

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

September 1997

Vol. XXXIII No.1

Note: the Monday series of talks are held 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.

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN—FALL, 1997

Coordinated by Lillian Stern, Julia Norton, and Frank Steiner

- Monday, September 8 *Martin Dressler* by Stephen Millhauser
Reviewed by Patrick Kurp, *The Daily Gazette*
- Monday, September 15 *Personal History* by Katherine Graham
Reviewed by Prof. Linda Steiner, Rutgers University
- Monday, September 22 *Galatea 2.2* by Richard Lewis Powers
Reviewed by Prof. (Emeritus) Walter AuClair, RPI
- Monday, September 29 *My Other Life* by Paul Theroux
Reviewed by Margery Beeler, SCP Library
- Monday, October 6 *Down by the River* by Edna O'Brien
Reviewed by Sally van Schaick
- Monday, October 20 *American Requiem, My God, My Father, My Country*
by James Carroll. Reviewed by Prof. Kevin Williams, SUNYA
- Monday, October 27 *Shadow Man* by Mary Gordon
Reviewed by Dr. Erma Ruth Chestnut



LITERARY SERIES—FALL, 1997

Discussion of two Jane Austen novels by Judy Hoff, Owner of The Book Nook

- Monday, November 3 *Emma*
- Monday, November 10 *Persuasion*

COMING THIS MONTH!

FALL BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

CENTRAL LIBRARY • CLINTON STREET

FICTION—NON-FICTION—COOKBOOKS—RECORDS—MAGAZINES—CHILDREN'S BOOKS

NOTE: If you can volunteer for the many jobs in the Book Sale, please call Peter Oldow at 399-4250.

POETRY DISCUSSION SERIES

Songs From Paradise: Great Mystic Poets of the World

Discussion Conducted by Larry Rapant

A number of mystical poets renowned in literature have come from the Eastern Hemisphere, but are little known to many of us in the West. Translation projects in recent times, however, have made many of their works more accessible and have begun to influence contemporary writing as exemplified in New Age Movement literature.

The programs listed below will meet on Tuesdays at 12 Noon, in the McChesney Room.

Tuesday, October 7	EUROPEAN Germany—Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)
Tuesday, October 14	MIDDLE EASTERN Persia—Rumi (1207-1273)
Tuesday, October 21	ORIENTAL Japan—Basho (1644-1694) China—Issa (1763-1827)
Tuesday, October 28	BENGALI and AMERICAN India—Tagore (1861-1941) Syria/America—Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)

Handouts of selected poems discussed at each program will be provided.

The series is funded by the Friends of the Library.



MUSIC AT NOON

The Music Committee of the Friends of SCPL, in cooperation with the Etude Club, will inaugurate a new series of concerts to be held on Fridays beginning at noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library at Clinton and Liberty Streets in downtown Schenectady.

Attendees will be welcome to bring a brown bag lunch; beverages will be available.

Programs are presently scheduled for November 7, March 13, and May 8. Programs will last from noon to 1 p.m.

DEDICATIONS AT NISKAYUNA BRANCH

Enhancements to the Niskayuna Branch Meeting Room, in memory of William K. Altschuller, were recently completed and a commemoration ceremony held at the branch on June 6.

An impressive dedication ceremony (in memory of the late Charles Bean, a principal benefactor for the project) of the stone library sign, and the gardens and landscaping, was held on Sunday afternoon, June 15.

In addition to tours of the 14 gardens, there was an indoor plant exhibit of several hundred displays, an art exhibit from the museum collection, a book signing, and refreshments. The massive stone sign, designating the branch as the Elizabeth Harriman Bean Library, was designed by Susan Boyer. Special appreciation is in order for the donors, Susan Boyer, the members of the Landscape Committee, the volunteers, and the library staff for all their work.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Library has gained many new Friends, at a record rate, since February of 1997. One hundred new members have joined us. We're especially grateful for the response from Literacy Volunteers to our campaign for membership. At the Board meeting in August, Membership Chairman Kabby Lowe reported that our present enrollment is 931, and growing. Remember: it's never too late to join, at any time!

CENTRAL LIBRARY LANDSCAPING: WORK PARTIES

You may have admired the plants and shrubs and their upkeep at the Central Library over the summer months. Some 40 or more volunteers from the library staff, Friends of the Library, Schenectady 2000, and ARC have had work days on June 12, July 1, July 12, and August 6, covering the Government Center section of the downtown area, which includes the Central Library.

Two additional work days have been scheduled for the Saturdays of September 6 and October 25th. If you can volunteer for help with landscape maintenance at the library, please show up at 9 a.m. on one or both of those dates.



OUR CHILDREN IN SUMMER

The Children's Department has been a busy place this summer. Thanks to funds from the Friends, many Reading Club programs were made possible in the Central Children's Room and at the branches.

- Emily Davis Mobley showed slides of bats and caves.
- Bethany Liebers contributed stories and crafts.
- We had a Wild Circus Time with E-Z the Clown.
- Environmentalist George Steele entertained with songs.
- Naturalist Paul Meyers showed live reptiles.

HUZZAH TO NEW MEMBERS!

