

# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

September 2001

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

### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN FALL, 2001

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- September 17 **Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America**, by Barbara Ehrenreich  
Working among former welfare recipients, the author discovers how they survive, or don't.  
Reviewed by **Katherine Olney**, Social Activist and Writer
- September 24 **John Adams**, by David McCullough  
Inspiring biography of our second president, bringing him out of the shadow of history  
Reviewed by **Loren Broc**, PhD Student at SUNYA
- October 1 **In the Wake of the Plague**, by Norman F. Cantor  
A popular account of one of the greatest disasters to befall the people of Europe  
Reviewed by **K.C. Halloran**, Retired Teacher and Op-Ed Writer
- October 15 **Constantine's Sword**, by James Carroll  
Catholic-Jewish relations throughout history  
Reviewed by Peter Heinegg, Professor of English at Union College
- October 22 **March of Folly**, by Barbara W. Tuchman  
Pulitzer Prize winning author tackles the folly of governments through the ages.  
Reviewed by **Robert Dickson**, Local Businessman
- October 29 **Fast Food Nation**, by Eric Schlosser  
An overview of the history and impact of fast food on American society  
Reviewed by **Paul O'Brian**, English Teacher and Writer
- November 5 **Founding Brothers**, by Joseph Ellis  
Many "truths we hold to be self-evident" were fiercely debated in the early days of the republic.  
Reviewed by **Dr. Charles Cummins**, Retired School Administrator and Gazette Columnist

### FALL BOOK SALE: SEPTEMBER 22 & 23, 2001

There is something new under the sun! The Friends Fall Book Sale will be expanded to a two-day event. Sale hours will be Saturday, September 22 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday, September 23 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Materials for sale include fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children, both hard cover and paperback, as well as magazines, videos, CDs, records and cassettes. These items will range in price from \$0.15 to \$1.00. Better books, encyclopedias, and 78 RPM record sets will be individually priced. More books will be added to the sale on Sunday. The traditional half-price sale will begin at 3:00PM on Sunday only and the bag sale at 4:00PM on Sunday only.

All proceeds of the Friends Book Sale are used to purchase new books for adults and children at all the SCPL branches. The spring sale in 2001 netted over \$10,000 for this purpose! Plan to attend the sale, and tell all your friends to "stock up" for winter reading pleasure. Would you like to work on the sale? See Page 2.

### REMEMBERING VIETNAM

"Remembering Vietnam" will be the theme of a three-part program funded by the Friends of the Library and the American Library Association. The series is scheduled for Wednesdays: October 3, 10 and 17, from 7:00-9:00 PM in the McChesney Meeting Room of the central library. Meetings will focus on Vietnamese music, the Vietnam veteran, and American culture that evolved at the time of the Vietnamese conflict.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the program will consist of a panel discussion by Vietnam veterans and their experiences at home and in Vietnam. The great variety of Vietnamese musical genres will be featured on October 10 when Dr. Phong Nguyen, an internationally recognized scholar and musician, will perform using various musical instruments indigenous to Vietnam. The final program on October 17 will be an evening of live folk music and poetry readings. This evening will feature the poetry of Vietnam veterans as well as some of the protest literature and folk songs that were popular in the 1960's and early 1970's.

### PIANO RECITAL

We welcome back pianist Wei-Jen Yuan in recital at 3:00 PM on Sunday, October 21, 2001 in the McChesney Room at the Central Library. Wei-Jen is a graduate of LaSalle School. He has soloed with the Schenectady Symphony and will soon attend The Julliard School.



## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Our thanks to the circulation volunteers who collated and mailed the May newsletter: Florence & Win Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Peg Fisher, Beth Fritz, Bernie & Dot Gerberg, Bill and Lois Isles, Alice Kussman, Millie Neslin and Dick Sills.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Friends Membership Chair Ed Reilly reports that about two-thirds of our members have renewed for the year that began July 1. The others are encouraged to remit their renewal contribution to Treasurer Junice Wusterbarth, 395 Daniels Ave., Schenectady 12304 to assure continued delivery of the Newsletter.

