

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

September 1999

Vol. XXXV 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 1999

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- Sept. 13 **ROBERT FROST: A LIFE** by Jay Parini
(A reassessment of our "national poet")
Reviewed by Walter Auclair, retired professor, RPI
- Sept. 20 **POISONWOOD BIBLE**, by Barbara Kingsolver
(The story of a missionary family in the Belgian Congo during its fight for independence)
Reviewed by Elaine Ognibene, Professor of English, Siena College
- Sept. 27 **THE READER** by Bernhard Schlink
translated from the German by Carol Brown Janeway
(Relationship between an adolescent boy and an older woman in post-Holocaust Germany)
Reviewed by Frank Steiner, Ph.D. in German, former coordinator of Books Sandwiched-In
- Oct. 4 **CONFEDERATES IN THE ATTIC: DISPATCHES FROM THE UNFINISHED CIVIL WAR** by Tony Horwitz
(Re-enactors of Civil War battles.)
Reviewed by Dr. James Gavin, UCALL Steering Committee
- Oct. 11 Library Closed, Columbus Day
- Oct. 18 **THE BIRTH OF EMPIRE: DEWITT CLINTON AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, 1769-1828** by Evan Comog
(New York Politics and History)
Reviewed by Frank Taormina, Retired Assistant Superintendent, Niskayuna School District
- Oct. 25 **THE TIMES OF MY LIFE: AND MY LIFE WITH THE TIMES** by Max Frankel
(Memoirs and musings of 45 years as a Times Columnist)
Reviewed by Paul Grondahl, Times Union columnist
- Nov. 1 **ARCHIBALD COX: CONSCIENCE OF A NATION** by Ken Gormley
(Life and times of a Watergate judge.)
Reviewed by Dr. William Murphy, retired Professor of English, Union College

♪♪ MUSICAL PROGRAM ♪♪

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library will present a piano recital by Dawn Kim on Sunday, October 10, 1999 at 3:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room. Dawn grew up in Schenectady and was a student of Feroza LaBonne. She is now a junior at New York University majoring in piano performance. She is the recipient of NYU's highest performance award. The music to be performed includes works by Bach, Schubert, Schumann, Scriabin and Copland. Refreshments will follow the performance.

THE MELTING POT: ETHNIC EXPERIENCES IN AMERICA

A Free Book Discussion Series
Thursdays in September at 12 Noon
For Information call 388-4500

AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

99 Clinton Street

September 9

RAGTIME

by E. L. Doctorow

Facilitator: Brenda Wineapple, Ph.D.

September 16

MY ANTONIA

by Willa Cather

Facilitator: Susan Oringel

AT THE NISKAYUNA BRANCH

2400 Nott Street East

September 23

THE GREATEST GENERATION

by Tom Brokaw

Facilitator: Craig Hancock

September 30

LEAVING DEEP WATER

by Claire S. Chow

Facilitator: Alice Smith Duncan

NEW POETRY DISCUSSION SERIES

The Friends of the Library will once again be sponsoring a poetry discussion series at the central library during October. Local poet Larry Rapant will be facilitator for the four-part program whose theme is "Humor in Poetry". Some of the authors that will be discussed include Mark Twain, Ogden Nash, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Oscar Wilde. The series will run consecutive Thursdays in October at 12 noon as follows:

October 7
October 14

Light Verse
Political Satire

October 21
October 28

Social Satire
Black Humor

THE TRIUMPH OF IRISH-AMERICAN WOMEN: GROUND BREAKERS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

A One-Woman Show presented by
Judy Fitzner-Atchinson, Performer/Composer

Wednesday, October 20, 1999 at 12 Noon
in the McChesney Meeting Room of the Central Library
Sponsored by the Schenectady County Public Library

YOUNG ADULTS SUMMER SERIES

Thanks once again to the Friends for funding the YA Summer Reading Series. The free paperback books attracted twenty-seven young people to the reading/discussion programs that were led by librarians Serena Butch, Catherine O'Connor, Lisa Lehman, Mary Van Patten, and Jo Adams.