Kabby Lowe has been busy gathering new members of the Friends, and the summer has given us a bumper crop of such nice people. It's nice to see that a good number of them have joined us from Literacy Volunteers. Here are the names: Ms. Martha Berman, E.M. Birbilis, M. Braunagel-Brown, Mr. & Mrs. John Cammarene, Mary & Robert Case, Gloria Decker, Judy T. Dillenbeck, Margaretta Denham, Mark Felthousen, Jessie C. Gaus, David G. Janower, Dr. Margaret King, Angela P. Krautzman, Karol Krystyan, Mr. & Mrs. John Kuzma, Ms Barbara Lapidus, Joyce Looman, Thomas & Louisa Mailey, May Mancuso, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Moran, Mrs. Pauline Moran, Mrs. Elizabeth Moro, P. Munk, Ms Roxanne L. Nagorka, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Nevius, Terry Paulson, James & Charlotte Ramsey, Ralph Relyea, Wolf & Elliess Riemer, Holly Saupp, Lee & Linda Sornberger, Herbert M. Strong, Robert J. Sullivan, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tatge, Jack Underwood, Barbara Van Etten, Ms Jane Vermilyea, Ann L. Walraven, Peter & Anne Willis, Maryellen Windish, Ann Wyles, and Ms Irene B. Youngs. Great to have you with us!

YOUNG ADULTS

Jo Adams, Young Adult Librarian, thanks the Friends for funding the purchase of fiction for teens from the American Library Association's 1997 list of Best Books for Young Adults, and from the catalog lists of Junior and Senior High School Libraries.

NEWSLETTER HELPERS

Last May's Newsletter reached you through the great help of our assemblers and mailers. They were: Lois & Bill Isles, Frank Steiner, Peg Fisher, Helena Piotrowski, Florence Scheels, Doris Clark, Mary & Bill White, Laurie Brooks, Kathy Tippett, all led by their supervisors, Rudy Dehn & Mildred Neslin. The labels, as always, were processed by Jane and Wayne Somers. Thank You All!

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Faith Donovan
President-Elect	Phyllis Bornt
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

BE A FRIEND TOO....JOIN US!

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, a group now in its 31st 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, 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.

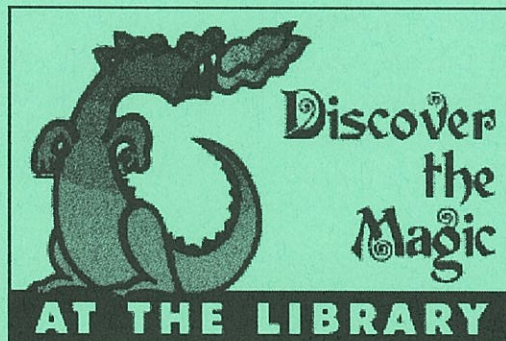
ATTENTION PAT WHITNEY FANS

The many friends of Pat Whitney were concerned this summer to learn that she was seriously ill in St. Clare's Hospital, in Schenectady. As we go to press, however, we learn that Pat has rallied well, and has now returned to Kingsway Arms Nursing Center.

The many services that Pat Whitney has rendered the Library are crowned by her long devotion and hard work in directing the Book Sales each year. In her illness, she still showed concern about how things were going for this month's Sale!

We all send our affectionate wishes for continued recovery. Her friends may wish to send her messages or cards at Kingsway Arms Nursing Center, 393 Kings Road, Schenectady 12304.





FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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2812 Rosendale Road
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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

November 1997

Vol. XXXIII No. 2

Note: the Monday series of talks are held 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.

LITERARY SERIES—FALL, 1997

Discussions of two Jane Austen novels, by Judy Hoff, owner of The Book Nook

Monday, November 3 *Emma*

Monday, November 10 *Persuasion*



TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Eugene Zola and Frank Steiner

Monday, November 17 “How the Wealthy Earn and Spend in the New Gilded Age,”
by Professor Bradley Lewis, Associate Dean, Union College

Monday, November 24 “Budget Reform,”
by H. Carl McCall, New York State Comptroller

Monday, December 1 “Medical Care, A Community Asset,”
by Dr. Michael Jakubowski, Vice President, Ellis Hospital

Monday, December 8 “What’s New at Proctor’s,”
by Fred Daniels, General Manager, Proctor’s Theatre

Can’t make the Monday noon sessions? The talks are videotaped and are available via Schenectady’s Public Access Channel 16. The programs are repeated on the following Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m.



BEST OF WRITERS’ JOURNALS

The following sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays at 12 noon, in the Board Room of the library.

Tuesday, November 18 *Travels with Charley*, by John Steinbeck
Lecturer: Prof. James Cockcroft

Tuesday, November 25 *Fates Worse than Death*, by Kurt Vonnegut
Lecturer: Prof. Ken Denberg



MORE GIFTS, MORE GIVERS

Last summer, the Friends of SCPL received \$21,317.12 from the General Electric Company through its MORE GIFTS, MORE GIVERS program. The amount this year was especially substantial because of the funding given by Dr. Charles Bean for the stone sign and the landscaping and gardens for the Elizabeth Harriman Bean Branch Library, in memory of his wife.

The Friends will use the money to support its literary series, programs for adults and children, the purchase of expensive sets of books, and other things not included in the regular budget of the Library.

