

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

# NEWSLETTER

September 1998

Vol. XXXIV No.1

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.

## BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN FALL 1998

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski, Frank Steiner and Walter Grattidge

- September 14      Red-Tails in Love by Marie Winn  
Reviewed by Patrick Kurp, Daily Gazette
- September 21      God and the American Writer by Alfred Kazin  
Reviewed by Peter Heinegg, Union College
- September 28      Consilience, the Unity of Knowledge by Edward O. Wilson  
Reviewed by Jan Ludwig, Union College
- October 5            Rage for Fame: The Ascent of Clare Boothe Luce by Sylvia Morris  
Reviewed by Linda Steiner, Rutgers University
- October 19          The Cloud Splitter by Russell Banks  
Reviewed by Richard H. Kendall, U. Albany
- October 26          Walt Whitman's America by David Reynolds  
Reviewer: Frank Taormina
- November 2         Jack Maggs by Peter Carey  
Reviewed by Robert Donovan, Prof. Emeritus, U. Albany
- November 9         Widow for a Year by John Irving  
Reviewed by Jean Kestenbaum

### THANK YOU, FRANK!

The Fall series will be the last supervised by Frank Steiner, who has served with dedication and enthusiasm as Program Chairman for thirteen years, as well as long-time officer and Friends Board member. He has resigned his positions due to ill health; our thoughts are with him.

## Fall Book Sale!

Saturday, September 19 • 9:00 to 3:30

Central Library • Clinton Street

Fiction • Non-fiction • Children's books

Paperbacks • Magazines • Records

The Fall sale will be September 19th, rain or shine. We are looking forward to another successful event serving our community and downtown as well as the Friends' contributions to the library system.

Please sign up now to bring down and set up books Friday, September 18th, and/or for cashing and sales on Saturday the 19th. Call Pete Oldow at 399-4250.

## ELEANOR ROOSEVELT LECTURE

Virginia Veeder Westervelt, a former Schenectady resident, will be returning to Schenectady on a national book tour to talk about her latest title, a biography of Eleanor Roosevelt called Here Comes Eleanor.

Her program is scheduled for 12 noon on Wednesday, September 30, in the McChesney Meeting Room of the Schenectady County Public Library. The talk will show how a shy, lonely child grew to become one of the most admired women of the century 'and often called "First Lady of the World."

After the lecture, copies of the biography will be available for purchase and autographed by Mrs. Westervelt. All profits from the book signing will be donated to the Friends of the Library.

## ENGLISH ROMANTIC POETS

A poetry discussion series conducted by Larry Rapant

Tuesdays in October at 12 noon  
McChesney Meeting Room, Central Library

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Tuesday, October 6  | William Blake                                  |
| Tuesday, October 13 | Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth |
| Tuesday, October 20 | Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley            |
| Tuesday, October 27 | John Keats                                     |

We are grateful once again to the Friends of the Library for underwriting the cost of this series.

Timothy McGowan, Head of Reference

## MUSICAL PROGRAM

On Sunday, November 8th, 1998, in the McChesney Room at the Central Library, Marianne Pashler will present a Lecture Recital entitled "The Genealogy of a Violinist". She will be assisted by Jonathan Chu, violinist, and Jo Ann Locke, pianist. The program will start at 3 p.m. and will be followed by refreshments.

## FRIENDS SUPPORT READER'S DIGEST GRANT APPLICATION

SCPL was recently invited to apply for an important new grant designed by the Dewitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund to increase the capacity of public libraries to provide high quality educational enrichment and career development programs for youth in low-income neighborhoods. It was requested that the application be submitted by the Friends of the Library to take advantage of the Friends' tax exempt status, although the actual work of the grant would be carried out by the library itself.

The library decided to apply for an initial planning grant of \$30,000 and asked for Friends' support. At a special meeting of the Board of Directors on July 15, that support was enthusiastically and unanimously given. The library's application for the initial planning grant was submitted in early August. A decision is expected from Reader's Digest in early October. If the initial planning grant is successful, the Reader's Digest may then award up to \$500,000 in an implementation grant.

If funded, the planning project would develop and conduct surveys of youth and school and community agencies serving inner city youth to determine their unmet library and information needs. Model programs at other libraries would be examined, and a library committee would work with consultants and the community to plan innovative library programs to be offered through the Central Library, and the three inner-city branches--Duane, Hamilton Hill, and Mont Pleasant.

## **SPRING BOOK SALE A SUCCESS (THANKS TO MANY WORKERS)**

The spring sale was held on Saturday, May 9th under cloudy bright skies. This day coincided with events and entertainment all over downtown celebrating Schenectady's Charter and Bicentennial, and also Government Day and Jay Street Merchants' Day.

The large number of books for sale was on the high side compared with previous Spring sales. 1152 mostly large boxes of sorted and categorized books displayed well. Sales were at a rapid pace, especially early on. Forty-three boxes of LP records (approx. 2500) all classified into classical and popular; good, better, and sets added substantially to the total receipts of \$8973.00.

The half-price sale ran from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., when the \$1 bag sale commenced and ran to the end of the sale. We were fortunate to have good newspaper advertising and also the library's web site sources to supplement flier postings.

Favorable comments were again made regarding our methods of categorizing, alphabetizing and layout which expedites shopping.

Peter Oldow, Book Sale Chairman

## **ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS APRIL 21, 1998**

President Faith Donovan welcomed the Friends after a dinner by Lucia's Restaurant and music by Niskayuna student Justin Brucker. A beautiful tribute was read by Walter Grattidge "Remembering Miss White". [reprinted below]

Nominating Committee Chair Ruth Ann Evans presented the slate, which was elected:

- To a first three-year term: Renie M. Federighi, Geraldine Gallagher-Lopez, Ethel Murray, Ann Stamm, and Fred Thompson.
- To a second three-year term: Phyllis Bornt, Trudi Carpenter, Doris Clark, Faith Donovan, Katherine Lowe, and Frank Steiner.
- Officers: President: Faith Donovan; President-Elect: Phyllis Bornt; 1st Vice-President, Walter Grattidge; 2nd Vice President, Frank Steiner; Secretary, Jeannette Gerlaugh; Treasurer, Junice Wusterbarth.

Continuing in office : Valerie Catlin, Jeannette Gerlaugh, Peter Oldow, Carol Raphael, Simon Weinstein, and Jean Wildgrube.

Members at large of the Nominating Committee for 1999-2000 Maxine Borom and Anne Marie Brown were also proposed and elected at this time.

Thank-yous were extended to retiring/resigning Board Members: Dorothy Brandon, Naomi Bristol, Alan Nelson, Mildred Neslin, and Marianne Pashler,

Guest speaker Janet Welch, New York State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, spoke on "Libraries in the 21st Century".

## MISS WHITE - AN APPRECIATION

The following tribute was part of the Order of Service at a Memorial Service held at St. George's Church, Schenectady, on April 18th, 1998. It is reprinted here by permission.

IN MEMORIAM  
ELIZABETH LEONORE, WHITE  
December 7, 1911 - February 14, 1998

Linguist, scholar, world traveler, administrator, bibliophile: Leonore White was one of Schenectady's first citizens, who brought to her twenty-four year tenure as Director of the Schenectady County Public Library not only a love of books and reverence for ideas, but a rich professional background as a librarian in places as far-flung as Munich, Germany and Kumamoto, Japan.

Born in 1911 in Baltimore, Maryland, Miss White graduated with honors from Goucher College in 1939, and received her BS degree in Library Science in 1941 from Columbia University. Further training included studies in French and German, and a certificate in the University of Maryland's Library Administrative Development Program. She started her library career as assistant at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland, later serving in the Kanawha County Public Library in Charleston, West Virginia, first as readers' adviser, then as head of the Adult Department, and finally, as assistant Head Librarian, before joining the U.S. Army in 1945.