ROTTERDAM BRANCH

We continue to be very pleased with new Rotterdam Branch Library. Circulation has increased by 26% since its opening. Patrons express appreciation for the spaciousness of the new library. Parents and caregivers spend much more time in the children's area reading books to the children under their care. Volunteers have planted many flowers to complement and enhance the shrubs and evergreens planted by the county. The meeting rooms are also in frequent use by literacy volunteers and

their students as well as by groups. Recently, Assemblyman Tedisco used the large meeting room for a statewide hearing.
Ronald L. Lagasse, Director

RESUME AND CAREER SERVICES

If you want to change your job or career, but would like professional assistance to help you set your goals, call the Library. The library's Job Information Center offers a free one hour consultation service with a professional counselor who can help you assess your options and find the information and resources you need. Resources include a free list of selected Internet career and job search sites, plus books, videos, and audio cassettes. Direct Internet access is also available for Schenectady County library card holders. Free resume evaluations are also available in person or by mail. For more information or to schedule an appointment, 388-4500.

LAST BOOK SALE OF THE CENTURY

Don't miss the Fall Book Sale, rain or shine, **Saturday, September 18th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Central Library. The half-price sale begins at 2 p.m. We are looking to continue a successful year with the help of a lot of dedicated volunteers doing the book and record selection, sorting and handling, as well as sales.

The spring sale net proceeds, all earmarked for the branches, was \$10,378. The Friends board acted in early spring to increase the adult hardcover book rate to \$1 and paper backs to 50 cents. It is still a bargain and our shoppers agreed. Over 1600 boxes of books and magazines came down from the stacks, a record number, and one could have assumed a larger net. With more tables than ever, many books could not be displayed well. The number of customers may also have been off this day.

Record and tape sales were significant, bringing in over 10% of the proceeds. Fred Thompson is providing an important brokerage through his knowledge of records and concern for finding best homes for sets and collections. Virginia Thompson managed a table of video cassettes and books on tape, a successful first at our sales.

Grace Thielpape, a long-time library volunteer, donated a number of paintings to the Friends for their benefit. About \$350 was realized in the spring sale. We thank her for her creativity and thoughtfulness.

Not a book among the remainders was destroyed. They found their home as the nucleus of the fledgling library in Perth, NY. Through a competition and then handling of books arranged by the "Book Angel", Cami Berg, a new library was started.

The Friends provide gifts of books too. The Branches may replace their books that need mending with books from the Friends' inventory and even add to their collections. One hundred books were gifted to Pleasant Valley Elementary School and more to Martin Luther King Magnet School, POOL. POOL, Pride of Ownership Library, gives children the opportunity to buy a book for 25 cents and exchange it free. A teacher writes, "Thank you very much for your generous contribution to the King School POOL. It is gratefully accepted. We are making a big difference in the attitude that our children have towards books, reading and ownership. We can see the joy in their faces -- with their new choices of books." Some books may not make the cut for the sale, but are saved and then given away; for example, paperbacks go to Bethesda House and some engineering and medical text books are being sent to a university in Istanbul.

We Friends can be proud of the financial contribution and service we provide to our community and others.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FALL SALE BY VOLUNTEERING (CALL PETER OLDOW AT 399-4250) AND SHOPPING.

AN IMPORTANT REQUEST: WE NEED BOXES literally by the hundred. The nominal dimensions are 12 by 18 inches, plus or minus an inch or so. "Moving" boxes in this size are a good example. If you know of such a resource please call Pete Oldow. The Friends would like to avoid the book sale expense of purchasing boxes.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals continue to come in and many have been upgraded, for which we express much thanks. Also thanks to the many GE people who have phoned for their GE matched gifts. All contributions are used for many worthwhile projects throughout our Schenectady Library and branches.

Moving? Please remember to send your new address to the Friends. The post office charges us 50 cents for every wrong address on the newsletters. Our address is: Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady NY 12305

We welcome new members J. Brockmyer, I. Brody, B. Casey, H.&M. Crossman, L. Gaudin, L.&F. Gordon, J. Rosenthal, K. Stevens.

Kabby Lowe, Membership Chairman

KATHRYN RICH

Kathryn (Katie) Rich, a founding member and a former president of the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library, died in May. She was also active in many other organizations, and will be missed by many friends.

NEWS FROM THE RECORD DEPARTMENT

From time to time we will be offering quality record collections that have been donated to the Friends. I am glad to report that the sets of classical, big band and Shakespeare plays offered early this year were sold through the newsletter and at the book/record sale.

Following are boxed sets of 33 1/3 rpm recorded plays by well-known writers. These came from the state library and we have four sets of each play. These will be offered for sale between scheduled book and record sales. We have sold 5 sets already.