OUR LATEST NEW MEMBERS

In this issue, we greet our newest members of the Friends. They are Barbara Fontaine, Jeevan & Dorothy Rego, and Phyllis Taub of Niskayuna; R. M. French, Elaine Hurley, Kathleen Klier-Hafner, and Dr. William & Carol Reynolds of Schenectady; Elizabeth MacFarland of Rexford; and Patricia A. Schwenk and Arthur & Betty Wilson, of Scotia.

MOVING? KEEP US UP TO DATE!

To all Friends: if your address changes, we need to know promptly, so we can direct our mail to your new address. Every time the Post Office returns a Newsletter to the Library, they charge us 32¢, alas. Who needs that on our budget? So when you're sending out those change-of-address cards, remember us too: Friends of SCPL, Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady 12305.

LOVE THOSE BOOK SALES? HELP! YOU CAN HELP!

Think a moment about what lies behind those Book Sales that we're so proud of. Getting ready never stops between sales.

Each time, thousands of items are pre-selected for quality, sorted into categories, often alphabetized, and neatly presented in boxes for viewing. That's a lot of work, not to be left until the week before the sale. And not to be left to just a few people!

Pete Oldow, the director of this giant task, mentions job descriptions like these: box management, book transfer, stack loading, book sorting, set-labeling, and magazine collections. Those jobs need talents of all kinds, but you can begin with no experience: new workers are started with informal orientation, and they're immediately and wonderfully useful!

Volunteers are needed, now, to begin preparing for the Sale next spring.

CAN YOU HELP? We need men and women who can volunteer time to do the ongoing work of preparation. Some work regularly each week, but others can be accommodated to suit their availability.

Please call **Pete Oldow** at **399-4250** to find out how you can assist. Get a friend to come too: the team needs your help!

OUR NEWSLETTER HELPERS

Our gratitude and appreciation to these people who helped in the mailing of the September issue: Lois & Bill Isles, Helen & Frank Steiner, Peg Fisher, Doris Clark, Alice Kussman, Annette Billmeyer, Dot & Bernie Gerberg, Mary White, Rudy Dehn, and Mildred Neslin. Indispensable, as always!

BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 27—7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24—7:00 p.m.

MARGERY BEELER RETIRES

"On the 15th of November," writes Margery Beeler, "I will leave the library that I love."

As Assistant Director of the Library, and Head of Technical Services, Marjorie Beeler has been with us nearly 25 years. She leaves now, she says, "to seek a new life in a warmer climate."

She has been a special friend of the Friends of SCPL, and has worked closely with the Book Sales, Books-Sandwiched-In, and the Piano Special Legislative Grant. In her farewell letter to the Friends, she pays special tribute to the pleasure she has had in working with Frank Steiner, Marjorie Woods, Pat Whitney, Adele Brown, Phyllis Bornt, Peter Oldow, and Walter Grattidge.

All her friends in the Library are grateful for Margery's long career among us, and wish her well in her new life. She will be missed.

RECENT BOOK-SALE —SUCCESS!

Peter Oldow reports that the recent Book Sale in September garnered \$6,175, the proceeds going to the branch libraries to purchase adult and children's books, and to support children's programs at the main Library, sponsored by the Friends of SCPL.

Sales totals for September were about the same as those for last May, despite the lower total of items for sale. Paperbacks were especially strong in this sale. The usual large crowds of buyers attended, and Oldow is especially grateful to the efforts of Friends in the great work of preparing for the sale.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Faith Donovan
President-Elect	Phyllis Bornt
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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mary Miller, coordinator of volunteers for the Library, reports a need for help at the Glenville Branch on Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., to help with children's programs. She is also still looking for volunteer career counselors.

Available? Call Mary at 388-4521 for more information.

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

January 1998

Vol. XXXIII No. 3

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN, WINTER 1998

Coordinated by Frank Steiner

Note: the Monday series of talks are held 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.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, January 5 | <i>Isaac Singer</i> , by Janet Hadda (biography)
Reviewer: Prof. Peter Heinegg, Union College |
| Monday, January 12 | <i>The Untouchables</i> , by John Banville (novel)
Reviewer: Prof. Randall Craig, SUNYA |
| Monday, January 26 | <i>Why History Matters: Life and Thought</i> , by Gerda Lerner (nonfiction)
Reviewer: Prof. Stephen Berk, Union College |
| Monday, February 2 | <i>Angela's Ashes</i> , by Frank McCord (nonfiction)
Reviewer: Dr. Earle Flatt, Sienna College |
| Monday February 9 | <i>Lying on the Couch</i> , by Irving D. Yalom (novel)
Reviewer: Prof. Jeffrey Berman, SUNYA |
| Monday, February 23 | <i>The God of Small Things</i> , by Arundhati Roy (novel)
Reviewer: Prof. Anne Sheehan, College of St. Rose |
| Monday, March 2 | <i>The Invention that Changed the World</i> , by Robert Buderer (nonfiction)
Reviewer: Dr. Walter Grattidge |

Can't make the Monday noon sessions? The talks are videotaped and are available via Schenectady's Public Access Channel 16. The programs are repeated on the following Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m.



GREAT DECISIONS, 1998

"Great Decisions, 1998," the National Nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association discussion series, will be held at the Schenectady County Public Library, to begin on Tuesday, February 3 and continue 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 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Evening sessions will be held, if enough people are interested, at the same location between 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. If you are interested in the evening sessions, call Mrs. Chestnut at 346-0552.