Miss White was regimental librarian from 1946 to 1948 for the Army's 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, in Kumamoto, Japan. From there she became the head of the reference library for the European Command in Heidelberg, Germany, and subsequently was appointed post librarian in charge of thirty libraries of the Munich Military Post - a position she held until 1952.

With this international background, Miss White came to Schenectady in 1953 as Director of the Schenectady County Public Library, a position she held until her retirement in 1977. She also was director of the Mohawk Valley Library Association from 1959 to 1977, and president of the Hudson-Mohawk Library Association in 1955. In 1961 and 1962, she was first vice-president of the New York Library Association, and from 1967 to 1969, she was chairman of the Inter-Library Cooperation Committee for the American Library Association.

During her tenure as library director in Schenectady, Miss White spearheaded plans for and oversaw the design and construction of the current library building. She also was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Welfare Council, the Museum of Modern Art, the Alliance Française, the Schenectady Museum Association, Schenectady Historical Society, Freedom Forum, and Munson-Williams Proctor Institute.

Pursuing her intellectual and cultural interests beyond the professional sphere, Miss White was active both before and after retirement in a number of book and discussion groups, and she never lost her enthusiasm for travel. Her interests were eclectic, her knowledge wide-ranging, and her love of books and good friends indefatigable. These friends, who were many, will deeply miss a remarkable presence in their lives.

Ann Hamlen Goldsmith

### DON SCHEIN AND NELL TROMEL

The Friends also regret the recent deaths of two people who gave generously of their time and energies: Don Schein, best known for his work in the educational TV system and WMHT, and also a former member of the Friends' Board of Directors; and Nell Tromel, who gave many hours over the years to sorting materials for book sales, and also was a volunteer for the Schenectady County Jail library.

### LIBBY WHITE RETIRES

In June, Mrs. Libby White retired as an adult librarian at the central library. She had 25 years' experience in the library system which included the Bookmobile, Woodlawn Branch, Children's Room and Adult Services. Her departure is a serious blow and she will be deeply missed. Mrs. White is one you could call a true intellectual. She is a wonderful writer and has an in depth knowledge of literature (especially the fiction genre), archaeology, religion and Judaism. Mrs. White has moved to Baltimore, Maryland, to be near family and has taken a part-time position in Owings Mills, Maryland.

Timothy McGowan, Head of Reference

## **VOLUNTEERS**

The volunteer luncheon was held on June 4th. In attendance were volunteers, library staff, members of the Friends of the Library and members of the library Board of Trustees. We had a total attendance of 105 people.

Charles King, President of the library Board of Trustees presented a slide/narrative program on the early years of WGY and WRGB.

Awards of appreciation were presented to Simon Weinstein, who is a board member of the Friends of the Library and a volunteer at the Niskayuna Branch; Marjorie Jennings, who volunteers at Rotterdam Branch; Germaine Doremus, a volunteer at the Duane Branch; Helen Piotrowski who volunteers at the Rotterdam Branch; and Carol Kochs, a volunteer at the Duane Branch.

## **NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS**

These hardy newsletter workers led by Rudy Dehn and Mildred Neslin prepared the April issue for circulation:

Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Lois and Bill Isles, Alice Kussman, Helena Piotrowski, Gert Schutz, Jan and Dick Sills, Frank Steiner, Mary and Bill White, labels by Jane and Wayne Somers. We are grateful to all of you.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Many thanks to all those members who have renewed their gifts, 869 members. Many G.E. employees and retirees have phoned for the Matching Fund gift which is doubly appreciated. For those who have forgotten, the G.E. number is 1-800-462-8244. Our ZIP code is 12305.

We have new members whose names are: Marion DeSantis, Patti Dodway, Dr. & Mrs. James Farrell, Charles and Aimee French, JJ/MA Gibney, Jr., Earl Glindmyer, Kimberly Mastrianni, Ellen Montanaro, Johanna Peterson, Jacquelin Powell, and Richard Segal. Welcome!

## **YOUNG ADULTS DO READ!**

Many thanks to the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library for funding the free summer reading program for young adults. Twenty-seven young people signed up for the series. Book discussion leaders came from SCPL, its branches, and the Schenectady school system.

Each Friday morning, a different genre was presented - historical fiction, fiction about friendship, survival tales, mysteries, and science fiction. Book discussion leaders were Ann Moore, Ginny LaJeune, Susan Rohs, Nancy Gifford, and Nancy Furey. Jo Adams planned and coordinated the program, with indispensable assistance from Donna Grossman and Serena Butch. Refreshments were served. Free paperback books helped to attract the participants, as did the interest generated by the promotion of the program in the Children's Department. Parents commented on how happy they were to find a program for younger teens and children who had completed the fifth grade.

This series addressed the interests of the 10 to 14 age group; the years when children often stop coming to the library regularly or just for fun. With help from the Friends, we will repeat this offering next summer.

Jo Adams, Young Adult Services

## **CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT**

The Children's Department has received new Ellison die cuts for the Ellison machine. We are very excited about the set of alphabet letters which will be wonderful for creating posters. We have new shapes and designs, as well, to use for crafts and bookmarks.

Summer Reading Club 1998 --"Solve it @ the Library" went very well. Children read on their own, kept track of time read and received small prizes. Weekly programs were held, many made possible with funds from the Friends of the Library: Singing duo Kid Coyote, ventriloquist Sylvia Markson, environmentalist George Steele, magic shows and more.

**NEW MATERIALS  
FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED READERS**

Senator Hugh Farley has obtained a \$10,000 Legislative Grant and Assemblymen James Tedisco a \$5000 Legislative Grant for the purchase of large print materials and books-on-tape. Library volunteers who visit the nursing homes in Schenectady County on a regular basis will be able to provide a greater variety of materials because of these grants. The materials will also be available through the Meals-on-Wheels program. In addition, when not in use they will be located on the open shelves in the central library thus making them available for all library patrons with vision problems.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

A volunteer is needed at the Scotia Branch Library on Tuesdays from 10 - 11:30 a.m. to maintain the coupon file and cut out materials for children's projects. If anyone is interested contact Mary Miller, Volunteer Coordinator at 388-4608

**LOOKING AHEAD:  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**TABLE TALKS**

Nov. 30th. 1998  
"A Doctor Looks at Cuba"  
Dr. Clifford Tepper

**MUSIC AT NOON**

Once again this season, members of the Etude Club in cooperation with the Friends Music Committee will present three 'Music at Noon' programs. The programs will be presented on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. The scheduled dates are: December 11th, 1998, March 26th, and May 14th, 1999. Bring your brown bag lunch, beverages will be available.

**SCHENECTADY FICTION WRITERS CLUB  
INVITES NEW MEMBERS**

The Club meets on Mondays, 6:30 to 9 p.m. upstairs at Scotia Public Library, Mohawk Avenue, next to Collins Park, except on holidays when the library is closed.

Newcomers working on novels, short fiction (no poetry), or narrative non-fiction (such as biographies) are welcome.

6:30 to 7:00 is for general discussion. From 7:00 to 9:00, in order to allow as much participation as possible, members read from their work and listen to constructive reactions, keeping other discussion to a minimum.

This is a congenial, supportive group and has been in place for over 20 years. Come and see if it is the place you would like to be on Mondays. There are no fees and few rules—we depend on courtesy! For more information call Caroline Petrequin, 399-3469, or Michaela French, 346-7980. You may leave a message and we will return your call.