Call Fred Thompson to place an order or schedule viewing at 374-9399.

Henrik Ibsen, Hedda Gabler \$4.00

3 LP set recorded in 1964; booklet included

Cast includes Anthony Quayle, Joan Plowwright, Patrick Magee

Arthur Miller, A View from the Bridge \$4.00

3 LP set recorded in 1957; a book with script is included

Cast includes Robert Duval and Jon Voight

Eugene O'Neill, Strange Interlude \$6.00

5 LP set recorded in 1963; booklet included

Cast Includes Jane Fonda, Ben Gazzara, Geraldine Page, Franchet Tone, Pat Hingle

Jean-Paul Sartre, No Exit \$3.00

2 LP set recorded in 1964; booklet included

Cast includes Donald Pleasance, Glenda Jackson

William Shakespeare, Hamlet \$5.00

4 records, RCA Red Seal 1957 by Old Vic Company

Cast Includes John Gielgud

Tennessee Williams, The Glass Menagerie \$3.00

2 LP set recorded in 1964; booklet included

Cast includes Montgomery Clift, Julie Harris, Jessica Tandy, David Wayne

Tennessee Williams, The Rose Tattoo \$4.00

3 LP set recorded in 1967; booklet included

Cast Includes Maureen Stapleton, Harry Guardina, Christopher Walken

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.

NEWSLETTER HELPERS

These fine people helped us get the May newsletter out: Florence Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Peg Fisher, Lois and Bill Isles, Georgie Kallam, Alice Kussman, Helena Piotrowski, Gert Schutz, Helen and Frank Steiner

FRIENDS OF SCPL

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

Next Board Meeting: October 26, 1999

**FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
99 CLINTON STREET
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Mr. & Mrs. R.M. Sills
2812 Rosendale Road
Schenectady, NY 12309

**DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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.

LITERARY SERIES - LOCAL AUTHORS

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- November 8 **Mark Maguire**, Television and Radio Columnist, Times Union
Moments in the Sun: Baseball's Briefly Famous
- November 15 **Amy Biancolli**, Film Columnist, Times Union
Fritz Kreisler: Love's Sorrow, Love's Joy

TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Walter Grattidge

- November 22 "The Adirondack Park Agency - An Overview"
Richard LeFebvre, Chairman, Adirondack Park Agency
- November 29 "History, Present & Future of MVP"
Dave Oliker, CEO, Mohawk Valley Physicians
- December 6 "The Future of the Electricity Industry"
Lionel O. Barthold, Founder and Past Chairman, Power Technologies Inc.
- December 13 "The North Pole in Literature & Reality"
Dr. David C. Golibersuch, Scientist
GE Corporate Research & Development

MUSICAL EVENTS

Friday, November 5th: a program presented by members of the Etude Club, at 12 noon in the McChesney Room at the Main Library. Bring a bag lunch; beverages will be available.

Performers will include: Cathy Barber, violin; Jean Hayes, flute; Stephanie Melvin, piano; Meme Pittman, viola; Joann Rautenberg, piano; Barbara Wright, piano; Elizabeth McFarland, piano; Jean Stoddard, clarinet; Barbara Ganey, oboe.

Music presented will be by: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Phillip Gates, Handel, Massenet.

Saturday, December 4th: a program of music for the holidays presented by the Lyric Ensemble at 3 p.m. in the McChesney Room at the Main Library. Ensemble members will include: Stephanie Melvin, mezzo-soprano; Meme Pittman, viola, and Barbara Wright, pianist.

They will perform music by Vaughan Williams, Bussoni, Tchaikovsky, and Brahms. Refreshments will follow the concert.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN - Winter 2000

- January 3 **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, by J. K. Rowling
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, by J. K. Rowling
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, by J. K. Rowling
What is the secret of these books?
Why are these children's books so popular with adults?
Reviewed by Serena Butch, Head of Children's Services, SCPL.

- January 10 **The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey**
by Linda Greenlaw
The captain of the all-male crew of the sister ship of the Andrea Gail (**The Perfect Storm**, 1997) describes a harrowing trip.
Reviewed by Mary Bee, Director, actor, and businesswoman.

The remaining programs will be announced in the next Newsletter.