These are the topics to be discussed this year:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, February 3 | "Special Interests: Is U.S. Foreign Policy for Sale?" |
| Tuesday, February 10 | "China and the U.S.: What Priorities in a Changing Relationship?" |
| Tuesday, February 17 | "Human Rights: What Role in U.S. Policy?" |
| Tuesday, February 24 | "Cuba: Time to Rethink U.S. Strategy?" |
| Tuesday, March 3 | "Africa Today: Worst of Times, Best of Times?" |
| Tuesday, March 10 | "Financing Development: Time for Reform?" |
| Tuesday, March 17 | "Turkey: Emerging Regional Power or State in Crisis?" |
| Tuesday, March 24 | "Religion's Role in World Affairs: Challenges for the U.S." |

For more information, call Richard Mehan at 374-7886.

SCIENCE SERIES, SPRING 1998

Coordinated by Walter Grattidge

This series of talks will meet on Mondays at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room.

Monday, March 9

“The Structure of the Universe”

Mary Crone, Asst. Professor of Physics, Skidmore College

Other talks in the Science Series will occur on March 16, 23, and 30. Topics will be announced in the next Newsletter.

EUGENE ZOLA DIES

Friends of the Library mourn the sudden death of Eugene Zola on December 4, 1997. Mr. Zola was the director of guidance at Schendehowa Central School, and had served previously as executive director of the New York State Personnel and Guidance Association. He taught at John Higbee School, and also at the College of Saint Rose, SUNYA, and Siena College. He was associated with a wide variety of cultural and human services organizations.

But the Friends will best remember him for his development of public programs, particularly for the popular Table Talk series. Last year he obtained James Kunstler as a speaker, and very recently arranged the talk by H. Carl McCall, the NYS comptroller. Gene Zola will be greatly missed.

In accordance with the wishes of his family, contributions in memory of Eugene Zola can be made to the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library.

NEW MEMBERS, NEW FRIENDS

With this issue we are glad to greet new Friends of the Library. They are: Phyllis A. Barbera, Mrs. John Moore, Mary Ottman, Libby Pagliaccio, Nancy Slack, John Tracy and Linda Hoddy. Glad to have you with us!

We owe many thanks to Pat Buczowski for help in mailing membership renewal reminders, and (as ever) to Jane and Wayne Somers for processing of addresses for mailing.

While we're at it, we remind our members connected to G.E. to remember to request a match of your membership gifts to Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library.

Kabby Lowe has announced that our membership now stands at 1093!

NEWSLETTER WORKERS

We are thankful for the valuable service of the team of Newsletter mailers. For the last issue, they included Lois Isles, Mary White, Bill White, Dot Gerberg, Bernie Gerberg, Helena Piotrowski, Peg Fisher, Gertrude Schutz, Owen Sutton, Florence Scheels, Laurie Brooks, Dick Sills and Jan Sills. The work is organized by Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn. Thank you, as always!

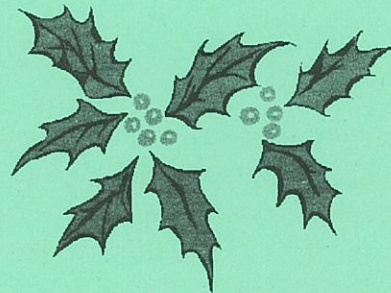
INAUGURAL PIANO RECITAL AT NISKAYUNA

Over two hundred people attended the free musical recital held on Saturday, December 6, 1997, to inaugurate the Steinway grand piano presented to the branch library in Niskayuna by an anonymous donor. The young artists included pianists Wei Jen Yuan and Jennifer Chu and violinist Jonathan Chu. Noted pianists Findlay Cockrell and Adelina Krevosheina accompanied Jennifer and Jonathan respectively. Music by Frederic Chopin, Franz Liszt, Niccolo Paganini, and Sergei Rachmaninov was featured. The musical part of the program was arranged by Charlotte DeBlois, a well known area piano teacher.

Appreciation is expressed to Walter Grattidge, Marianne Pashler, and Al and Katherine Lowe for coordinating the event and arranging for refreshments.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mary Miller, coordinator of volunteers, reports two requests for help: at the Duane Branch on Wednesdays, 1-3:00 p.m. to help with magazines; and at the Scotia Branch on Tuesdays 10-11:30 a.m., to help with coupon files and cutting out materials for children's projects.



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Newsletter Ed.	Alan Nelson
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin
	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Kabby Lowe,
	Tel. 346-8879

IF YOU CAN READ THIS, YOU CAN HELP

Literacy Volunteers of America-Schenectady, Inc., is looking for volunteers to help adults to improve their reading, writing, or English-speaking skills. Full training is provided for volunteer tutors.

Tutoring is an interesting, challenging, and rewarding volunteer experience. Tutoring is on a one-to-one basis, and volunteers should expect to commit 1-2 hours per week, scheduled at the tutor's convenience.

For more information, call Literacy Volunteers at 372-9819.

FRIENDS' BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 27 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24 7:00 p.m.

LIBRARY PRESENTS LONG-RANGE PLAN

The Board of Trustees of Schenectady County Public Library recently released the long-range plan for development of its facilities and services. The last comprehensive planning process occurred in the early 1980's.

Societal changes, as well as new library technology and the growth of the "Electronic Highway," have required a new look at the library's future.