**FRIENDS OF SCPL**

<b>President</b>	<b>Faith Donovan</b>
<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Phyllis Bornt</b>
<b>1st Vice Pres.</b>	<b>Walter Grattidge</b>
<b>2nd Vice Pres.</b>	<b>[vacant]</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jeannette Gerlaugh</b>
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<b>Newsletter Ed.</b>	<b>Valerie Catlin</b>
<b>Newsletter Circ.</b>	<b>Mildred Neslin, Rudy Dehn</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Kabby Lowe,</b> <b>Tel.346-8879</b>

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 25, 1998

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**FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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# NEWSLETTER

November 1998

Vol. XXXIV No.2

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## LITERARY SERIES: PLAYWRIGHTS

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- November 16      Topic: **August Wilson**, author of plays about the African-American experience in America  
Speaker: Paul Lamar
- November 23      Topic: **Tennessee Williams** "Creativity: Contest with Madness"  
Speaker: Dr. Richard Gotti, Empire State College

## TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Walter Grattidge

- November. 30      "**A Doctor Looks at Cuba**"  
Dr. Clifford Tepper
- December 7        "**Economic Development**"  
George Robertson, Director, Schenectady County Economic Development
- December 14      "**The Outlook for Social Security**"  
Stephen Schmidt, Professor, Economics Department, Union College



## MUSICAL PROGRAMS

The Friends Music Committee invites you to these programs, which are sure to be enjoyable. They will be held in the McChesney Room at Central.

Sunday, November 8th at 3 p.m.      "**The Genealogy of a Violinist**"

This Lecture-Recital will be presented by Marianne Pashler, with Jonathan Chu, violinist, and Jo Ann Locke, pianist.

Sunday, December 6th at 3 p.m.      **Holiday Concert** presented by Opera Plus

This will be a program of Christmas and Chanukah music from around the world for all ages. Mezzo soprano Stephanie Melvin and pianist Cheryl Florin will be joined by the stunning Russian soprano Nina Vepritskaya in the Opera Plus debut. Melvin's lush mezzo and Vepritskaya's brilliant soprano make an exciting combination in duets by Mendelssohn, Purcell, and Humperdink. Guest artist, cantorial soloist Andrea Newman will perform the spirited sephardic **Amen Shem Nora**. Pianist Cheryl Florin performs piano settings of Bartok's virtuosic **Rumanian Christmas Carols**. The concert will close with a medley of popular Christmas and Chanukah melodies.

Friday December 11th at Noon      **Music at Noon** presented by the Etude Club of Schenectady

## BLACKLISTED WRITERS OF THE 1950's: BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

For the first time, the library's Adult Services department and the branches will coordinate a five-part book discussion series. Developed via a grant offered by the New York State Council on the Arts through the Mohawk Valley Library Association, the theme of the program is "**Reflections of McCarthyism: Blacklisted Writers**". Facilitators: Larry Rapant, Rob Edelman and Sue Spivack.

The first three book talks are scheduled for Tuesdays at 12 noon in the Central library's McChesney Meeting Room. The final two sessions will be held at noon at the Niskayuna Branch.

The books chosen for discussion are:

At Central:	November 10	-	<b>Howl and other Poems</b> by Allen Ginsberg
	November 17	-	<b>Anthem</b> by Ayn Rand
	November 24	-	<b>Complete Stories</b> by Dorothy Parker
At Niskayuna:	December 1	-	<b>The Crucible</b> by Arthur Miller
	December 8	-	<b>Here I Stand</b> , the autobiography of Paul Robeson

Paperback copies of each book will be available for borrowing at the Switchboard Office of the central library and the Niskayuna Branch.

### BOOK SALES: MANY HANDS, BUT IT'S STILL HARD WORK

Although book sales take place in Spring and Fall, the work goes on year-round, literally from one sale to the next, led by Chairman Peter Oldow. Donated books and other materials and withdrawn library materials are received continuously and first sorted weekly by people who know the library's needs. They sort books into fiction and non-fiction, and set aside items for the librarians to consider adding to the main library and branch collections, especially when a new branch is added, or a branch is expanded. This year the library has set aside many items for the new Rotterdam branch.

**Number of donated items added to library collection from donations in 1998: 350-400**

Other volunteers further sort and box books by subject, genre, and/or author, and also sort and box magazines and other materials. Boxes must be gathered, cut to size, and labeled.

**Number of boxes of materials for 1998 sales: over 2000**

**Number of books offered for sale: over 30,000** (avg. 14-19 books per box)

Fred Thompson has been in charge of sorting and boxing records.

**Number of records: over 2,000 in the Fall sale alone.**

Some books are donated to other agencies: approx. two boxes of paperbacks are given to Bethesda House each month, and nursing homes have "Friends Libraries". Books have also been donated to school libraries.

The Friday before the sale, tables are set up, and the thousand or more boxes are brought down and arranged. Library staff and special groups from the community assisted nineteen Friends in this heavy work in September. Five people from the **City Mission** and five from **Law Order and Justice** were very important contributors to this task.

**Number of workers to bring down materials and set up: 29**

On the day of sale, work begins at 7:00, and the patios are set up. Friends volunteers work mostly in two-hour shifts as cashiers or "floaters" (who try to keep materials available and neat). A treasurer and assistants count receipts and prepare bank deposits.

**Number of volunteers and tasks on day of sale: approx. 60 people accomplishing about 85 tasks**

**Proceeds for 1998 sales: \$8973 in Spring, \$6640 in Fall; total \$15,613**

The Friends are aided by the city, local businesses, and other groups, and are grateful to them:

The **City of Schenectady** provides barriers for drop off and pick up zones.

**Dunkin' Donuts, Hannaford, and Price Chopper** donate gift certificates, refreshments, cups and bags.

**Area churches** lend tables to supplement Friends and library tables.

All proceeds from book sales are used for materials for the branches.

**Received so far in 1998: almost 1300 books, 20 audio and 10 video titles, along with musical instruments, toys, and a globe.**

If you would like to help in the ongoing work, for which training will be given, contact Peter Oldow at 399-4250. And please sign up for Friday and/or sale day work next spring!



## FRIENDS GRANT FOR MATERIALS

The Friends recently granted \$15,000 over three years for the purchase of specific categories of materials. Librarian Nancy Schaffer is enjoying the task this year of purchasing \$5,000 worth of unabridged books on tape, mostly of popular fiction, to try to satisfy the huge demand for them. Look for the new titles on the display shelf, along with the other new books.

## SLATER GRANT

My promotion to Assistant Director of the library in January came with a variety of new responsibilities and challenges, but also with a wonderful present of \$10,000. A letter from the Lillian M. Slater Charitable Trust informed me that the library was the recipient of \$10,000 for the purchase of books, videos and library materials. I was thrilled because for several years I have been jealous of bookstores that often have a display of Penguin Classics. These are many of the titles that we all should have read in high school and college, that appear on reading lists, and that are selected by critics and librarians as the best books of all time, featuring authors like Tolstoy, Melville, Conrad, Dostoyevsky and Joyce. Unfortunately some of these titles had disappeared from our collections and needed to be replaced.

We also discovered that we didn't have many of the films that have been declared classics by the Library of Congress and we didn't have most of the compact discs for the top 100 popular music titles of all time. This grant gave us the opportunity to fill all of these gaps in our collection.

The letter notifying us of the grant mentioned that Lillian and Florence were avid hikers. Anyone who knows me knows that if I am not in the library, I am probably out hiking, kayaking, biking or skiing. So as another wonderful aspect to this grant, we were able to buy a variety of outdoor guides and some interactive topographic maps on compact disc for computer use.

At the end of June we put these classic titles out on an old display case that we had in storage. I was thrilled to discover that after three weeks practically all of the titles we had purchased had been borrowed. By the end of the summer even Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, all 1400 pages of it, had been borrowed twice.

Since our regular materials budget is limited and we try to allocate the funds fairly among the different parts of the collection, an unrestricted gift like this was a really special gift to me and to the people of Schenectady.