THANK YOU TO ALL FALL BOOK SALE PARTICIPANTS

The Friends are now looking to a new century for service to the community through their Book Sale program.

The number of dollars contributed to the branch library system is an important value, but is also a measure of the dedication of those who select and categorize books and recordings throughout the year and of those joining in the many tasks associated with the Sale. The Fall net was \$9,727, a welcome result on both counts.

If you can select, sort, trundle, box books, or make up cartons your help is needed. Consider joining us on Wednesday mornings between 9 and 12 or as your schedule permits.

We continue to look for corrugated cartons with a footprint of 12"x 18" plus or minus an inch or so on either dimension. Flattened cartons in quantity are easiest to transport and store.

Please call Pete Oldow 399-4250 if you can help.

CELEBRATING POETRY

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library will sponsor a gala in celebration of National Poetry Month in April. On Wednesday, April 12, we will gather in the McChesney Room to hear a variety of people reading or reciting poems. Light refreshments will be available 7:00 p.m., followed by the readings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in more information or desirous of being on the program should call Simon Weinstein at 377-6638 or Linda Witkowski at 374-7904.

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY FUNDING: In his budget recommendations for the year 2000, the County Manager has proposed an additional \$50,000 for books and other library materials and funding for increasing the hours of opening at the Glenville, Niskayuna and Rotterdam Branch Libraries from 35 to 45 hours per week.

In addition, funds are being proposed for upgrading the self-check machine and for acquiring new computers to access the next generation of the on-line public access catalog which is imminent.

ROTTERDAM BRANCH: Circulation at the new Rotterdam Branch Library continues to grow. When comparing the circulation in August 1999 to August 1998, the increase exceeded 40%.

A WELCOMING SIGHT: You may have noticed the attractive flower beds and landscaping at the Central Library. They are the work of volunteers from Schenectady 2000 and the Schenectady County Horticultural Education Center. Suzanne Kimura, a library staff member, and Walter Grattidge, a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends, have played major roles in this beautification project.

Ronald L. Lagasse, Director

NEWSLETTER HELPERS

We thank those who helped get our September newsletter out: Florence and Win Bigelow, Annette Billmeyer, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Dorothy and Bernie Gerberg, Lois and Bill Isles, Alice Kussman, Helena Piotrowski, Frank Steiner, Mary White, and Rudy Dehn.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help is wanted at Central to help in rebarcoding books, and at the Rotterdam Branch in the mornings to help check in materials. Please contact Mary Miller at 388-4500.

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

Next Board meeting: January 25, 2000

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

January 2000

Vol. XXXV 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

Winter, 2000

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- January 3 **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, by J. K. Rowling
 Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, by J. K. Rowling
 Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, by J. K. Rowling
 What is the secret of these books? Why are these children's books about an 11-year old wizard in a school of witchcraft and wizardry so popular with adults?
 Reviewed by **Serena Butch**, Coordinator of Children's Services, SCPL
- January 10 **The Hungry Ocean: A Swordboat Captain's Journey**
 by Linda Greenlaw
 The captain of the all-male crew of the sister ship of the Andrea Gail (**The Perfect Storm**, 1997) describes a harrowing trip.
 Reviewed by **Mary Bee**, local theater director and actor, and businesswoman.
- January 24 **The Positively Final Appearance**, by Alec Guinness
 Memoir of a popular actor
 Reviewed by **Robert Donovan**, Professor Emeritus of English, University at Albany
- January 31 **Charming Billy**, by Alice McDermott
 New York Times Book Review called it ..."Eloquent and unsettling new novel..."
 Reviewed by **Alan Nelson**, Professor Emeritus of English, Union College
- February 7 **The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White**, by Henry Wiencek
 A look at the largest slave holders in the South, and the black and white families they spawned.
 Reviewed by **Malinda Meyer**, SCPL Trustee, and a civic leader in Schenectady
- February 14 **Cries Unheard: Why Children Kill**, by Gitta Sereny
 Examines the story of Mary Bell, 11 yr. old child who was convicted of murder.
 Reviewed by **Wayne Metsch**, Psychotherapist, Capital District Psychiatric Center
- February 28 **The Tin Drum**, by Günter Grass
 Greatest German novel since World War II
 Reviewed by **Frank Steiner**, Ph.D. in German, Former coordinator of Books Sandwiched-In.