The Executive Summary of the plan describes the lengthy process of the work, which began with users' surveys and telephone interviews. More than 1200 patrons responded, and several hearings were held between 1995 and 1997. Library staff, trustees, volunteers and Friends of the Library contributed ideas on space utilization, future developments in information technology, telecommunications, and comparative analyses of other libraries. Generally, the report card from the community was very supportive.

In addition to the direction of the Steering Committee, comprised of Trustees, the Director, and other library staff, three sub-committees on Community Services, Resources, and the Electronic Highway contributed heavily to the final report.

The report ends with a Plan of Action for the near term, a total of 21 items for implementation. Among these are the construction of the Rotterdam Branch Library, a redesign and refurbishing of the central facility, improvements in the parking lot, development of a policy on public access to the Internet, and implementation of training sessions for staff and the public in computer-based services.



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In addition to the growths described in the Long-Range Plan, Ronald Lagasse, Director of the Library, has announced other major developments in the Schenectady County system.

- The new Rotterdam Branch Library is on its way to construction. A 10,000 square foot facility, it will be located on North Westcott Road on land being donated by Rotterdam Ventures, Inc. (Galasi Corporation). The architectural firm, James Cullen Associates, has prepared a floor plan which was approved by the Library Board of Trustees. Construction is expected to begin in 1998.
- Volunteers made major improvements to the Central Library landscape and parking lot in October and November. They painted railings and fences, installed an automatic sprinkler system, planted over 1,500 daffodil bulbs, and weeded and spread mulch.
- The library has concluded its long range plan. Major recommendations include the renovation of the interior of the Central Library, the construction of the Rotterdam Branch Library, the development of a policy on public access to the Internet, training of staff and public especially in the use of the new computer-based services, and more funds for books and other library materials. Some of the recommendations are already being implemented.



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

The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, a group now in its 31st 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

Patron: \$100.00



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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

March 1998

Vol. XXXIII No.4

SCIENCE SERIES—SPRING 1998

Coordinated by Walter Grattidge

Note: the Monday series of talks are held at 12:00 noon 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

- Monday, March 9 "The Structure of the Universe"
Dr. Mary Crone, Asst. Prof., Skidmore College
- Monday, March 16 "Chirality – Righthandedness and Lefthandedness in the World Around Us"
Dr. Robert N. Hall, GE Corporate R&D (Retired)
- Monday, March 23 "How the Transistor Was and Was Not Invented"
Dr. George Wise, GE Corporate R&D
- Monday, March 30 "The Sun's Weather – The Earth's Weather"
Dr. Howard R. Hart, GE Corporate R&D (Retired)

Those who must miss the Monday noon sessions may be glad to know that the talks are videotaped and are available via Schenectady's Public Access Channel 16. The programs are repeated on the following Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m.

LITERARY SERIES — "DARKNESSES AT NOON"

These sessions will be led by Linda Witkowski

- Monday, April 6, at noon *Heart of Darkness*, by Joseph Conrad. (1902)
- Monday, April 13, at noon *Young Goodman Brown*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1835)

The following series, announced earlier, continue into March:

BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN:

- Monday, March 2, 12:00, at noon:
The Invention that Changed the World, by Robert Buder (nonfiction)
Reviewer: Dr. Walter Grattidge

GREAT DECISIONS, 1998:

These sessions are held in the McChesney Room from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Evening sessions, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. can be arranged if interest warrants. If you are interested in evening sessions, call Mrs. Chestnut at 346-0552.

- Tuesday, March 3 "Africa Today: Worst of Times, Best of Times?"
Tuesday, March 10 "Financing Development: Time for Reform?"
Tuesday, March 17 "Turkey: Emerging Regional Power or State in Crisis?"
Tuesday, March 24 "Religion's Role in World Affairs: Challenges for the U.S."

Heads Up!

Plan now to attend the Annual Dinner of the Friends, on Tuesday, April 21! See page 3 for details and reservation form.

GREETINGS, FRIENDS!

Membership Chairman Kabby Lowe notes the names of these people who have become our Friends recently: Mr. & Mrs. Robert DeVries, Mrs. Ellen Miakisz, Patricia Mitchell, Maureen Verseci, Joan Marzitelli-Brooks, Walter Morlock, and Nancy Virkler. Welcome! We'll list more names in the next issue. As of the beginning of the year, the list of Friends of SCPL had grown to 1122 members!

GE FRIENDS

If you qualify for GE matching funds for your Friends' contribution, it's not too late to notify the company of your gift. Just call them at 1-800-462-8244, and also give them the ZIP of the Library — 12305.

CAN YOU HELP, ANYBODY?

Mary Miller, coordinator of volunteers, is looking for help in three areas.

As April 15 gets closer, she will need volunteers to assist library patrons with income tax forms. Call Mary at 388-4500, please.

Wanja Brucker, branch coordinator, seeks a volunteer to work for 1-2 hours per month to visit resident of Senior Citizens facilities. If you can help with that, call Wanja at 388-4500!

And Toni Rader is looking for volunteers to assist patrons with the Internet at the library. If you are interested, call Toni Rader or Mary Miller at 388-4500.