Andy Kulmatiski

## LIBRARY LINK

Library Link, an outreach program in its 13th year, continues to take library programs for children out into the community. Nancy Gifford, Children's Librarian, is the coordinator and main service provider under this grant. Friends of the Library money is matched by a grant from New York State Division for Youth. Each year there is a core of groups such as Schonowe Pre-school, Schenectady Headstart, Cloverpatch and YWCA Day Care which have always received story programs. New groups are added as they are created or newly discovered by the library, such as Hispanic Outreach and a respite program. In an average year, about 170 programs are given, reaching just over 5000 children. Some are large group assemblies to promote a reading program at a school; others are much smaller classes; there is one pre-school for children of special needs. All get the advantage of books, flannelboards, music, storytelling and puppets.

In 1998, additional DFY grant money was put toward staffing. Hispanic Outreach runs a summer program on Stanley Street, near the Hamilton Hill Branch Library. Working on a shoestring budget, the children meet five mornings a week to improve their English reading and writing skills. This summer, they went one morning a week to the Hamilton Hill library to hear stories, learn library research skills, and borrow books. We also provided their center with reading records, bookmarks, stamps and other rewards which we were offering during the Summer Reading Club program at the library. While results are hard to measure, there was an increase in the number of library card registrations and their staff commented that there was more enthusiasm for reading and more books were actually read than in the previous summer of the program. We hope to work closely with them next summer.

The next time you are in the Children's Room, please stop to see the new Story Kits which are a complete theme program with books, puppets, crafts and fingerplays all neatly packaged in specially designed Tough Traveler bags and available for 2 week loans to teachers and child care providers. These and additional teacher resources are also funded by the Library Link grant.

Nancy Gifford, Librarian

## G.E. MATCHING FUNDS

The Friends are most happy to announce that G.E. members have donated a total of \$26,685 so that the G.E. Fund has matched this with \$26,685. Thank you G.E. and thank you Friend members! \$20,500 of the total was for the beautiful new piano at the Niskayuna Branch.

## LANDSCAPING

One cannot help noticing how good the grounds are looking at the Central Library, from the spring display of bulbs to the current chrysanthemums. This has been due to the work of a number of groups and individuals, including Schenectady 2000, which provided a watering truck through the summer, the G.E. Elfun Society, and a group of Union College students who pitched in on September 5th to paint the guard rails on both sides of Clinton Street under the supervision of Milt Mitchell, City Engineer. Thanks to all who have made the area easier on the eyes!

## READER'S DIGEST GRANT APPLICATION

SCPL's application to the Dewitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund for a planning grant in cooperation with the Friends was not funded, despite hard work by library staff to prepare it. However, the library can be proud of the effort in developing the proposal, as what was learned in the process may be used in planning and possibly implemented by other means.

## BRANCH NEWS

Branch Coordinator Wonja Brucker provides these updates, with enthusiasm:

**Rotterdam:** Construction of the new 10,000 sq. ft. building on N. Westcott Rd. is on schedule, which aims for completion in late January, and moving in February. The custom-designed circulation desk is also under construction, and she and other library representatives are in the process of choosing stacks and furniture. The new building will hold 55,000 volumes, have 2 meeting rooms, one of which can be divided to make a third, and seat 65 in the main room.

**Duane Branch** received an Economic Community grant of \$5000, which will be used for a new computer and software for English as a Second Language and Homework Center.

**Hamilton Hill** received an Economic Community grant of \$5000 to hire a local person to be trained and certified as a security guard for Hamilton Hill and Duane branches.

**Scotia Branch's** middle room was renovated this spring, with a new ceiling, walls, and custom shelves. In 1999, the front room will be the focus of attention.

## NEW REFERENCE LIBRARIANS

The Reference Department has two new part-time librarian substitutes who have been trained for the Reference Desk. Gerald Kirsch, retired from the SUNY Cobleskill Library, is excited to be working at a public library. Leonard Zapala, a graduate of the University at Albany School of Information Science and Policy, has worked at the Baseball Hall of Fame Library and also has produced a training video for reference librarians.

## ANN SPEANBERG

The Friends are sorry to note the passing of Ann Speanberg, a volunteer at the Glenville Branch Library. She spearheaded the landscaping project for the branch, saw to its completion, and with her husband, has been taking care of the grounds regularly.

## MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members Steven Bickham and Mary Schuster.

**MOVING?** Please tell us your new address when you are moving so that you won't miss a Newsletter. The Post Office doesn't forward our Third Class mail.

## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the September newsletter circulation workers led by Rudy Dehn and Mildred Neslin: Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Dot and Bernie Gerberg, Lois and Bill Iles, Helena Piotrowski, Florence Scheels, and Helen and Frank Steiner. Jane and Wayne Somers prepared the labels.

## FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Faith Donovan
President-Elect	Phyllis Bornt
1st Vice Pres.	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice Pres.	[vacant]
Secretary	Jeanette Gerlaugh
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Ed.	Valerie Catlin
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin
	Rudy Dehn
Membership	Kabby Lowe, Tel.346-8879

**FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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2812 Rosendale Road  
Schenectady NY 12309

# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

# NEWSLETTER

January 1999

Vol. XXXIV No.3

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.

## BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- January 4     **The Golden Voyage: The Life and Times of William Bingham, 1752-1804**  
by Robert C. Alberts  
Speaker: Wayne Harvey, local historian and lecturer
- January 11    **Citizen Soldier** by Stephen Ambrose  
Speaker: Harold Wusterbarth, SCPL Board of Trustees
- January 18    Library closed
- January 25    **Shakespeare- the Invention of the Human** by Harold Bloom  
Speaker: Andreas Kreifall, Union College
- February 1    **American Sphinx: the Character of Thomas Jefferson** by Joseph Ellis  
Speaker: Thomas Kelly, Siena College
- February 8    **Cities back from the Edge** by Robert Gratz  
Speaker: John Logan, University at Albany
- February 15   Library closed
- February 22   **I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years** by Victor Klemperer  
Speaker: Cecelia Garfinkel, local book reviewer
- March 1       **A Man in Full** by Tom Wolfe  
Speaker: Thomas Della Sala, Schenectady High School

## LOOKING AHEAD

March 8, 15, 22, 29: Science series

April 13: **Annual Meeting**; details will be in the next newsletter

## LIBRARY AWARDED BUSINESS GRANT

The Central library has received a Library Services and Technology Grant called "Reaching Out to Business" to expand and promote its Small Business Information Center. The goals of the grant include outreach to increase awareness of the public library as a business information resource and to develop new linkages with the business community.

Business counseling for entrepreneurs will be offered in cooperation with the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). The library will also present programs on Internet business resources for small business owners and will create links to Internet business resources through its library Web page. Audiovisual, print and electronic business resources will be purchased for the Small Business Information Center. This grant was written by Schenectady County Public Library reference librarian Phyllis Ochs, who will serve as project coordinator.

T. McGowan, Head of Reference

## FROM THE RECORD DEPARTMENT: COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

From time to time we will be offering quality record collections that have been donated to the Friends. These will be offered for sale between scheduled book and record sales. Bidding will be via phone for three weeks following the publication of the newsletter. Sale will be to the high bidder.

Call Fred Thompson to place bid or schedule viewing of collection at 374-9399.

**BIG BAND MUSIC "The Swing Era".** A Time Life Series covering 1930 -1950's. Issued in 1971. 10 boxed sets containing 3 LP records each. A hard cover book included in each set describes the events of the time period and a brief biography of the significant musicians and bands. Each recording is described in detail. Music recorded by Capital Records in the USA. The Glen Gray and Billy May Orchestras play the music in the style of the original bands.

Entire collection sale--best offer above \$80.00

**CLASSICAL MUSIC "The Beethoven Bicentennial Collection"**

In co-operation with the Beethoven Archive, Bonn; issued in 1971. 10 boxed sets containing 5 LP records each. A book is included in each set that describes the music and the history behind the composition. Recorded by Deutsche Grammophon in Europe with such conductors as Karajan and Klee and orchestras of Berlin and Vienna.