A POETRY GALA

In April, the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library will present a poetry event to help celebrate National Poetry Month. On Wednesday, April 12, we will hear an interesting variety of poetry read (or recited) in the McChesney Room. Light refreshments will be available at 7:00, followed by the poetry from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

If you would like more information, or if you are interested in being on the program, please call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904, or Simon Weinstein at 377-6638.

THANK YOU, LIEDKIE

Liedkie Moving and Storage, Curry Road, Rotterdam, has donated 200 cartons for our Book Sales. We are grateful for their generosity.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members Anne Flanigan, Harriet Keith, and Wayne Nelson.

Moving? Please remember to notify us of any change in address, whether permanent or temporary, so that you can continue to receive the newsletter. Address correction by the Postal Service is expensive, and we are discontinuing it on a regular basis.

CHILDREN "SOAR WITH BOOKS"

The re-order of plastic Library Bags with SCPL and "Soar with Books" logo, funded by the Friends of the Library, arrived in the fall. The bag design and color are a little different, but the children who receive them when they sign up for their first library card are as thrilled as ever! The Children's Librarians personally present the bag to each child and also, try to drop in an attractive bookmark. All nine branches and the Central Children's Room hand out the bags.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our November circulation volunteers, led by Millie Neslin and Rudy Dehn: Florence and Win Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Bernie Gerberg, Lois and Bill Isles, Helena Piotrowski, Gert Schutz, Dick Sills, Frank and Helen Steiner. Jane and Wayne Somers printed the labels. Jan Sills, a long-time volunteer, passed away recently, and will be missed.

LIBRARY NEWS

During the past year, Architecture + has been studying the central library's serious space problem. The consultant has recommended an addition of 24,000 sq. ft. and a comprehensive reutilization of existing space. The Board of Trustees completed its review of the architect's recommendations at its December meeting and formally accepted his report.

The library received a New York State Supplemental State Aid grant of \$8,000 for the improvement of library services at the Central

library and the Glenville, Niskayuna, and Scotia branches. This grant was obtained through the office of Assemblyman Tedisco.

We have begun work on the third phase of the renovation of the historic Abraham Glen House - also the home of the Scotia Branch Library. This phase includes upgrading the heating, electrical and lighting systems, painting the exterior of the building, installing storm windows and refurbishing the room closest to the entrance.

The Niskayuna Branch Library recently received an award from the Federal Garden Clubs of New York State for the excellence of its gardens and landscaping, which are maintained exclusively by volunteers.

Two full-time Library Assistants were appointed for the branches - Sylvia Raushi at Glenville Branch and Mary Miller at Scotia Branch. As of Jan. 2000, five branch libraries are expanding their public hours. We hope we can reach out to more people. The branches are striving for excellence, but we have many challenging years ahead to which we look forward.

Ronald Lagasse, Director, and Wonja Brucker, Branch Coordinator

LOOKING AHEAD:

January 25	Friends Board Meeting
March 6	Science Series begins at noon
March 28	Friends Board Meeting
April 9-15	National Library Week "Read! Learn! Connect! @ the Library!"
April 9	Musical Program at 3 p.m..
April 11	Friends Annual Meeting
May 20	Book Sale 9-4
Sept. 23	Book Sale 9-4

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President:	Phyllis Bornt
1st Vice-President:	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice-President:	Renie Federighi
Secretary:	Ethel Murray
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March 2000

Vol. XXXV No. 4

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SCIENCE SERIES Winter, 2000

Coordinated by Walter Grattidge

- March 6 **Memory Disorders**
Speaker: Dr. Richard F. Holub, Neurological Associates of Albany
- March 13 **Waterborne Diseases**
Speaker: Professor Twitty Styles, Biology Department, Union College
- March 20 **Fuel Cells: A Decentralized Electricity Source**
Speaker: David Rollins, Associate Director, Business Development, Plug Power, Latham
- March 27 **The Internet: From Scientific Communication to E-Commerce**
Speaker: Dr. J. J. Salvo, Manager, Process Systems Engineering, General Electric Corporate Research and Development

♪♪ ETUDE CLUB 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT ♪♪

Seventy-five years ago the Etude Club of Schenectady was brought into being as a way for women in the area to share their love of music through learning, fellowship and performance. Members met regularly in each other's homes throughout the club's existence, offering programs of works studied to performance level, occasionally sharing their efforts in concerts open to the public. This tradition continues today, and we are very pleased to share our musical talents with you through our 75th Anniversary Concert, sponsored by the Friends of the Schenectady Public Library.

