and Leo Stein**, by Brenda Wineapple (Professor of English at Union College). This biography will be reviewed by her colleague, Professor Peter Heinegg.
- Monday, Oct. 7 **Of Love and Other Demons**, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The novel will be reviewed by Professor Alberto Carlos, Romance Languages, SUNY-Albany.
- Monday, Oct. 21 **Lincoln**, by David Herbert Donald. The reviewer will be Professor Joseph Board, Political Science Department, Union College.
- Monday, Oct. 28 **Hitler's Willing Executioners**, by Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, will be discussed by Professor Stephen Berk, Department of History, Union College.



LITERARY SERIES 1996

- November 4 and 18 **"London in Literature"**
Robert Donovan, Professor Emeritus of English, SUNY Albany

The program for "Table Talks," coordinated by Bob Orr and Lillian Stern, is listed on next page.

FALL BOOK SALE—SEPTEMBER 21—HELP NEEDED

Pat Whitney has announced the date of the annual Fall Book Sale on Saturday, September 21, rain or shine, at the Central Library on Clinton Street. The sale begins at 9:00 a.m. and finishes about 3:30 p.m. Half-price sales will occur at 2:00 p.m. and a \$1 bag sale at 3:00 p.m.

Contributions of books, records, and magazines have been coming in steadily. As usual, the sale requests no old textbooks, weekly news magazines, Readers Digest condensed books or National Geographic. Best sellers are children's books, paperbacks, and all kinds of non-fiction. Prices are attractive to all: 50¢ for hardcover and large paperbacks, 25¢ for smaller paperbacks and records. There are some other special items: "better books," cookbooks, Life magazines, and specially

marked records.

Volunteers are needed, as always: on Friday to bring materials from storage and set up the McChesney Room, and on Saturday 7:30-9:00 a.m. to erect barricades and tables, and post signs on the patios. Cashiers and "floaters" are needed in 2-hour shifts from 9:00 to 3:00, and a clean-up crew at 3:30. Helpers are also needed for publicity flyers. And extra large brown bags and plastic bags are needed 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, at 388-4500.



TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Bob Orr and Lillian Stern

- Monday, Nov. 25 **"A Mayor Has Visions for His City"**
The speaker will be Al Jurczinski, Mayor of Schenectady
- Monday, Dec. 2 **"Single Payment Health Insurance"**
Panel discussion by Dr. Anita Burock, Internest, and Dr. Michael Jacobowski, Chairman of Medical Affairs at Ellis Hospital
- Monday, Dec. 9 **"Corporate Welfare"**
Professor Terry Weiner, Sociology Department, Union College
- Monday, Dec. 16 **"Ethics of Consumer Behavior"**
Professor Ramesh Di Wan, Department of Economics, R.P.I.



SPRING BOOK SALE RECORD!

Pat Whitney, chairman of the Spring Book Sale last May, reports the most successful one to date. It earned \$6,892 for the activities of Friends of Schenectady County Public Library. A total of 1,256 boxes of hard-cover books, paperbacks, children's books, magazines and records were sold.

Donations of gift certificates or goods were made by Grand Union, Shop'nSave, Dunkin' Donuts, and Price Chopper. Fisher Methodist Church loaned the event ten tables for display. Mrs. Whitney particularly acknowledges the help of the large number of volunteers, including helpers from the City Mission, the Center for Law Order & Justice, the Air National Guard, and Schenectady H.S. Key Club.

HMLA HONORS FRIENDS

The Hudson Mohawk Library Association recently recognized the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library with its 1996 HMLA Distinguished Service Award. The Friends were honored for a 30-year history of service, beginning with its fund-raising for the "new" main library in Schenectady. The citation mentioned the Friends' sponsorship of special programs, in the library and in the community. The former president of Friends of SCPL, Walter Grattidge, accepted the award.

Since 1986 HMLA has recognized contributions of individuals and organizations for excellence in the world of professional librarianship.

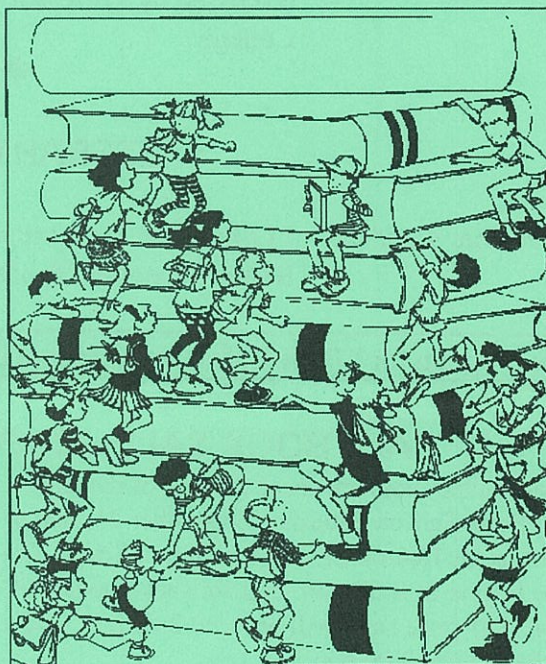
NEWSLETTER WORKERS

The Newsletter for May, 1996 was assembled and prepared for mailing by the crew of volunteers led by Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn. The helpers were: Peg Fisher, Lois & Bill Isles, Helena Piotrowski, Mary & Bill White, Kathy Lippet, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Alice Kussman, and Owen Sutton. Thanks!