Entire collection sale--best offer above \$80.00

**CLASSICAL MUSIC "Beethoven Complete Piano Music".**

Issued in 1961. 21 LP records. Pianist Alfred Brendel. Recorded in Europe by Murray Hill Records.

Entire collection sale--best offer above \$50.00

**CLASSICAL MUSIC "Mendelssohn Complete Piano Music".**

Issued in 1972. 12 LP records by Rena Kyriakou and Vienna Symphony and Pro Musica Symphony. Recorded in Europe by Murray Hill Records.

Entire collection sale--best offer above \$40.00

**CLASSICAL MUSIC "The Story of Great Music",** a Time-Life series.

Issued in 1966-67. 10 boxed sets containing 4 LP records each. Two books included in each set--one describes the music of the era and the second is a listeners guide to the recordings. Eras span the period from the 1600's to present day composers. Recorded in Europe with such conductors as Karajan and Beecham.

Entire collection sale--best offer above \$70.00

**SPOKEN WORD "Living Shakespeare",** a Living Shakespeare Inc. production

Issued in 1962. 4 boxed sets containing 26 Shakespeare plays recorded by well-known actors. Each play is accompanied by a book with the entire script of the recorded play. The acting version can be used by schools and amateur groups without permission.

The collection is for sale--best offer above \$60.00

Friends of the Library are encouraged to seek out associates who value these types of offerings. Friends may also consider purchasing the recording and donating to non-profit organizations or schools that could make use of these excellent collections.

## **ROTTERDAM BRANCH PROGRESS REPORT**

Construction of the new 10,000 square foot Rotterdam Branch Library on North Westcott Road is on schedule. The parking lot has been paved and the sidewalk has been installed. Most of the exterior brickwork is complete and the building has been closed in, allowing it to be heated for interior work.

The contractors should be completing their work in early 1999. We will then need a few weeks for installing bookshelves and furniture and for moving the collection from the old branch to the new one. Barring any unforeseen delays, we expect to open the new facility in March or April.

R. Lagasse, Director

## **RENOVATION PLANS FOR CENTRAL LIBRARY**

Soon the firm of Architecture Plus, in collaboration with Aaron Cohen Associates will begin work on developing a master plan for the redesign of the interior space of the Central Library. Over the years, as a result of the growth of the collection of library materials and the introduction of new services, the library has become quite congested. In addition, the constant heavy use of the library has resulted in worn carpeting and furniture.

The architectural consultants will prepare a design study focusing on the optimal location of major services and their interrelationships, the improvement of traffic flow, the upgrading of utilities and future space needs.

It is expected that the study will begin in early 1999 and be concluded by mid-year.

R. Lagasse, Director

## **LITERACY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Would you like to help an adult function more effectively in everyday life? Literacy Volunteers of Schenectady always welcomes new volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading, writing, and/or English-speaking skills.

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. Sessions may be held in private rooms in area libraries or at other mutually convenient sites. Full training and support are provided; training sessions are tentatively scheduled to begin in late January and again in mid-March.

Call Literacy Volunteers for more information at 372-9819. Your help is needed and appreciated!

## **MARJORIE WOODS, BETTY NORRIS**

Marjorie Woods, who served as chairman of the Friends' book sales for many years, died recently. She also served on the library's Board of Trustees, and was involved with planning for the branches. She will be missed by her many friends.

Also recently deceased is Elizabeth (Betty) Norris. She was active in planning for the new library building in the 1960's, and was the second president of the Friends. Our condolences go to her family.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Friends welcome these new members: George Gazzola, Flossie and Bob Fritz, Judith McAuley, and Linda Spaulding.

Members who have renewed for '98-'99: 968.

## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

The November newsletter was brought to you through the efforts of these workers, to whom we are grateful: Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Lois and Bill Isles, Alice Kussman, Helena Piotrowski, Gert Schutz, Jan and Dick Sills, Helen and Frank Steiner, and Mary and Bill White, with Rudy Dehn and Mildred Neslin as leaders. Jane and Wayne Somers prepared the labels.

## GREAT DECISIONS, 1999

"Great Decisions, 1999", the National Nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association Discussion Series, will be held at the Schenectady County Public Library and will begin on Tuesday, February 2, 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 AM to 11:30 AM. Evening sessions will be held, if enough people are interested, at the same location between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM. If interested in the evening sessions, call Mrs. Chestnut at 346-0552.

The topics to be discussed this year are as follows:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 2  | Foreign Policy in the Information Age                    |
| Feb. 9  | International Financial Crises: The IMF and its Critics  |
| Feb. 16 | Japan: The Shadow of the Miracle                         |
| Feb. 23 | Weapons of Mass Destruction: Reemerging Threat?          |
| Mar. 2  | Central Asia Pressure Cooker: The Caspian Basin and Iran |
| Mar. 9  | After NATO Expansion, What?                              |
| Mar. 16 | Latin America- A Broad Overview                          |
| Mar. 23 | U.S. Role in the United Nations: A Changing Dynamic?     |

For more information, contact Richard Mehan at 374-7886

### FRIENDS OF SCPL

President	Faith Donovan	President-Elect	Phyllis Bornt
1st Vice Pres.	Walter Grattidge	2nd Vice Pres.	[vacant]
Secretary	Jeanette Gerlaugh	Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin, Rudy Dehn	Newsletter Ed.	Valerie Catlin
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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

March 1999

Vol. XXXIV No.4

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.

### SCIENCE SERIES

Coordinated by Dr. Walter Grattidge

- March 8            **Science, Art & Number**  
Recounting the hidden role of number in nature  
Dr. T. G. Mihran, GE Corporate R&D (Retired)
- March 15          **Stem Cells -The Future of Medicine?**  
Someday we may be able to grow our own Body Replacement Organs  
Dr. Ricki Lewis, Science Writer; Author
- March 22          **The Genetic Revolution - Human Possibilities and Concerns**  
Prenatal diagnosis, gene therapy & cloning-  
How may they affect the children to come?  
Dr. Nancy Slack, Biology Department, Russell Sage Colleges
- March 29          **Tracking El Nino in the Andes**  
The speaker has been researching records of climate  
changes in the Andes over 15,000 years.  
Dr. Donald Rodbell, Geology Department., Union College

### LITERARY SERIES II

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- April 5            **William Gibson (Miracle Worker, Two for the Seesaw)**  
Speaker: W.A. Frankonis, Former Producer, NYS Theater Institute
- April 12          **Oscar Wilde (Importance of Being Earnest, The Ideal Husband)**  
Speaker: Randall Craig, English Department, University at Albany

### TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Naomi Bristol

- April 19          **What Is News?**  
Speaker: Ed Dague, Managing Editor, News Channel 13 (WNYT)
- April 26          **Norman Rockwell and Arlington, Vt:  
The Hometown We Didn't Know We Had**  
Speaker: Prof. Joseph Board, Political Science Dept., Union College
- May 3            **"Our People Are Your People":  
American Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights, 1954-1965**  
Speaker: Professor Stephen Berk, History Department, Union College

If you miss a program: Monday Noon programs are broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access cable channel 16 on the following Thursday and Saturday.

♪ ♪ **MUSICAL PROGRAMS** ♪ ♪

All programs will be presented in the McChesney Room at the Central Library.

Friday, March 26 at noon

**Music at Noon** program presented by members of the Etude Club

Sunday, April 11 at 3 p.m.

Musical program performed by Suzuki students, including pieces for piano and violin

Sunday May 9 at 3 p.m.