In 1992, efforts were made by the Etude Club, along with other area musical groups and the Friends of the Library, to procure a new piano for the McChesney room. Thanks in part to benefit concerts given by the Etude Club, and other fund-raising support by club members and their families, the new seven foot Steinway B piano was purchased in February, 1994. This involvement is one of the reasons the Friends of the Schenectady Public Library have generously offered to sponsor our anniversary celebration.

The 75th Anniversary Concert will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2000, at 3 p.m. in the McChesney Room of the Schenectady Public Library. It is free and open to the public. Works from Bach to Gershwin will be presented by club members, and refreshments will be provided afterwards. We hope you will be able to join us for this gala concert!

Please note: the April 9th Musical Program has been cancelled.

GALA FOR NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library will celebrate National Poetry Month on Wednesday, April 12 with a poetry event. We will hear an interesting variety of poetry read (or recited) in the McChesney Room. Light refreshments will be available at 7:00, followed by the poetry from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. If you would like more information, please call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904, or Simon Weinstein at 377-6638.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING INVITATION INSIDE!!

LITERARY SERIES Spring, 2000

"The Bard of Avon"

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- April 3 **Directing Shakespeare**
Speaker: Joseph Fava, local theater director, actor, and designer
- April 10 **Within the Sonnet's Scanty Plot of Ground**
Speaker: Paul Lamar, Capital area teacher and reviewer
- April 17 **Enjoying Shakespeare**
Speakers: Jean Kestenbaum and Doug DeLisle,
regional community theater favorites

TABLE TALKS Spring, 2000

Coordinated by Naomi Bristol

- April 24 **Condemned: Inside the Sing Sing Death House**
Scott Christianson, former state criminal justice official, will discuss his book
- May 1 **Re-versing America, on the lost art of poetry spoken**
Speaker: Paul Elisha, WAMC music host and commentator, and poet.
- May 8 Topic to be announced
Speaker: Brad Lewis, Dean of Undergraduate Education and Professor
of Economics, Union College.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

READ! LEARN! CONNECT! @ THE LIBRARY during National Library Week, April 10-15. SCPL will feature Internet tutorials for novices to help our library patrons learn the basics of connecting with the World Wide Web's vast resources. These one hour tutorials are offered on a limited basis year round but during NLW the central library will have the use of MVLA's Laptop Computer Lab and will be staffing a computer lab for frequent sessions. Look for the schedule and sign up procedure in the National Library Week brochure late in March.

On Thursday evening, April 13th, back by popular request, Robert Sullivan will host a presentation on what's new on the SCPL Web site.

MEMBERSHIP

The Friends welcome these new members: Ron Bamell, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Brand, Gertrude Girvin, Robert and Carol Reid, Jennifer and Lawrence Schmidt.

GE DONORS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The Friends are grateful to the many GE employees and retirees who have made donations, and to the GE Fund's More Gifts ... More Givers Program for matching their gifts.

Starting with the year 2000 the minimum individual contribution eligible for the match is increased from \$15 to \$25. The previous minimum of \$15 had been in effect since 1973.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Millie Neslin and Rudy Dehn, newsletter circulation coordinators, and these other fine people got our January newsletter out: Florence Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Dorothy and Bernie Gerberg, Lois and Bill Isles, Helena Piotrowski, Gert Schutz, Helen and Frank Steiner, and Mary White.

LIBRARY NEWS

The American Institute of Architects recently designated the main branch of the Schenectady County Public Library as one of the fifty-eight most significant works of architecture in New York State in the past one hundred years. The library joins Grand Central Terminal, Rockefeller Center, the Guggenheim Museum, and Yankee Stadium in sharing this honor. The library was designed by the Schenectady architectural firm of Feibes & Schmidt.

The Schenectady coordinator for "Toys for Tots" presented our library with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding support of the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. The central library and participating branch libraries are very popular drop-off sites.

Martha Maiello, the library's secretary, and Ruth Harvey, from the Circulation staff, are retiring. Wonja Brucker has been promoted to assistant director.