NEWSLETTER WORKERS

You receive each issue of your Newsletter directly from our mailers, who prepare the mailing for the post office. Last issue, they were Lois Isles, Mary & Bill White, Peg Fisher, Doris Clark, Laurie Brooks, Florence Scheels, Dot and Bernie Gerberg, Kathy Lipput, Helena Piotrowski, and Dick and Jan Sills. They are directed, as always, by Rudy Dehn and Mildred Neslin.

FRIENDS RECEIVE GRANT

The Friends of the Schecetday County Public Library are delighted to announce the receipt of a grant of \$4,000 from the William Gundry Boughton Charitable Private Foundation, Inc. Announcement will be made later of the uses to which these funds will be put.



FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Faith Donovan
President-Elect	Phyllis Bornt
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,
	T e l . 3 4 6 - 8 8 7 9

MUSICAL EVENTS COMING

On Sunday, March 1, pianist Findlay Cockrell will give a recital of Chopin Etudes and more in the McChesney Room at the Central Library. The recital will begin at 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the event.

On Friday, March 13, at 12:00 noon. Members of the Etude Club of Schenectady will present a program of music, "From Bach to Gershwin." The program will be part of the Music at Noon Series and will be given in the McChesney Room at the Central Library. Bag lunches are encouraged; tea and coffee will be available.

On Sunday, April 19, Wei-Jen Yuan will present a piano recital including works by Mozart, Chopin, and Debussy. The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow the concert.

NEWS FROM ANNUAL REPORT

The Library's Annual Report for 1997 lists some facts you might like to know:

- Surveys of patrons (over 1200) sees 86% of users rating the library as "very good to outstanding."
- Circulation in the system increased by 14,152 items in 1997 — the third successive year of increase.
- The new Rotterdam Branch broke ground in October, 1997, on N. Westcott Road. Construction will be completed by the end of 1998.
- A total of nearly \$100,000 in grants came to the library from federal, state, and MVLA sources for improvements and acquisitions.
- The Summer Reading Club at the central library attracted an audience of 3,825 children in 1997. A total of 8,201 children attended 652 pre-school story hours.
- The central and brach libraries have been re-wired and equipped for fuller Internet usage. On-line catalogs of library holdings, plus access to the Internet, are now available.
- Volunteers donated 13,444 hours of service to the Schenectady system last year.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Schenectady County Public Library will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of National Library Week, from Sunday, April 19 through Sunday, April 26. The theme for this year's program is "Libraries Take You Places." You can look forward to these activities at the central library, all scheduled for the McChesney Meeting Room.

- Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m. — Friends Concert with Wei Jen Yuan, pianist
- Monday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. — "How to Find a Part-Time or Summer Job"
- Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. — Etude Club Recital
- Thursday, April 23 at noon — "Using the Library's Page on the World Wide Web (R. Sullivan)
- Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. — "Interesting Travel Sites on the World Wide Web (P. Farrington)
- Friday, April 24 (times not set) — One-on-one help using the library's on-line information Gateway computer catalog. Staff and volunteers will be available at computers in the Reference Desk area.
- Saturday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m. — Children's program with Matt Christopher
- Saturday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m. — New York Read-Aloud
- Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. — "Nature": Poetry readings led by Larry Rapant with musical accompaniment. Following the program, a National Library Week 40th Anniversary reception with refreshments.



You're Invited

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING — TUESDAY, APRIL 21 — 6:15 p.m.

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

The guest speaker will be Janet M. Welch, State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries; she is the first woman in two centuries to head the New York State Library, one of the country's prominent research libraries.

In addition, Justin Brucker, pianist and student at Niskayuna High School, will play Rachmaninoff's Prelude in G Minor.

Dinner will be catered by Lucia's Restaurant of Glenville, and will include chicken marsala, oven roasted potatoes, green beans, eggplant parmigiana, garden salad, sliced Italian bread, a choice of pies for dessert, and coffee or tea.

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 and in our lives. The cost for the dinner is \$13.50, payable to the Friends of SCPL. Complete the reservation form below, and return it with payment by Friday, April 10, 1998.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**FRIENDS OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Tuesday, April 21, 1998 • 6:15 p.m.
McChesney Room**

Number Attending _____ Amount Enclosed _____ (\$13.50 per person)

Attendee Names _____

Please mail to: Carol A. Raphael, 19 Eltinge Place, Scotia, NY 12302
Make your check payable to Friends of SCPL.

MARK THESE DATES !

Tuesday, April 21 — Friends' Annual Dinner
Saturday, May 9 — Spring Book Sale

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Mr. & Mrs. R.M. Sills
2812 Rosendale Road
Schenectady NY 12309

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

April 1998

Vol. XXXIII No.5

Table Talks, Spring 1998

Coordinated by Frank Steiner

Note: the Monday series of talks are held at 12:00 noon 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.