SUMMER READING CLUB

"Read to Win: Team UP With Books," the theme of this year's New York State Summer Reading Club, was very successful in the Children's Room of the central library, and in all the branches. More children than ever enrolled in the Summer Reading Clubs, kept track of time spent reading, and enjoyed special weekly programs.

Funding from Friends provided many of the programs. Storytellers Jane Ainslie, Bill Cliff, and Dorothy Mancini were well received at a number of the branches. Naturalist Paul Myers was a hit with his live animal creatures. Musicians "Kid Coyote" and Paul Strausman and cave explorer Emily Davis Mobley were just a few off the interesting programs made possible by the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library.



ONWARD, UPWARD . . .

During the first six months of 1996, our library circulated 450,109 items—an increase of almost 5% over the same period in 1995.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We're delighted to see new Friends of SCPL, people like Joan Fucillo Brown, Susan & Ina Bubb, Thelma Carter, Wayne J. DeLude, Rosaline Etlinger, George D. Gamble, Stephen E. Gray, Lillian S. Jacobs, S. Kaminski, Ann Kidalowski, Charles D. Mahan, Carol Salli, Owen South, Dorothea & Frank Potochnik, Edith M. Raviola, Barbara & Dick Roberts, Elizabeth R. Staples, and Rose Westphal. A group we're glad to see! At this time the Friends number 836.

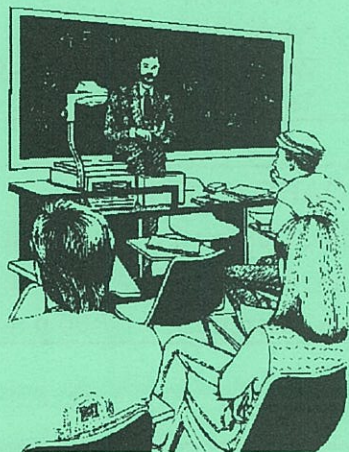
JOB INFORMATION PROGRAMS

Phyllis Ochs, coordinator for Education and the Job Information Center, has announced the September programs at Schenectady, Amsterdam, and Johnstown. The programs are free, but participants should pre-register by calling the phone listings below.

At the Schenectady Library (388-4500):
Sept. 9, 7-8:30 p.m.: Dress to Impress, Julia Nunez-Forbes, image consultant;
Sept. 12, 7-8:30 p.m.: Marketing Yourself: Portfolios, Cover Letters, and Other Job Search Tools, Theresa DaBiere-Craig, employment consultant;
September 30, 3-5:00 p.m.: Guerilla Tactics in the Job Market, Tom Jackson, career consultant.

At the Amsterdam Free Library (842-1080):
Sept. 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.: Get the Job You Want, Theresa DaBiere and Phyllis Ochs.

At Johnstown Public Library (762-8317):
September 26, 6:30-8:00 p.m.: Dress for Success, Ann Andriano, image consultant.



GE DONATES TO FRIENDS

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library recently received nearly \$8,000 from the General Electric Company's "More Gifts ... More Givers" program.

The funds will be used toward programs for adults, children and young adults.

COMING: LIBRARY ON LINE

Ronald L. Lagasse, Director of the Library, reports continuing plans for changing over from the CD-ROM catalog to an on-line catalog at the central library. When this project is implemented, library users will be able to obtain the most up-to-date information on new books in the collection. They will also be able to reserve and renew books on a terminal; they will also be able to access on-line databases, magazines, newspapers, and telephone directories.



HIV/AIDS INFORMATION

Our library has received a \$1,500.00 MVP Appleby award, to help in developing the library collection on HIV/AIDS.

HUMOR IN POETRY

A presentation of "Humor in Poetry," conducted by Larry Rapant, is scheduled in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Tuesday, October 29, at Noon. The session is a historic survey of British and American poetry from Chaucer to Ogden Nash. The program is funded by Friends of the Library.

THE AMERICAN WEST . . .

A reading and discussion series, "Myth vs. Reality: The American West," will be held on two Tuesdays in October in the McChesney Room, at 12:00 noon. On Tuesday, Oct. 15, the book scheduled will be **Giants in the Earth**, by O.E. Rolvaag. On Tuesday, Oct. 22, discussion will focus on **The Journals of Lewis and Clark**, ed. by Bernard DeVoto, and **Undaunted Courage**, by Stephen E. Ambrose.

Paperback copies on **Giants in the Earth** are available for loan from the switchboard office of the Central Library. **Journals of Lewis and Clark** and **Undaunted Courage** may be borrowed from the library's collection or on interlibrary loan.

The programs are sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Library Association with funding by the New York State Council on the Arts.

VOICES IN CONTEMPORARY POETRY

A Poetry Discussion Series Conducted by Larry Rapant

A Program Funded by the Friends of the Library
Tuesdays at Noon in the McChesney Room

- Tuesday, Sept. 24 **Voices From the Street**
How the Beat and Jazz poets of the 1950's such as Alan Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac continue to influence poetry today in Performance, Word, and Rap.

- Tuesday, Oct. 1 **Voices of the Unconscious**
How the early 20th century art and literary movements of Dadaism and Surrealism have connections to today's contemporary poets such as William S. Merwin and Robert Bly.

- Tuesday, Oct. 8 **Other Voices: Language Poets**
How poetry is being further transformed by an exploration of the dislocation of language, discontinuous form and fragmentation.

Photocopies of selected poems discussed in the series will be provided.