Ronald Lagasse, Director

ELECTIONS 2000-2001

The Nominating Committee will propose the following people for election as officers and directors at the annual meeting on April 12, 2000:

Board of Directors: first three-year term, 2000-2003

Doris Bauman

Doris retired three years ago from her position as a manager with the New York State Tax Department. Since retiring, she has volunteered as a tutor for the Literacy Volunteers of America and as an assistor for the Tax Counseling for the Elderly program. She is also vice president of the Schenectady County League of Women Voters. Her other interests include reading, music and cross country skiing.

Grace Riccobono

Grace is a retired elementary school librarian from the Scotia-Glenville Central School system. She is a member of AAUW and the Story Circle of the Capital District.

Board of Directors: second three-year term, 2000-2003

Simon Weinstein

Officers:

President	Phyllis Bornt
President Elect	Simon Weinstein
1st Vice President	Walter Grattidge
2nd Vice President	Renie Federighi
Secretary	Ethel Murray
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth

Board of Directors continuing in office:

Phyllis Bornt, Ann Marie Brown, Trudi Carpenter, Doris Clark, Faith Donovan, Renie Federighi, Geraldine Gallagher-Lopez, Jeannette Gerlaugh, Katherine Lowe, Ethel Murray, Peter Oldow, Edwin Reilly, Eleanor Rowland, Ann Stamm, Fred Thompson, Jean Wildgrube, Linda Witkowski

Board of Directors terms expiring: Valerie Catlin, Carol Raphael

Nominating Committee:

Maxine Borom	Naomi Bristol
Anne Marie Brown	Renie Federighi, Chmn.
Ann Stamm	

LOOKING AHEAD:

April 9	Music Program cancelled
May 20	Book Sale 9-4
May 23	Friends Board Meeting
Sept. 23	Book Sale 9-4

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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DATED MATERIAL

YOU'RE INVITED.....

**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Annual Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2000
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.

Featured speaker: Frank Taormina, historian, will talk about the Schenectady Patent

Dinner will be catered by Classic Caterers.

The menu includes:

Chicken Breast with bread stuffing served with herb sauce
Yellow rice
Fresh fruit bowl
Tabouli
Molded raspberry salad
Romaine with garlic vinaigrette
Homemade sour dough bread
Apple Torte with whipped topping
Choice of Beverage

Following dinner, a short business meeting will be conducted.

Please join us for this annual event to celebrate National Library Week and the presence of SCPL in our community and in our lives.

The cost to attend is \$12.00 payable to the Friends of SCPL. Please complete the reservation form below and return with payment by **Monday, April 3, 2000.**

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation
Tuesday, April 11, 2000 @ 6:15 p.m.
McChesney Room

Number attending: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (\$12.00/person)

Attendee names: _____

Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail to

Carol A. Raphael
19 Eltinge Place
Scotia, NY 12302

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.
Noon programs are broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel on Thursday at 3 and 7 p.m., and on Saturday at 11 p.m.

TABLE TALKS Spring, 2000

Coordinated by Naomi Bristol

- May 8 **The Market for e-Stories; the economics of internet companies.**
Dr. Bradley Lewis, Dean of Undergraduate Education and Professor of Economics,
Union College.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Spring, 2000

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- May 15 **Edith's Story**, by Edith Velmans and **Tuesdays with Morrie**, by Mitch Albom
Reviewed by Dr. Alan Chartock, Executive Director of WAMC, and Political Analyst
- May 22 Kate Chopin, novelist, and Mary Cassatt, painter--Connections
Discussed by Dr. Carolyn Mitchell, Director of Women's Studies, Union College
- May 29 Memorial Day Observed—library closed
- June 5 **The Color of Water**, by James McBride
Reviewed by Francine Helfman, a Schenectady County Human Rights Commissioner
- June 12 **Woman: An Intimate Geography**, by Natalie Angier
Reviewed by Ann Eldridge Choate, Retired State Education Dept. administrator with a
long-time interest and experience in women's issues.
- June 19 **In Love with Night: The American Romance with Robert Kennedy**, by Ronald Steel
Reviewed by Donald Ackerman, retired teacher and County Legislator

SPRING BOOK SALE

The Spring Book Sale will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m., at the Central Library. The collection of books, magazines, records and tapes for sale is larger than ever.

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

Prices for adult items: \$1.00 for hardcover or large paperback book; 50 cents for a paperback book; 15 cents for most magazines, LIFE magazines at \$ 1.00 (over 100 issues in the years 1948-57); 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. 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 very large and all in top condition.