- Monday, April 20 *Depleted Uranium Munitions: Potential Connection to Gulf War Illnesses.*
Leonard Dietz, retired chemist, KAPL
- Monday, April 27 *Memento Mori: Do You Have the Final Say?*
Bonnie McGuire Jones, an estate planning attorney, explains the U.S. Supreme Court decisions in a pair of cases from New York and Oregon on the issue of physician-assisted suicide, in the context of end-of-life decision making.
- Monday, May 4 *Rocks, Minerals and Fossils in Downtown Schenectady*
Janet Hollocher, a geologist, will present the talk with slide illustrations. Depending on interest and the weather, an easy walk in the neighborhood of the library can be arranged after the talk, to look at geological examples in selected buildings.
- Monday, May 11 *Jefferson's Monticello Revisited*
James Kettlewell, Professor Emeritus, Skidmore College.
This program is arranged by Feibes and Schmitt, architects, and is sponsored by the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, celebrating National Historic Preservation Week (May 10-16, 1998)

Books Sandwiched-In — Spring 1998

Coordinated by Dick Sills, Gioia Ottaviano and Frank Steiner

- Monday, May 18 *Stones from the River* by Ursula Hegi
Reviewed by Professor Sandra Boynton, SCCC
- Monday, June 1 *Jesus, a Revolutionary Biography* by John Dominick Crossan
Reviewed by Professor Warren Roberts, SUNYA
- Monday, June 8 *Mayor Corning: Albany Icon, Albany Enigma* by Paul Grondahl
Reviewed by Professor Elaine Ognibene, Siena College

And continuing the Literary Series, "Darknesses at Noon," led by Linda Witkowski . . .
Monday, April 13 *Young Goodman Brown*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1835)

Coming in May . . .

Mark your Calendar!

The Spring Book Sale!

Saturday, May 9 • 9:00 to 3:30

Central Library • Clinton Street

Fiction • Non-fiction • Children's books • Paperbacks • Magazines • Records

Reservations Still Open for the Annual Dinner — But Be Quick!
(Information & reservation form on page 3.)

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK—COME WITH US!

Your public library is your passport to the world. The Schenectady County Public Library will be observing the 40th anniversary of National Library Week, April 19-26, 1998 with the theme "Libraries Take You Places." During that week, the library will be offering lectures, books displays, and special programs with a international themes reflecting the many ways our libraries connect us with a world of information and cultures.

Listed below are some highlights of the week's schedule. All programs, which are free of charge, will be held in the McChesney Meeting Room. A more complete and detailed calendar of events is available at the Library. For more information about these programs, call the library at 388-4500.

- Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m.—Friends Concert with Wei Jen Yuan, pianist
- Monday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.—"How to Find a Part-Time or Summer Job"
- Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.—Etude Club Recital
- Thursday, April 23 at noon—Using the Library's Page on the World Wide Web (R. Sullivan)
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- Saturday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m.—Children's program with Matt Christopher
- Saturday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m.—New York Read-Aloud
- Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. — "Nature": Poetry readings led by Larry Rapant with musical accompaniment. Following the program, a National Library Week 40th Anniversary reception with refreshments.



SPRING BOOKSALE, MAY 9!

The Spring Booksale will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, May 9, at the Central Library on Clinton Street.

This extraordinary event, like the similar sale in the Fall, features materials contributed by readers from the area, which are sorted over the months by volunteers from Friends of SCPL. A huge selection of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, paperbacks, magazines, and records awaits the shopper.

The whole of downtown Schenectady will have a festive air, since the sale coincides with the city's Government Day, the Schenectady Charter & Bicentennial Celebration, and Jay Street Business Day.

The year-long accumulation and sorting of sale materials is organized by Peter Oldow, who encourages the work of many volunteers. Those Friends of SCPL who know now that they can work at the sale, or who need more information, should call Peter at 399-4250.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Each issue of the Newsletter reaches you from the hands of a sturdy group of volunteer compilers/sorters/mailers, organized by Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn. The last issue (March) was handled by these good people: Peg Fisher, Doris Clark, Alice Kussman, Florence Scheels, Helen Piotrowski, Frank & Helen Steiner, Dick & Jan Sills, Laurie Brooks, Gert Schutz, and Annette Billmeyer. As always, our thanks!

MEMBERSHIP GROWS

The roster of Friends of SCPL reached 1122 members, as of last January, a fine growth from the 950 listed at that time last year.

The membership chairman, Kabby Lowe, says that reminders for the 1998-99 year will be mailed after the Annual Meeting on April 21. Anyone who wants to pay the dues at the dinner may do so at the dinner registration desk.

The most recent names to be added to Friends of SCPL are Mary E. Miller of Scotia, Bernard Allanson of Schenectady, and Patricia Gioia of Waterford.

Kabby Lowe says that she especially thanks all GE people who phoned the Foundation to request GE matching money. If you qualify in any organization that provides matching funds for your gift, please call your benefaction to their attention!

VOLUNTEERS

Mary Miller, who coordinates the volunteers for the library, needs helpers Monday-Thursday afternoons at the Scotia Branch. Call Mary at 388-4500, or the Scotia Branch at 386-2247.

She also announces that the Schenectady library will take part in a program sponsored by Volunteer Administrators Association of the Capital Region (VAACR). The program is a "Wall of Recognition" at Latham Mall, during Volunteer Recognition Week, April 12-18.

The display representing SCPL will include the volunteers in our organization. Please help us to honor our volunteers by stopping by to see this display.



FRIENDS OF SCPL — ELECTIONS

The major item of the business meeting at the Annual Dinner on April 21 will be the election of a slate of directors and officers of the organization. The Nominating Committee has presented the following people for approval of the membership.