ARE YOU A FRIEND? JOIN US!

The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, a group now in its 30th year, aims to strengthen and enhance the public library system of our county. Our members, through generous donations of time and through annual dues, make possible a wide variety of programs and services that simply would not be available without the Friends.

Won't you join us in our support? The dues are modest, the service important, the satisfaction great. The dues are:

- Individual \$ 5.00
- Family \$ 10.00
- Contributing \$ 15.00
- Supporting \$ 25.00
- Business \$ 25.00
- Patron \$ 100.00

Forms are available at the check-out desk, or call Kabby Lowe at 346-8879.

FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	
President	Valerie Catlin
1st Vice Pres.	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice Pres.	Frank Steiner
Secretary	Dorothy Brandon
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Ed.	Alan Nelson
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin
	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Kabby Lowe, 2508 McGovern Dr., Sch'dy NY; Tel.346-8879

BOARD MEETINGS:	
Tuesday, October 22,	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 28,	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25,	7:00 p.m.

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

November 1996

Vol. XXXII N o.2

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN: WINTER 1997

Coordinated by Dot and John Meyer

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, January 6 **Crossing the River** by Caryl Phillips. The reviewer will be Dr. Elaine Ognibene, Professor of English at Siena College.
- Monday, January 13 **Liese Meitner** by Ruth Sime. This book will be reviewed by Dr. Ralph Alpher, Distinguished Senior Scientist & Administrator, Dudley Observatory, Physics Department, Union College.
- Monday, January 27 **The End of the Earth: Along the Fault Line of History**, by Robert Kaplan, reviewed by Cecelia Garfinkel, formerly with the Schenectady Public Library.
- Monday, February 3 **I.D.: How Heredity and Experience Made You Who You Are**, by Winifred Gallagher. The reviewer will be Dr. Lloyd Thomas, Clinical Psychologist.
- Monday, February 10 **The Simple Truth**, by Philip Levine. Dr. Linda Witkowski, retired English teacher from the Niskayuna School District, will review this book.
- Monday, February 24 **Prozac Nation**, by Elizabeth Wurtzel. To be reviewed by Dr. Jeffrey Berman, Professor of English, SUNY-Albany.
- Monday, March 3 **Primary Colors**, by Joe Klein (no longer Anonymous), reviewed by Susan Arbetter, News Director at WAMC Northeast Public Radio.



TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Bob Orr and Lillian Stern

- Monday, Nov. 25 **"A Mayor Has Visions for His City"**
The speaker will be Al Jurczinski, Mayor of Schenectady
- Monday, Dec. 2 **"Single Payment Health Insurance"**
Panel discussion by Dr. Anita Burock, Internist, and Dr. Michael Jacobowski, Chairman of Medical Affairs at Ellis Hospital
- Monday, Dec. 9 **"Corporate Welfare"**
Professor Terry Weiner, Sociology Department, Union College
- Monday, Dec. 16 **"Ethics of Consumer Behavior"**
Professor Ramesh Di Wan, Department of Economics, R.P.I.



LITERARY SERIES 1996

- Monday, November 18 **"London in Literature"**
Robert Donovan, Professor Emeritus of English, SUNY-Albany
(The second of two lectures begun on November 4.)

THE AMERICAN WEST: MYTH vs REALITY

A two-part book discussion series, postponed from October. Paperback copies of *Giants in the Earth* are available at the Switchboard office in the library. *Journals of Lewis and Clark* and *Undaunted Courage* can be borrowed from the library's collection.

- Wednesday, November 13 **Giants in the Earth**, by O. E. Rolvaag
- Wednesday, November 20 **The Journals of Lewis and Clark**, edited by Bernard DeVoto
Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose

Both programs will be held at 12:00 noon in the Dixon Board Room.

DR. ROBERT ORR DIES

The Friends of the Library lost a dedicated member with the death of Dr. Robert Orr in August, 1996. Born in Canada, he was a physician both there and in the U.S., with a specialty in anaesthesiology.

Bob Orr was active on the board of directors of the Friends and coordinated many excellent programs in the "Table Talks" and "Books Sandwiched-In" series.

Bob had a lot of interests besides his medical profession. He obtained an M.A. in English from SUNY-Albany and was a long-time member of local writers' clubs. He was a master gardener and apiarist, an active cross-country skier and bicyclist; he took up roller-blading at an age when most of us slow down.

Mainly, Bob Orr was a wonderfully kind person, and he will be missed greatly.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MENTORING PROGRAM

When you need a volunteer, ask a busy person. Can you find time to give one hour each week as an advisor/role-model/tutor for students in Schenectady County?

COMPASS, a mentoring program for area youngsters, is part of a national program working to create an education system to prepare young people for work and life-long career learning. Administered by the Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce, COMPASS currently provides 250-300 mentors from businesses and other groups in a school year. The program manager is Jane Weyers.

A brief training session is arranged to prepare mentors for the work, but the volunteers have common characteristics: they are stable, tolerant, open-minded, responsible good listeners with a sense of humor and a desire to help young people.

Interested? You can get more information, and an application to be a mentor, from Jane Weyers at Schenectady County Business Foundation for Quality Education at 306 State Street. Get in touch by phone (372-5656) or by e-mail (SchenectadyNYcc.cc2@ksinet.com).