A piano recital by Felice Kuan, winner of the Parillo Piano Competition for 1998; sponsored by the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra

Friday, May 14 at noon

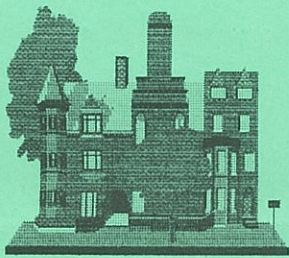
**Music at Noon** program presented by members of the Etude Club

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK: APRIL 11-17, 1999**

**"YOUR FUTURE--FIND IT AT THE LIBRARY"**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 11               | Musical Program (see above)   |
| Monday, April 12<br>7 p.m.     | <b>"Keeping the Books: Record Keeping, Bookkeeping and Accounting for Small Business"</b><br>Presenter: Beth Kissinger, Certified Public Accountant |
| Tuesday, April 13              | Friends of the Library Annual Dinner Meeting  |
| Wednesday, April 14<br>12 noon | Local authors Gerrit Bruins and Len Kilian discuss their book <b>Trackside in the Albany, N.Y. Gateway 1949 - 1974</b><br>Book signing.             |
| Thursday, April 15<br>1 p.m.   | Bob Sullivan, SCPL Reference Librarian, will discuss/demonstrate new computer databases at the library, and also will discuss new Windows format.   |
| 7 p.m.                         | <b>"Y2K and You"</b> , with Dr. Norman Kurland  |
| Friday, April 16<br>2 p.m.     | Story Tellers of the Capital District - adult story telling   |
| Saturday, April- 17<br>10 a.m. | <b>"106 Best Science Fiction Videos."</b><br>with Chuck Rothman, Schenectady Science Fiction author   |
| 2:30 p.m.                      | <b>"All About Dogs"</b> with the Schenectady Dog Training Club<br>(pre-registration required)   |





**YOU'RE INVITED.....**

**FRIENDS OF THE  
SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1999 AT 6:15 P.M.**

Your 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.

**SPEAKER: John Manning, Chairman, Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority**

Dinner will be catered by Classic Caterers and will include beef carbonnades, mashed potatoes, fresh fruit bowl, pasta Primavera, molded raspberry salad, garden tossed salad, homemade sourdough bread, black forest chocolate cake, coffee and tea.

Jonathan Markowicz, a student of Elizabeth MacFarland, will play piano selections.

Following dinner, a short business meeting will be conducted. Please join us for this annual event to celebrate the importance of the Schenectady County Public Library in our community and in our lives.

The cost to attend is \$13.00 payable to the Friends of SCPL. Please complete the reservation form below and return with payment by Monday, April 5, 1999.

---

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library  
Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation  
Tuesday, April 13, 1999 at 6:15 p.m.  
McChesney Room

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$13.00 per person)

Attendee names: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail to:

Carol A. Raphael  
19 Eltinge Place  
Scotia, NY 12302

## ELECTIONS FOR 1999-2000

The Nominating Committee will propose the following people for election as officers and directors at the annual meeting on April 13, 1999:

### Board of Directors: first three-year term

- Ann Marie Brown- was Middle School Librarian at Schalmont Schools. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees locally, and is an AAUW member.
- Edwin D. Reilly- was a Professor of Computer Science at the University at Albany for 26 years, and served as Town Supervisor of Niskayuna from 1989-1997. He volunteers at the Schenectady County Historical Society.
- Eleanor C. Rowland- is retired from teaching the GED in Adult Education. A long-time resident of Schenectady, she has served on the boards of the YWCA, AAUW, ECOS, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. She volunteers at Yates Magnet School , at WMHT, and for Junior Achievement; she teaches Sunday School and is an Elder at Union Presbyterian Church.
- Linda Witkowski- was an English teacher at Niskayuna High School for 38 years, winning a Teacher of Excellence award in 1992. She volunteers at Bethesda House, teaches at Union College's UCAII program, and coordinates the Friends' Books Sandwiched-in series.

### Board of Directors: second three-year term.

Jeannette Gerlaugh  
Jean Wildgrube

### Officers

President: Phyllis Bornt  
President-Elect: (no candidate proposed)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Walter Grattidge  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Renie Federighi  
Secretary: Ethel Murray  
Treasurer: Junice Wusterbarth

### Members at large for Nominating Committee for 2000-2001:

Maxine Borom, Naomi Bristol

### Board of Directors continuing in office:

Phyllis Bornt, Trudi Carpenter, Valerie Catlin, Doris Clark, Faith Donovan, Renie Federighi, Geraldine Gallagher-Lopez, Katherine Lowe, Ethel Murray, Peter Oldow, Carol Raphael, Ann Stamm, Fred Thompson, Simon Weinstein

Jean Wildgrube, Chairman

## SCPL NEWS BY E-MAIL NOW AVAILABLE

Are you interested in receiving news about new library programs and services by e-mail? SCPL now has a mailing list for information about the Book Sale, calendar of events and new computer services. You may subscribe by visiting <http://onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/scplnews>, or sending a blank message to [scplnews-subscribe@onelist.com](mailto:scplnews-subscribe@onelist.com).

## LIVABLE CITIES: BUILDING FROM STRENGTHS

What makes cities work? Why do some neighborhoods die and others flourish? How can we encourage the life of our cities? Recognizing that where we live affects how we live, the Schenectady Heritage Foundation, in partnership with the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission and the Schenectady County Public Library, is sponsoring a four-part series of programs which bring together nationally known authors and community leaders to help answer these questions. Programs will be held at the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, 1221 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, New York. All programs are free and open to the public.

Sunday, February 28, 1999, 3 p.m.

### **SUCCESS STORIES: CITIES THAT HAVE RECREATED THEMSELVES**

**SPEAKER:** Roberta Brandes Gratz, award-winning journalist, urban critic and author of Cities: Back from the Edge - New Life for Downtown (1998) and The Living City (1989) will discuss the revitalization of cities nationwide. Her presentation will be followed by a book sale and signing.

Sunday, March 21, 1999, 3 p.m.

### **SUCCESS STORIES: IN OUR REGIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD**

**SPEAKER:** Julia Stokes, who was instrumental in the rejuvenation of the City of Saratoga Springs and founded the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation, will speak about local revitalization efforts.

Tuesday, April 6, 1999, 7 p.m.

### **SUCCESS STORIES: A SENSE OF PLACE**

**SPEAKER:** James Howard Kunstler, artist and author of Home from Nowhere: Remaking Our Everyday World for the Twenty-First Century (1996) and The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of American's Man-Made Landscape (1993) talks about the design of our urban and suburban spaces, how things got to be the way they are and how we can create authentic places worth caring about.

Sunday, April 18, 1999, 3 p.m.

### **SUCCESS STORIES: SCHENECTADY'S FUTURE - A COMMUNITY FORUM**

**COMMENTS BY:** Thomas O. Carey, a city planner with the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal is a member of the Downtown Schenectady Master Plan advisory committee and writes articles for the Gazette.

Werner L. Feibes, architect and partner in Feibes & Schmitt Architects, served as a charter member and past chairman of the Schenectady Historic District Commission.

Sabine O'Hara, Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Department of Economics, works in the areas of social and ecological economics, and sustainable development.

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE** - An informal forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

**FACILITATED BY:** Karen Engelke, Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission.

This series is funded in part by a grant through the Empire Development Corporation.

Additional support has been provided by Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds granted to The Schenectady County Public Library by the New York State Library.

For more information, contact: The Schenectady Heritage Foundation  
P.O. Box 48, Schenectady, NY 12301-0048  
(518) 372-3344

### **HELP PRESERVE LOCAL HISTORY- VOLUNTEERS AND MATERIALS WANTED**

The local history section of the SCPL Web site (<http://www.scpl.org/history>) receives thousands of visitors every month from around the world. Much of our success is due to the efforts of a few volunteers who have helped computerize some of our historical resources. If you're a good typist and would like to help, contact Bob Sullivan at 388-4500 or [history@scpl.org](mailto:history@scpl.org).

We are also interested in photos, records and other material related to Schenectady area history and families.