All proceeds of the sale are used to purchase additional books and materials for the nine branch libraries and to enhance children's programming throughout.

Literacy Volunteers will have coffee and homemade pastries for sale and the Schenectady Day Nursery will have plants for sale.

Please join us for this festive downtown event. Call Peter Oldow at 399-4250 for more information or to volunteer to help.

♪ MUSICAL PROGRAM ♪

June 11, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room, Main Library

Ben Chan, Violin, and Judith Esch, Piano, will present music of Beethoven, Bach, Wieniawski, Tchaikovsky and Sarasate. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the SCPL

As the winner of the Lois Lyman Competition of the Empire State Youth Orchestra, Ben Chan performed the Beethoven Violin Concerto at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. On June 11, he will be accompanied by pianist Judith Esch in a recital from the great violin repertoire. A reception will follow.

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held April 11.

Frank Taormina spoke about the Schenectady Patent and early formation of Schenectady County.

The slate of Directors and officers proposed by the Nominating Committee was elected.

In addition to the officers, Doris Bauman and Edwin Reilly will serve on the Executive Committee

Members at Large for the Nominating Committee: Elsie Maddaus, Esther Swanker

At the March board meeting, Book Sale was made a standing committee, replacing Gifts and Endowments. Peter Oldow, as Book Sale Chairman, will continue on the Board of Directors.

There are a few copies of the Annual Report left: you may pick one up from the Friends' box at switchboard.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members: Helen Sokol, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Hughes, Doris Bauman, and B.F. Dwyer.

Membership renewal notices have been sent out with great gratitude for Pat Buczkowski's help.

Please let us know when your address changes so that you can continue to receive the Newsletter. The P.O. will not return the newsletters to us if the address is incorrect because we use the special non-profit rate.

Remember the GE Matching gift minimum must now be \$25. We are so grateful to all the employees, spouses and retirees who have been faithful in calling GE so that we have had a very nice addition to the Friends' funds which are used to enhance and initiate programs throughout the Schenectady County Library.

Please invite your friends to join. It's just \$5.00 for a single membership, \$10.00 for a family, \$25 for GE match, \$100. to be a patron. Send your membership gift to Junice Wusterbarth, Treasurer, FSCPL, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady, 12305.

Mildred Maras, a long-time member of the Friends and former Board member and volunteer, died recently and will be missed.

Kabby Lowe, Membership Chairman

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

The March newsletter circulation volunteers were: Annette Billmyer, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Dorothy Gerberg, Lois and Bill Isles, Alice Kussman, Helena Piotrowski, and Dick Sills. Millie Neslin and Rudy Dehn were newsletter circulation coordinators, and Jane and Wayne Somers printed the labels. Our thanks to all.

LIBRARY NEWS

Children at various branches and in the Central Children's Room are enjoying new puzzles purchased with Friends of the Library funds.

The children's librarians are planning our Summer Reading Club ("Discover 2000 Read") programs. Funds from the Friends will be used for some programs and for the great reading incentives that have been selected.

Last month new wall-to-wall carpets were installed at Duane and Mont Pleasant branches. The renovation of the Scotia Branch is still in progress. It's been a long process, but it will be very nice when it is completed.

Glenville, Niskayuna, and Rotterdam branches are doing very well with the increased new hours since January (from 35 hrs. a week to 48 hrs a week at each branch). The public usage and circulation have noticeably increased every month so far. The public demand on Internet has also tremendously increased at each branch since the nine branches have graphical computers.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

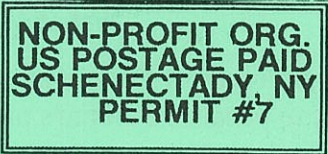
The SCPL Reference department has maintained a file of newspaper clippings since the 1950s which includes huge amounts of local information sorted into topical files. We need a volunteer for approximately two hours a week to help maintain this file. It's a project that would appeal to someone interested in Schenectady's history and current events; hours are flexible and easily fit around vacation schedules. Clipping and filing are involved so some physical dexterity is required. If you're interested in discussing it, please call Susanne Kimura, Reference Librarian, at 388-4534.

LOOKING AHEAD

- May 20 Book Sale 9-4
- May 23 Friends Board Meeting
- Aug. 23 Friends Board Meeting
- Sept. 23 Book Sale 9-4

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