NEWSLETTER WORKERS

Our thanks to the stalwart team of newsletter-assemblers who prepared the September issue for mailing. These are the people: Bill & Lois Isles, Helena Piotrowski, Florence Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Mary & Bill White, Peg Fisher, Dot & Bernie Gerberg, Gertrude Schutz, Rudy Dehn, and Mildred Neslin. As always, Thanks!

BOARD MEETING DATES

Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

FALL BOOK SALE REPORTS

The Fall Book Sale on September 21 was its usual fine success. Organized and run by Pat Whitney with a large number of volunteers, the sale produced a total of \$5,600 to be used for library activities of the Friends. The sale included 1,138 boxes of hard-cover books, paperbacks, records, children's books, and magazines.

Pat pointed to the hard work of volunteers in sorting and boxing the books, setting up for the sale, cashiering, etc. She particularly called attention to the help of the following: ten volunteers from the Air National Guard, helpers from the City Mission and the Center for Law, Order and Justice, and students from NICS (at Niskayuna High School). State Assemblyman James Tedisco and County Clerk John Woodward were among the cashiers in the all-day event. The staff of the Library provided their cheerful assistance when it was needed.

Ultimate credit, of course, goes to the hundreds of people who contributed books for the sale, and those who bought them!

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

The season brings new Friends, with names like: Susan & Ina Bubb, Thelma Carter, Wayne J. DeLude, Rosaline Etlinger, Charles & Jenny Frank, Robert Fritz, George D. Gamble, Stephen E. Gray, Lillian S. Jacobs, S. Kaminski, Ann Kidalowski, Charles D. Mahan, Carol Salli, Owen South, Dorothea & Frank Potochnik, Edith M. Raviola, Barbara & Dick Roberts, Elizabeth R. Staples, and Rose Westphal. We applaud their judgment and welcome them as Friends of the Library!

G.E. FRIENDS: A REMINDER

Kabby Lowe, our membership chairman, has this message for Friends from General Electric: Thank you for phoning G.E. for the match of your gift. Our generous members donated more than \$5000 in 1995, matched by the company Foundation. If you've forgotten to report your donation this year, please call 1-800-462-8244 with your gift information.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Valerie Catlin
1st Vice Pres.	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice Pres.	Frank Steiner
Secretary	Dorothy Brandon
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Ed.	Alan Nelson
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin
	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Kabby Lowe,
	Tel. 346-8879

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

January 1997

Vol. XXXII No.3

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN: WINTER 1997

Coordinated by Dorothy and John Meyer

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- Monday, January 13 **Liese Meitner**, by Ruth Sime. *Mark Walker* This biography of a woman's life in physics will be reviewed by ~~Dr. Ralph Alpher~~, Distinguished Senior Scientist & Administrator, Dudley Observatory; Physics Department, Union College.
- Monday, January 27 **The Ends of the Earth: Along the Fault Line of History**, by Robert Kaplan, reviewed by Cecelia Garfinkel, formerly with the Schenectady Public Library.
- Monday, February 3 **I.D.: How Heredity and Experience Made You Who You Are**, by Winifred Gallagher. The reviewer will be Dr. Lloyd Thomas, Clinical Psychologist.
- Monday, February 10 **What Work Is** by Philip Levine (the working man's poet). Linda Witkowski, retired English teacher from the Niskayuna School District, will review this book.
- Monday, February 24 **Prozac Nation**, by Elizabeth Wurtzel. To be reviewed by Dr. Jeffrey Berman, Professor of English, SUNY-Albany.
- Monday, March 3 **Primary Colors**, by Joe Klein (no longer Anonymous), reviewed by Susan Arbetter, News Director at WAMC Northeast Public Radio.



GREAT DECISIONS, 1997

"Great Decisions, 1997," the national nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association discussion series, will be held at the Schenectady County Public Library, beginning on Tuesday, February 4, and continuing for eight consecutive Tuesdays. The public is invited to participate in these sessions free of charge. Morning meetings will be held in the McChesney Room, 10:00-11:30 a.m. If interest warrants, evening sessions will meet 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the same room. If you are interested in evening sessions, please call Mrs. Chestnut at 346-0552.

Topics for this year will be:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, Feb. 4: | "The Media" | Tuesday, Mar. 4: | "Europe" |
| Tuesday, Feb. 11: | "Northeast Asia" | Tuesday, Mar. 11: | "Environmental Threats to Stability" |
| Tuesday, Feb. 18: | "Russia and the U.S." | Tuesday, Mar. 18: | "The Middle East" |
| Tuesday, Feb. 25: | "Terrorism and Crime" | Tuesday, Mar. 25: | "Globalization" |



TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Gene Zola and B. Donald Ackerman

- Tuesday, April 21 **How Is Religion Responding to a Changing Culture?** The speaker will be the Rev. Kathleen Buckley, Chaplain at Skidmore and Union Colleges.
- Tuesday, April 28 **Have Our Cities and Towns Become Ugly and Unattractive? What Can We Do?** The speaker is James Howard Kunsler, a resident of Saratoga Springs and the author of *Home From Nowhere*.
- Tuesday, May 6 **The Right to Privacy: Is It or Is It Not Important in Today's Culture?** The speaker is Pamela Katz, Director of the Capital District ACLU.
-

FRIENDS WELCOME FRIENDS

We greet the following new members of the Friends of SCPL: Christa Bray, Theresa DaBiere-Craig, Mona Evendon, Jane & William Jennings, Lynn T. Joosten, Wanda Kaczynski, Virginia Lavin, Laura Paris, Jeffrey Peil, and John Woodward. And Alice Kussman, too, who was omitted from an earlier list!