**HUDSON MOHAWK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
SPRING 1999 DINNER MEETING**  
Friday, April 16, 1999 5:30 p.m.  
The Herb Garden Restaurant, Slingerlands, New York

(All are invited- you need not be a member to attend)

**THE MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR  
A TALK by Dr. William D. Danko**

Who are the rich in this country? How did they get rich? How do they shop? How do they invest? Is it possible that your next door neighbor is a millionaire? Dr. Danko, co-author of The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy (1996), has been studying the affluent for over 25 years. His talk will describe several common denominators of the wealthy, and how he and his co-author compiled such a detailed picture of the rich and then wrote this book.

Professor Danko is an associate professor and chair of marketing at the University at Albany's School of Business. In addition to consulting and conducting corporate seminars, his publications have appeared in many journals.

The cost for the buffet is \$21.00 per person, which includes gratuities. All reservations must be received by Friday, April 9. Please pay by check only; list name(s) of those who will attend. Reservations must be sent by mail (not through library couriers) to: Phyllis Ochs, Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, New York 12305. Telephone: (518) 388-4500

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome: Louis & Judy Clough, B.F.Dwyer, John & Elizabeth Greene, R. D. Miller, Dorothy & Harry Temple, and Douglas Woosterbarth. As of Feb. 1, 1999, membership is 1009.

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 code of the Library - 12305.

Kabby Lowe, Membership Chairman

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

April 14      Next newsletter deadline  
May 8         Book sale--Please volunteer: Call Peter Oldow at 399-4250 after April 13  
May 10-      Books Sandwiched-In Spring Series  
June 14

**FRIENDS OF SCPL**

President	Faith Donovan	President-Elect	Phyllis Bornt
1st Vice Pres.	Walter Grattidge	2nd Vice Pres.	[vacant]
Secretary	Jeanette Gerlaugh	Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin, Rudy Dehn	Newsletter Ed.	Valerie Catlin
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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

May 1999

Vol. XXXIV No.5

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.

### TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Naomi Bristol

- May 3      **"Our People Are Your People":  
American Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights, 1954-1965**  
Speaker: Professor Stephen Berk, History Department, Union College

### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- May 10      **THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN**, by Simon Winchester  
A madman's amazing contribution to the Oxford English Dictionary.  
Speaker: Carl Strock, columnist for the Daily Gazette
- May 17      **INTO THIN AIR**, by Jon Krakauer  
Mount Everest climb in fierce weather  
Speaker: Dr. Walter Robb, retired G.E. executive, local businessman, and mountain climber
- May 24      **WHO WROTE THE NEW TESTAMENT?** by Burton Mack  
The making of Christian myth  
Speaker: Dr. John Bradshaw, retired R.P.I. professor
- June 7      **LINDBERGH**, by A. Scott Berg  
Biography of the great aviator  
Speaker: Ernie Tetrault, local radio and television broadcaster
- June 14      **MONICA'S STORY**, by Andrew Morton  
Biography of a White House intern  
Speaker: Susan Arbetter, news director of WAMC

If you miss a program: Monday Noon programs are broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access cable channel 16 on the following Thursday and Saturday.

### NEW ROTTERDAM BRANCH

The new Rotterdam Branch library, the 10,000 square foot branch library at 100 N. Westcott Road, opened to the public on March 29th, and is scheduled to have an Open House on Sunday, May 2, at 2 p.m. All Friends are invited to this grand opening ceremony. There will be various programs including an art show, crafts, and music. Please join us to celebrate!

## ♪ ♪ MUSICAL PROGRAMS ♪ ♪

These programs have been arranged by the Music Committee of the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library.

All programs will be presented in the McChesney Room at the Central Library.

Sunday May 9 at 3 p.m.

Felice Kuan, pianist and cellist, will present a musical program of compositions by Beethoven, Debussy, Chopin, Bach, and Cabeleski.

Friday, May 14 at noon

Music at Noon: Members of the Etude Club will play compositions by Brahms, Liszt, and Lamb for voice, viola, and piano.

Sunday, June 6 at 3 p.m.

Jonathan Chu, violinist, accompanied by Adelina Krivosheina, pianist, will present his graduation recital, with music by Bach, Brahms, Handel, Rachmaninoff, and Ravel.

## **SPRING BOOK SALE -- AND ART SALE, AND BAKE SALE, AND PLANT SALE**

The Spring Book Sale will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, May 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Central Library. Approximately 18,000 books, magazines, records, tapes, and more will be for sale.

LARGE TYPE BOOKS are coming to the book sale! Central is weeding its collection to make room for new books ordered with a legislative grant arranged by Senator Hugh Farley and Assemblyman Jim Tedisco. Hundreds of large type books - general fiction, romance, western, biography and more will be available.

Prices for adult items: \$ 1.00 for a hardcover or large paperback book; 50 cents for a paperback book; 15 cents for most magazines, LIFE magazines at \$1.00; 50 cents for many records with better records at \$ 1.00 or slightly more. Prices for children's items: 50 cents for a hardcover book., 25 cents for a paperback book, 10 cents for magazines, and 25 cents for a record. Records and cassette tapes are priced 50 cents. Better Records and Books on Tape are \$1.00 and up. 78 RPM sets are individually priced.

Better Books will be marked with varying prices. Better Books in all categories and for all ages are described as new and popular, or classic, or good editions, or very large and all in top condition.

Yes, a price increase for adult books has been instituted. The Friends considered this decision carefully. For each sale we provide a fresh, essentially unpicked-over, laboriously sorted, batch of books and records. There has been no price change in 15-20 years, if ever, in the history of this sale, while the price of new books marches upward

A half-price sale begins at 2:00 p.m., and a \$1.00 bag sale at 3:30 p.m. Again this year shoppers will be able to check their purchased books during the sale in a supervised, secure area until 4:30 p.m.

All proceeds of the sale are used to purchase additional books and materials to enhance the collections in the nine branch libraries.

Paintings by Grace Thielpape on exhibit at the library from April 19th will be for sale during the book sale, with proceeds to benefit the Friends of the Library, so that you can adorn your walls as well as your bookshelves. Grace is a long-time library volunteer who is 94 years old and still painting! Literacy Volunteers will have coffee and pastries for sale and the Schenectady Day Nursery will have plants for sale on the Liberty St., just beyond Paperbacks.

Please join us for this popular Spring event by volunteering (call Peter Oldow at 399-4250) and shopping.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library held their 33rd Annual Meeting on April 13, 1999 in the McChesney Room at the Central Library. Jonathan Markowicz played piano selections by Poulenc and Chopin. Dinner was by Classic Caterers, and followed by the Business Meeting and elections, remarks by Ronald Lagasse, Library Director, and a presentation by John Manning, Chairman of the Metroplex Development Authority. Carol Raphael made the arrangements for dinner, decorations, and flowers.

The slate as presented by the Nominating Committee was elected by the membership:

For a first three-year term:

Ann Marie Brown, Edwin D. Reilly, Eleanor C. Rowland, Linda Witkowski

For a second three-year term:

Jeannette Gerlaugh, Jean Wildgrube

Officers, 1999-2000:

President:	Phyllis Bornt
1st Vice-President	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice-President:	Renie Federighi
Secretary:	Ethel Murray
Treasurer:	Junice Wusterbarth

Nominating Committee members at large for 2000-2001: Maxine Borom, Naomi Bristol

The next three items are from the 1998 Annual Report:

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Friends have once again contributed to the library and the Schenectady community by providing and funding programs, providing funds for library materials, by supporting outreach programs and Literacy Volunteers, and carrying out special projects. The funding has been donated by the membership, with significant matching funds coming from the GE Foundation. In addition, our semi-annual book sales provide substantial support for the branch libraries.

The vast amounts of time, energy, talent, and hard work contributed by various members of the Friends continue to inspire me. Much of this work is described in the following pages. In addition, the Friends provided financial support for a poetry series on the English Romantic poets, the annual volunteer luncheon on June 4, and a young adult book discussion series which included free paperbacks for those attending. Under the leadership of Walter Grattidge, we also supported a variety of musical programs at central and at Niskayuna.