Board of Directors:

For their first three-year term, these new directors have been nominated:

- **Renie M. Federighi** has been a resident of Niskayuna for 37 years and is retired from WMHT Educational Services where she has coordinated the use of instructional television by classroom teachers.
- **Geraldine Gallagher-Lopez** has been a member of the Friends of SCPL since 1990. She is retired from the University at Albany SUNY and enjoys volunteering with Hospice of Schenectady, Cornell Cooperative Extension Family Budget Counseling, First Unitarian Society of Schenectady Caring Committee, and the Schenectady Inner City Mission Food Pantry.
- **Ethel Murray** has recently revived an early interest in Girl Scouting when she became a board member for the Mohawk Pathways Girl Scout Council. In her spare time she enjoys reading about music, ballet, and drama, the better to enjoy performances.
- **Ann Stamm** is the mother of four and the grandmother of three. She enjoys music, gardening, reading, and spending time with her husband Charlie at Sacandaga Lake. She is a substitute organist, a reader for RISE at WMHT, and is active in Monday Garden Group.
- **Fred J. Thompson** is retired from General Electric. He has served as treasurer of the College of Saint Rose Alumni Association, and has volunteered with the Friends Book Sale since 1994. His interests include historic preservation, jazz and folk music, building kit cars, photography, cycling, travel, and sports.

The following present board members have been nominated to serve a second three-year term: Phyllis Bornt, Trudi Carpenter, Doris Clark, Faith Donovan, Katherine Lowe, and Frank Steiner.

Board members continuing in office (designated by term/end of term) are the following: Valerie Catlin (2/2000), Jeanette Gerlaugh (1/1999), Peter Oldow (2/2000), Carol Raphael (2/2000), and Jean Wildgrube (1/1999).

Officers for 1998-99:

President, Faith Donovan; President-Elect, Phyllis Bornt; 1st Vice-President, Walter Grattidge; 2nd Vice President, Frank Steiner; Secretary, Jeannette Gerlaugh; Treasurer, Junice Wusterbarth. Members at large of the Nominating Committee for 1999-2000 are Maxine Borom and Anne Marie Brown.

Members retiring or resigning : Dorothy Brandon, Naomi Bristol, Alan Nelson, Mildred Neslin, Marianne Pashler, and Junice Wusterbarth.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING — RESERVE NOW!

Reservations are still being accepted for the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library which will take place at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21. Lucia's Restaurant of Glenville will cater the dinner, in the McChesney Room.

Janet Welch, State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries will be the guest speaker, and Niskayuna student Justin Brucker will play a piano selection. The cost of the dinner is \$13.50 per person. Registration and payment should be mailed no later than Monday, April 13 to Carol Raphael at 19 Eltinge Place, Scotia, NY 12302.

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ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Tuesday, April 21, 1998 • 6:15 p.m.
McChesney Room

Number Attending _____ Amount Enclosed _____ (\$13.50 per person)

Attendee Names _____

Please mail to: Carol A. Raphael, 19 Eltinge Place, Scotia, NY 12302
Make your check payable to Friends of SCPL

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

On Sunday afternoon, April 19, at 3 p.m., the Music Committee of the Friends is sponsoring a concert in the McChesney Room at the Central Library. Wei-Jen Yuan, pianist, will present a program of music by Mozart, Chopin, and Debussy. Following the concert, refreshments will be served.

On Friday, May 1, there will be a "Music at Noon" program presented by the Etude Cub in the McChesney Room. The theme for the program is "A Tour of Europe." Those who wish to may bring a brown-bag lunch; beverages will be provided.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

On Saturday, April 25, there will be a clean-up work day in cooperation with Schenectady 2000. The time is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Refreshments (pizza and soda) will be provided at 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for this good work. Bring hand tools and gloves. Rakes and shovels will be provided.

LEONORE WHITE MEMORIAL

A memorial service for Leonore White, former director of the library, will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, at St. George's Episcopal Church on Ferry Street in Schenectady. Miss White died suddenly on February 14. Memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of SCPL.

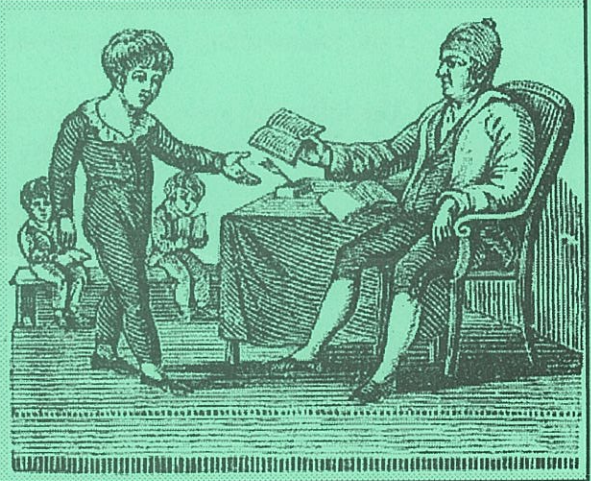
NEWSLETTER EDITOR CHANGES

Since the present editor is leaving Schenectady, this is his last issue. But the continuity of the Newsletter will be admirably served by the return of Valerie Catlin, who edited these pages until three years ago. The first issue of her new tenure will appear next fall.

In saying goodbye, the present editor is pleased to thank all those who have made his task so enjoyable.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Faith Donovan
President-Elect	Phyllis Bornt
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



And Remember: Books in May —

The Spring Book Sale!

Saturday, May 9 • 9:00 to 3:30
Central Library • Clinton Street

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