JOB HUNTERS HEAR SPEAKER

"Guerrilla Tactics in the Job Market" a program on September 30 sponsored by the Education and Job Information Center, featured Tom Jackson, noted author of many job-related books, including *The Perfect Résumé* and *The Perfect Job Search*.

In cooperation with the Open Door Bookstore, the Friends of the Library held a sale of two titles of Mr. Jackson's books at the program. Friends members Hank and Irene Buczkowski volunteered to staff the book sale table. Between them, they sold 26 copies of *Guerrilla Tactics in the Job Market* and 15 copies of *The Perfect Résumé* for a total of \$319.99. The Open Door donated 20% of this amount to the Friends. The Friends Board has earmarked this donation for the purchase of new materials for the Education and Job Information Center.

OUR ASSEMBLY TEAM

Our November Newsletter was assembled for mailing by the following nice people: Laurie Brooks, Gertrude Schutz, Dorothy & Bernie Gerberg, Helena Piotrowski, Mary & Bill White, Doris Clark, Lois & Bill Isles, Peg Fisher, Rudy Dehn, and Mildred Neslin. Thanks very much!

ROGER WHITNEY, A FRIEND

Friends of SCPL note with sadness the passing of Roger Whitney, who recently served on the Board of Directors, and helped in innumerable Book Sales. Our sincere condolences to his wife, Pat, and to his family.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—MANY TASKS!

Mary Miller, Coordinator of Volunteers for SCPL, reminds us that there is always a need for help in the work of the Library. In addition to the new tasks in training the public for the new on-line catalog system (see "Computer Catalog Coming," elsewhere in this issue), Mary cites other valuable services that volunteers can perform.

- The telephone survey of library users is still being conducted on Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Call Mary at 388-4500, to help!
- Income-tax forms, supplied in the Library from January through April, need to be stocked and managed by volunteers. Call Mary at 388-4500!
- Shelving books and mending audio and video tapes—another job volunteers can do. Call Mary at 388-4500!
- Work in the art department (cutting, folding, etc.) is an afternoon task for helpers. Call Mary at 388-4500!

Mary Miller sends her best wishes for the New Year, and her thanks to all who have given help to the library in the past year.



NEW COMPUTER CATALOG COMING

During 1997, the library will be converting from a CD-ROM computer catalog to an on-line system. The new system will use the Information Gateway interface, which is completely different from the CD-ROM version. To lessen the shock of the unfamiliar and ease the public into the new menu system, the library plans to schedule staff and volunteers in 2- or 3-hour shifts right at the terminals, to assist and instruct.

To those who have been dialing-in from home, the Information Gateway system will already be familiar. For those who haven't, the staff will be providing instruction.

Friends of the Library can be very helpful volunteers in assisting with this orientation of the public. It is a perfect opportunity to learn a new skill and work with the public.

E. Timothy McGowan, Head of Reference and Adult Services, says, "The migration to a public on-line catalog is the biggest development at the Library in almost thirty years." Friends of the Library, and other citizens, can facilitate the introduction of library users to the "information superhighway." Those who are interested should get in touch with the Coordinator of Volunteers, Mary Miller, at 388-4500.

BOARD MEETING DATES

Tuesday, January 28 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, March 25 7:00 p.m.

AUTHOR VISIT MADE POSSIBLE BY FRIENDS

Serena Butch, children's librarian, says that the highlight of the program year in the Children's Department was a visit by author Cynthia DeFelice on Monday, November 18. Financially sponsored by the Friends, the program was the kick-off for Children's Book Week. The popular author of children's novels, folk tales, and picture books attracted an audience of over 100 children and adults. DeFelice is also a professional storyteller who delighted the crowd with her telling of "Three Perfect Peaches."

Many thanks to Friends Robert Mackeon, Walter Grattidge, and Sue Rokos of MVLA for staffing the sale of DeFelice's many books. Long lines of people purchased books and had them autographed. The Friends will receive a small profit from the book sale, held in cooperation with the Open Door Bookstore.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Valerie Catlin
1st Vice Pres.	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice Pres.	Frank Steiner
Secretary	Dorothy Brandon
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Ed.	Alan Nelson
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin
	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Kabby Lowe
	Tel: 346-8879

WE'RE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY—WON'T YOU JOIN US?

The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, a group now in its 30th year, aims to strengthen and enhance the public library system of our county. Our members, through generous donations of time and through annual dues, make possible a wide variety of programs and services that simply would not be available without the Friends.

Won't you join us in our support? The dues are modest, the service important, the satisfaction great. Just fill out the form below and mail it with your check (to "Friends of SCPL") to the Treasurer, Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305-2083.

Individual:	\$5.00	NAME _____
Family:	\$10.00	ADDRESS _____
Contributing:	\$15.00	_____
Supporting:	\$25.00	PHONE _____
Business:	\$25.00	
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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

March 1996

Vol. XXXII No.4

NOTE: the following series of talks 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.