Also this year, the Friends initiated a three-year \$15,000 grant to the library for the purchase of specific categories of materials. This year's \$5,000 includes last year's contribution from the William Gundry Broughton Charitable Private Foundation. This year's grant is being used for unabridged books on tape, for which there is a huge demand.

And finally, we were saddened by the recent deaths of three good Friends. Pat Whitney capably ran the book sale for many years. Marjorie Woods, a library trustee, also chaired the sale for some years. Elizabeth Norris was a former president of the Friends. All three made significant contributions to the library and to Schenectady.

Faith Donovan

## PAT WHITNEY

The book sale will not be the same without Pat Whitney, who died on February 17th. She served as Book Sale and Membership chairman, and as Board member with enthusiasm and dedication. The Friends of the Library was designated as a recipient of memorial contributions, and she also remembered the Friends in her will. We are grateful for all she did for the Friends and extend our sympathies to her family.

## THANKS, FROM THE BRANCHES

As you know, proceeds from the book sales are used to purchase new books and other materials for the branches. Following is a letter from Wonja Brucker, Coordinator of Branches, to the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library:

Dear Faith,

On behalf of the staff and the patrons who use nine branches, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Board of the Friends and to all friends who have been working extremely hard for book sales every year. Needless to say, the branches have been the primary beneficiary of book sale revenues, and we are eternally grateful for the support of the Friends which has helped branches become what we are now.

As you know, for the past four years branches have expanded in all directions: the new Niskayuna Branch of 7,000 sq. ft., the new Rotterdam Branch of 10,000 sq. ft. on the way, the Scotia Branch's interior renovation, the ever-growing community of the Quaker Street Branch, the increased branch hours including Saturday hours during summer months -- all these factors have put an extra strain on our regular book budget. While the branch annual book budget can barely meet the demands on "most popular" books, we can no longer ignore or postpone updating branch collections. In 1996 when the Long Range Plan was implemented, branches set the major goal to "beef up" the branch collections by which branches could address what each community really wants and needs. All nine branches have participated in a "weeding campaign" to weed out dated books and add new materials as much as we can.

The book sale fund has always been spent to benefit all branches. For example, last year branches voted to concentrate on revitalizing the branch rotating collections of large print books and videos which are very popular. 25% of each book sale fund is given to the children's department to supplement the branch juvenile book budget. The remaining 75% of the fund is usually spent for branch adult "must have" books which branches, otherwise, would not be able to purchase. However, during 1998 we spent the major part of book sale funds on updating branch large print collections. We have already received numerous compliments from the older patrons who have noticed the change in large print collections which are rotated among nine branches every six months. It will take time to replace all old titles with new titles, but the collection is in much better condition this year.

I am sure you have seen the 1998 annual report of Mr. Lagasse, but I just would like to add a couple more statistics to illustrate how branches have progressed since 1994: In 1998 the total branch circulation of materials was 425,251 which shows an increase of 83,244 more items compared to the 1994's (342,067). The total branch collection as of December, 1998 is 196,016 volumes which are 7,212 more new items than in 1994 (188,859 volumes). Most importantly, the current branch collection is more alive than a few years ago. These cold statistics alone, not counting the intangible customer satisfaction rate, show the progress of branch services. Again, without the Friends' support, this enormous ongoing mission would not have been accomplished.

We are counting on your continuous support and encouragement for branches who are striving for excellence serving the community.

Please give our special regards from the branch staff to the Board of the Friends. I personally would like to thank you for all you have done for us. If you need any specific progress report on branch services, please let me know. Thank you again, Faith.

Sincerely, Wonja Brucker



## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The Children's Department had a most successful program year thanks to the generosity of the Friends. In particular, performers hired for the Summer Reading Club brought in record numbers of children. They were entertained by a ventriloquist, singers, storytellers and magicians. These programs go a long way in getting children excited about the library, books and reading. The special funding for reading club prizes was also much appreciated. Readers earned stickers, magnets, buttons and other small prizes which were quite popular.

The Department also purchased some new equipment for the Ellison die-cut machine, including a set of letters, numbers and several new shapes.

Central benefited from the new Friends funding which enabled us to replace lost copies. When our regular budget funding ran out, we were at least able to replace valuable titles which were lost or discarded. This is a wonderful new service!

Serena Butch, Coordinator of Children's Services

## JAIL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Jail library work is steady and works well under the current Programs Officer at the Schenectady County Jail. The number of books checked out at each weekly session averages in the 80s and we have on several occasions topped a circulation of over 100 books. This does not include magazines distribution, which we do not keep records on because the titles are a different mix each week. Funds from the Friends are used to respond in a timely way to specific requests, such as one young woman's request for a copy of Charlotte's Web. We also had specific requests for books by Og Mandino and some of the Shakespeare plays.

Jail Library volunteers for 1998-99 include Howard Fieldler, Jean Sampson, Althea Nelson, Ann Fox and Maryde King with Stephen Almasi helping on Monday holidays when he is not working. Dorothy Kraus, recently retired librarian from Schenectady International, has joined us as a regular volunteer. She is enthusiastic about the project thus far. Kay Dixon is available on short notice to fill in if someone is unable to do their turn; Kay has helped several times this past year.

We hope to use the money from the Friends this year to respond to specific worthwhile requests for paperbacks. The users of the library at the jail are often very knowledgeable about science fiction and western authors as well as the best seller authors. Paperbacks circulate on various floors of the jail without ever coming back to the library. Each book circulated has an unknown number of readers, often to the point of the demise of the integrity of the paperback book. Five hundred titles circulated in 1997 had to be removed from our records.

Maryde King

## LILLIAN M. SLATER CHARITABLE TRUST GRANT

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library are pleased to announce another grant from the Lillian M. Slater Charitable Trust of \$10,000. This grant will be applied to the purchase of cassettes, videos and compact disks that teach English speaking people to speak foreign languages and to expand the library's collection of travel guides and books about foreign cultures. The Friends are very appreciative of this gift.

## NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION AND DELIVERY

We thank these newsletter workers for getting out the January and March newsletters: Florence and Win Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Dot and Bernie Gerberg, Lois and Bill Isles, Alice Kussman, Helena Piotrowski, Florence Scheels, Jan and Dick Sills, Helen and Frank Steiner, and Mary White. Jane and Wayne Somers printed the labels, and Rudy Dehn and Millie Neslin coordinated.

The other necessary participants in bringing you our newsletter are Schenectady Herold Printers and the Postal Service, both of which have given us fine service. Rudy Dehn recently wrote to Ms. Elaine Wieczorek, Customer Relations Coordinator at the Schenectady Post Office:

" This is a note of appreciation for the very User Friendly service Brian and Jake in the bulk mail acceptance unit of your post office have been giving us in mailing the newsletter of the Friends of the Library.

They have been very patient in explaining the procedure to sort our mail for minimum overall cost and optimum delivery. Since my involvement as co-chair of distribution, we have never had complaints of misdelivery or late delivery.

It seemed just right to let you know that reactions from your customers need not always be complaints about problems."

## MEMBERSHIP

The Friends welcome these new members: Judith Goberman, (rejoined) Mr. & Mrs. T. Matthew Limatainen, Beth Mattfeld, Janet Patterson, H. D. Sefcovic. Sixty new members have joined from March 98 - 99.

Kabby Lowe, Membership Chairman

## LOOKING AHEAD:

Next Board meetings: May 25, August 25

Next newsletter deadline: August 14

Have a great summer!

### FRIENDS OF SCPL

President:	Phyllis Bornt
1st Vice-President:	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice-President:	Renie Federighi
Secretary:	Ethel Murray
Treasurer:	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Circ.:	Mildred Neslin, Rudy Dehn
Newsletter Ed.:	Valerie Catlin
Membership:	Kabby Lowe, Tel.346-8879

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