SCIENCE SERIES—SPRING 1997

Coordinated by Dr. Walter Grattidge

- Monday, March 10 **“The End of Science?”**
Dr. Jim Bray, GE Corporate R&D
- Monday, March 17 **“Effect of Aging on Human Power Output”**
Ned Bigelow, GE Corporate R&D (Retired)
- Monday, March 24 **“One Hundred Years of the Electron”**
Dr. R. N. Hall, GE Corporate R&D (Retired)
- Monday, March 31 **“The Discovery of X-Rays”**
(Memorial Lecture in Memory of Dr. Robert Orr)
Dr. George Wise, GE Corporate R&D

LITERARY SERIES

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- Monday, April 7 **“Southern Women’s Civil War Diaries”**
Dr. Pamela Clements, Chair of the English Department, Siena College, will discuss researching and writing about this subject.
- Monday, April 14 ? **“Writing and Publishing Your Material”**
Discussion will be led by Winifred Elze, local author of “Cosy” mysteries *Here Kitty Kitty* and *Changeling Garden*

TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Gene Zola and B. Donald Ackerman

- Monday, April 21 **“How Is Religion Responding to a Changing Culture?”** The speaker will be the Rev. Kathleen Buckley, Chaplain at Skidmore and Union Colleges.
- Monday, April 28 **“Have Our Cities and Towns Become Ugly and Unattractive? What Can We Do?”** The speaker is James Howard Kunstler, a resident of Saratoga Springs and the author of *Home From Nowhere*.
- Monday, May 5 **“The Right to Privacy: Is It or Is It Not Important in Today’s Culture?”**
The speaker is Pamela Katz, Director of the Capital District ACLU.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions, a nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association discussion series, continues with these sessions in March, on consecutive Tuesdays at 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the McChesney Room.

March 4: “Europe” || March 11: “Environmental Threats to Stability” || March 18: “The Middle East”
March 25: “Globalization”

ANNOUNCING—

Friends’ Annual Dinner Meeting (see page 3)

Semi-Annual Book Sale (see page 2)

NEWS HELPERS

This issue reaches you through the help of lots of people. For example, the January issue of the Newsletter was assembled and prepared for mailing by these nice workers: Bill & Lois Isles, Peg Fisher, Doris Clark, Mary and Bill White, Dot & Bernie Gerberg, Florence & Win Bigelow, Helen Steiner, and Annette Billmeyer. They were organized and coached, as usual, by Rudy Dehn and Mildred Neslin.



VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED!

Literacy Volunteers of America-Schenectady, Inc. is looking for volunteers to help adults improve their skill in reading, writing, or speaking of English

Tutoring is an interesting, challenging, and rewarding experience for volunteers. Tutoring goes one-to-one, tutor to student. Volunteers should expect to commit 1 to 2 hours each week, scheduled at the tutor's convenience.

Interested? Call Literacy Volunteers for more information at 372-9819.

BOOK SALE SET FOR MAY 10

Pat Whitney has announced the date of the annual Fall Book Sale on Saturday, May 10, rain or shine, at the Central Library on Clinton Street. The sale begins at 9:00 a.m. and finishes about 3:30 p.m. Half-price sales will occur at 2:00 p.m. and a \$1 bag sale at 3:00 p.m.

Contributions of books, records, and magazines have been coming in steadily. As usual, the sale requests no old textbooks, weekly news magazines, Readers Digest condensed books or National Geographics. Best sellers are children's books, paperbacks, and all kinds of non-fiction. Prices are attractive to all: 50¢ for hardcover and large paperbacks, 25¢ for smaller paperbacks and records. There are some other special items: "better books," cookbooks, and specially marked records.

Volunteers are needed (see below). If you can lend a hand as an active Friend, please call Pat Whitney at 374-2120, or leave a message at the Library, at 388-4500.

BOOK SALE HELPERS

The Book Sale is a huge project, and Pat Whitney needs help of all kinds.

The first job goes on all the time, between book sales, to get ready for the next one. A few good volunteers are needed to sort books, magazines and paperbacks. Training is provided by the experienced volunteers.

For the sale itself, we need people to post flyers in public places, especially in the Bellevue, Mont Pleasant, Upper Union, and Van VanVranken areas.

On the day before the sale, helpers are needed (on Friday, May 9) to bring materials from storage and set up the McChesney Room. And on Saturday (May 10) from 7:30-9:00 a.m. to erect barricades and tables and post signs on the patios. Cashiers and "floaters" are needed in 2-hour shifts from 9:00 to 3:00, and a clean-up crew at 3:30. And extra large brown bags and plastic bags are needed 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.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK — CONNECT!

Mark your calendars! We celebrate National Library Week, April 13-20. The theme this year is "Connect at the Library," and a week of diverse programming is taking shape.

Leading up to the festivities is Project Mascot, a county-wide contest-search, open to children, teens, and adults, for a library mascot. Watch for posters, flyers, and newspaper announcements. Winners will be announced at the opening program in the McChesney Room on **Sunday, April 13**, featuring speaker Mike Gaylo, biologist and director of Hawks, Owls & Wildlife. This splendid program will feature owls, and will appeal to people of all ages.

Tuesday, April 15 schedules the annual Dinner Meeting of the Friends of SCPL, in the McChesney Room beginning at 6:15 p.m. (See announcement on page 3.)

The popular Read-Aloud program will travel to the Niskayuna Branch on **Wednesday, April 16**, at 7:00 p.m.

On **Thursday, April 17**, Laura Linder, Archivist of the Hall of Electrical History and the Schenectady Museum, will speak at 12:00 noon about Thomas Edison, on the occasion of the sesquicentennial of his birth. Later that day, at 7:00 p.m., Bob Sullivan, librarian from Reference, will take us to some interesting sites on the SCPL World Wide Web home page. Both events will be in the McChesney Room.

April 20th (Sunday) will present a musical program at 2:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room, featuring Jonathan Chu, violinist, and Kenneth Olsen, cellist.

The National Library Week Committee consists of Jo Adams, Amy Fuller, Walter Grattidge, Ann Moore, Lisa Turck, and Harold Wusterbarth.

HOBBIES ANYONE?

Anyone with a hobby or collection, who would be interested in displaying items in the library's display case (near the circulation desk) should get in touch with Nancy Schaffer, at 388-4500.

AMONG THE STALWARTS:

Let us salute in this issue the valuable services provided every month by Jane and Wayne Somers, who maintain the Friends' mailing list and print the labels for mailing the Newsletter. They're star members of our Silent Service!



PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors is proposing revisions to the by-laws to facilitate financial reporting. The Board recommends these changes, which will be presented to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting on April 15. Please be present, ready to vote on the changes, which are underlined below.

Article III, Sec. 4:

[The fiscal year shall run from July 1 to June 30.]

The fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31.

Article III, Sec. 5:

[Contributions shall be payable annually at the beginning of the fiscal year.]

Contributions shall be payable annually in the Spring after the annual meeting.

Article VIII, Sec. 4:

[The terms of the officers shall run concurrently with the fiscal year of the organization.]

The terms of the officers shall run from annual meeting to annual meeting.

Rationale: As for Article III: presently, the Treasurer must prepare annual reports twice a year (1) on a calendar year for the I.R.S., etc., and (2) on a July-to-July year for other workings of the organization. This change would mean that the Treasurer's report at the annual meeting will also be for the calendar year preceding the meeting. As for Article VIII: it is intended that the Friends' membership year will run from annual meeting to annual meeting, so that membership renewals will be mailed at about the same time as they have been in the past.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING ON APRIL 15

You are cordially invited to the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library. The Dinner Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, in the McChesney Room at the Main Library.

The Program will feature **Margaret Burhmaster, Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature**, who will speak on **"Three C's for the Future: Cooperation, Coordination, and Consolidation."** There will also be piano selections by **Wei-Jen Yuan**.

Classic Caterers will serve a hot and cold buffet, to include beef carbonnades, potatoes, carrot-raisin or tossed salad, dessert and beverage. The cost of the dinner (see the reservation form below) will be \$10.50, payable to "Friends of SCPL."

Following dinner, a short business meeting will be conducted (see "By-Laws Revisions," above).

If you can attend, please complete the reservation form and return it with payment by April 4, 1997.

**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Annual Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 1997 • 6:15 p.m.
McChesney Room**

Number Attending _____

Amount Enclosed _____ (**\$10.50 per person**)

Attendee Names

Please mail to: Carol A. Raphael, 19 Eltinge Place, Scotia, NY 12302

399-7923

We look forward to your participation. Thank you!

NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS

Mary Miller, coordinator of library volunteers, announces the need for helpers in the Gateway Project. "Gateway" is a computer on-line catalog system, a vital step in taking the library along the "electronic highway." To ease the public into the new menu system, the library plans to schedule staff and volunteers in 2- or 3-hour shifts. Friends of the Library can be very helpful in assisting with this orientation of library patrons. It is a perfect opportunity to learn a new skill and work with the public. The hardware will be installed in February and March, and training of the trainers will begin soon after that.

Volunteers are also needed to assist patrons in the selection of Income Tax forms, under the direction of Bob Sullivan. Helpers are needed on weekdays, evenings, and on Saturdays and Sundays.

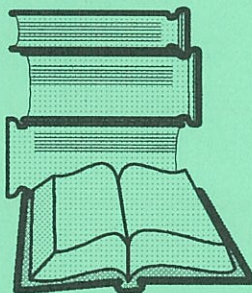
Mary Miller says, "We were very successful in getting our phone survey completed, mostly by volunteers. When the survey was done, our volunteers' information was put into the computer. We are anxiously waiting for the results."

She adds her thanks for all the help given by SCPL volunteers. Anyone who would like to help with any of the projects should call Mary at 388-4608 or 388-4500.

FRIENDS BOARD NOMINATES

The Nominating Committee of the Friends of SCPL has proposed the election of Samuel Weinstein as a new member of the Board of Directors.

Weinstein, a recently retired physicist (GE-KAPL), has been active with the Friends projects for several years, notably in the Book Sales. He was a charter volunteer at the new Elizabeth Bean branch library in Niskayuna, involved in fund raising, the landscape committee, and bar-coding the collection.



NEW MEMBERS: GREETINGS!

Kabby Lowe reports the names of the following new members of Friends of SCPL: Joyce & Allen Braswell, Lois Crauer, Susan Gaffney, Mary Nolan, Terence O'Regan, Ruth Savastio, Jessica Drumgold, Robert Kwasnick, Bart & Gail Roselli, and Robert & Barbara Conahan. Glad to have you with us!

BE A FRIEND TOO. . . JOIN US!

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, a group now in its 30th year, aims to strengthen and enhance the public library system of our county. Through generous donations of time and through annual dues, our members make possible a wide variety of programs and services that simply would not be possible without the Friends.

Won't you join us? The dues are modest: Individual \$5.00; Family \$10, Contributing \$15, Supporting \$25, Business \$25, and Patron \$100.

Joining is easy: just send your name and address, plus a check (to "Friends of SCPL") to the Treasurer, Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305-2083.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Valerie Catlin
1st Vice Pres.	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice Pres.	Frank Steiner
Secretary	Dorothy Brandon
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Ed.	Alan Nelson
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin
	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Kabby Lowe
	Tel: 346-8879

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library NEWSLETTER

May 1997

Vol. XXXII No.5

NOTE: The following series of talks is held at noon on Mondays in the McChesney Room of the central library on Clinton Street. You may bring a sandwich lunch, if you wish; beverages are available. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired.

The talks are video-taped, and Monday programs may be viewed on the following Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Tune to Channel 16, the Public Access Station of the Schenectady County Cable System, operated by TCI.

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN—SPRING 1997 Coordinated by Sally van Schaick and Faith Donovan

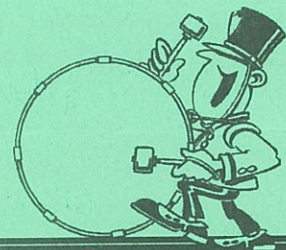
- Monday, May 12 *Angle of Repose*, by Wallace Stegner
Reviewed by Dr. George Shaw, Professor of Geology, Union College
- Monday, May 19 *Dossier, the Secret Life of Armand Hammer*, by Edward Epstein
Reviewed by Dr. Frank Steiner
- Monday, June 2 *Antigone*, by Sophocles
Reviewed by Dr. Christina Sorum, Professor of Classics, Union College
- Monday, June 9 *Slouching Toward Gomorrah*, by Robert Bork
Reviewed by Dr. William M. Murphy, Professor Emeritus of English,
Union College
- Monday, June 16 *Genesis*
Reviewed by Robert A. Donovan, Professor Emeritus of English,
SUNY-Albany

Spring Book Sale !

DON'T FORGET

SATURDAY, MAY 10 • 9:00 TO 3:30

CENTRAL LIBRARY • CLINTON STREET



31st ANNUAL MEETING OF FRIENDS of SCPL

Approximately 65 Friends of Schenectady County Public Library assembled for their annual dinner-meeting on Tuesday evening, April 15, in the McChesney Room of the central library. Chaired by President Valerie Catlin, the program featured a talk by Margaret Buhrmaster, Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature, who spoke on "Three C's for the Future: Cooperation,

Coordination and Consolidation." Another highlight of the program was a performance of the "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 12," played by the young pianist Wei-Jen Yuan.

The brief business meeting included a vote on a change in the Bylaws, a treasurer's report by Junice Wusterbarth, and a report by the Director of the Library, Ron Lagasse.

Next Board meeting: Tuesday, May 27

MISS THE MONDAY SESSIONS? TUNE IN!

The Monday noon sessions in the McChesney Room are videotaped each week by Jim Lewis. If you miss Books Sandwiched-In, or Table Talks or Literary Series, etc., you can catch them on television later that week, on Thursday afternoon. The Schenectady County Cable System (operated by TCI), broadcasts each week's session on the Schenectady County Cable System (Channel 16) each Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

The last issue of the Newsletter emerged into the mail and out to our Members courtesy of the help of these volunteers: Mary & Bill White, Dot Garberg, Kathy Lipputt, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Helena Piotrowski, Annette Billmeyer, Gert Schutz, Laurie Brooks, Frank Steiner, Rudy Dehn and Mildred Neslin. Thank you, thank you!

NEW MEMBERS JOIN US

Kabby Lowe lists the names of the following people who have joined the Friends of SCPL in recent months: Pauline Cox, Charmaine Fallon, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold S. Fisher, Rohinton and Priti Irani, Meg Massaro, Joyce Parry, Sheila & Harvey Randall, Sue, Dennis & Samantha Rokos, William A. Seyse, Joan Spencer, Jan & Harmon Tunison, and the Greg Wolcott family. We're glad to have them with us.

MEMBERSHIP: JOIN / RENEW!

If you haven't received it already, you should soon receive your notice for renewal of membership in the Friends of SCPL. And if you are not already a Friend, this is a good time to join this group, now beginning its 31st year of good work.

Six levels of contribution are available, from \$5 to \$100, and if you are qualified for matching funds (at GE, for instance) you can double your gift by notifying your company.

If you have questions, please call the membership chairman, Kabby Lowe, at 346-8879.

SPRING BOOK SALE SOON!

Saturday, May 10 is the date for the Spring Book Sale, to be held at the Central Library on Clinton Street. Books, records, magazines—all great bargains—will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until about 3:30 p.m.

Pat Whitney, who directed the sale for many years, is ill this year, and Peter Oldow has stepped into the breach to handle the hard work of management.

Hundreds of boxes of books and other materials have been contributed by the public and then sorted and classified by volunteers. Many helpers are always needed at the sale; last-minute volunteers should call Peter Oldow at 399-4250 as soon as possible.

Last year, the Friends conducted two successful book sales, netting a record \$6892 in the Spring and \$5600 in the fall. Almost 2400 boxes of books and other materials were sold at the two sales. The funds were used to purchase books for the library's branches.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Faith Donovan
President-Elect	Phyllis Born
1st Vice Pres.	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice Pres.	Frank Steiner
Secretary	Jeanette Gerlaugh
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Ed.	Alan Nelson
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin
	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Kabby Lowe, Tel. 346-8879

THE VALUE OF VALERIE

Valerie Catlin drops the reins of the Friends' presidency this spring. A member of the Board for three years, she has served as its President for two years. She will continue to give her energetic service on the Board, however, and we are greatly thankful for the friendly ease with which she has worked with all of us. Thank you, Val!

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