We welcome the following new members: Janet Altschuller, Winifred Balz, Debra Baumes, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Becker, Louise Bluestein, Mr. & Mrs. Moses Brand, Anne Carey, Marilyn Causey, T. Crout, Linda & Steve DeVito, Hazel Feiker, Lynn Giordano, Lyn Hill, Marilyn Huston, Nancy Johnsen Curran, Priscilla Kline, Sue Koslow, Krystyna Kusielewicz, Virginia Laumeister, Don & Ann Liebers, Laurie Longfield, Sharon & Charles Maneri, Mary McCarthy, Art & Anita Merims, Linda Montanaro, William Murphy, Rosa Pugliese, Deborah Reid, Alida Rice, Greg Rosenthal, Howard Sheffey, Kathy Whitaker

## BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES HIGHLIGHTS THE INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Four book discussions on the theme of "The Independent Woman" in biography and fiction are scheduled for the central library and Scotia Branch on Tuesdays at noon, beginning October 30. Multiple copies of the books to be discussed will be available ahead of time in both libraries. The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, October 30 – Central Library  
"A Reckoning" by May Sarton (Fiction)
- Tuesday, November 6 – Central Library  
"Bring Me A Unicorn" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh (Biography)
- Tuesday, November 13 – Scotia Branch  
"The Bonesetter's Daughter" by Amy Tan (Fiction)
- Tuesday, November 20 – Scotia Branch  
"Having Our Say" by A. Elizabeth and Sarah Delaney (Biography)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOOK SALE SATURDAY 9/22 AND SUNDAY 9/23

With a two-day book sale comes the requirement for more volunteer help. Workers are needed all during the sale as cashiers and floaters (to keep the materials in order), and to tally the receipts. Saturday shifts are: 9:00 - 11:30, 11:30 - 2:00, and 2:00 - 4:00. The Sunday shift is 1:00 - 4:00. Other jobs must be filled for specific times:

Friday PM (1:00-4:00) – Set up inside tables and books, bring books by elevator from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Saturday AM (7:00-9:00) – Set up outside tables and books

Saturday PM (4:00-5:00) – Close down the sale for overnight security

Sunday AM/PM (11:00-1:00) - Set up tables and replenish books

Sunday PM (4:30-6:00) - Take down tables, pile books and close down the sale

Every Wednesday morning, volunteers are busy sorting thousands of items for the sale.

To volunteer for any of these tasks, please call Ellie Rowland at 370-1958. No experience is necessary; experienced volunteers are available to train new people in the requisite skills.

## LITERARY SERIES - Winter, 2001

November 19 and 26 - "Winston Churchill"

C. James Shapland, long-time educator, camp director, and outdoorsman with a special interest in history discusses the writings, achievements, and reflections of this eminent 20<sup>th</sup> century statesman

## SUPPORT SCPL CAPITAL REQUEST

The library trustees have submitted to the county legislature a capital request for \$8.3 million. This amount is needed to complete the main branch expansion, renovation and modernization. The Friends actively endorse this project and urge our members to write or call the legislator for their district. Go to [www.crisny.org/government](http://www.crisny.org/government) for names, addresses and phone numbers.

FRIENDS OF SCPL	
99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305	
President	Simon Weinstein
President Elect	Linda Witkowski
Vice President	Naomi Bristol
Secretary	Ethel Murray
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Newsletter Circ.:	Mildred Neslin, Rudy Dehn
Newsletter Ed.	Gene Rowland
Membership	Ed Reilly, 393-0950

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

November 2001

Vol. XXXVII, No. 2

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 also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel on Thursdays at 3 and 7 p.m., and Saturday at 11 p.m.

### BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

#### THE INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Book discussions on the theme of "The Independent Woman" in biography and fiction are underway at the central library and Scotia branch on Tuesdays at noon. These discussions began on October 30 – remaining dates are listed below. Multiple copies of the books to be discussed will be available ahead of time in both libraries.

- Tuesday, November 6 – Central Library "**Bring Me A Unicorn**" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh (Biography)
- Tuesday, November 13 – Scotia Branch "**The Bonesetter's Daughter**" by Amy Tan (Fiction)
- Tuesday, November 20 – Scotia Branch "**Having Our Say**" by A. Elizabeth and Sarah Delaney (Biography)

### LITERARY SERIES WINTER, 2001

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

November 19 and November 26 "Winston Churchill"

**C. James Shapland**, long-time educator, camp director, and outdoorsman with a special interest in history discusses the writings, achievements, and reflections of this eminent statesman of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### TABLE TALKS WINTER, 2001

Coordinated by Ed Reilly, Jr.

December 3 **Global Warming, Global Warning**

**Chris Walcek**, Professor of Atmospheric Science, University at Albany

December 10 **Nuclear Power Redux?**

**Richard Lahey**, Professor of Nuclear Engineering, RPI, Troy, NY

December 17 **The Washington Year in Review**

**Hon. Michael McNulty**, Representative, 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of New York

### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN WINTER 2002

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

January 7 **April 1865: The Month that Changed America**, by Jay Winik

Three major events that saved the Union: the fall of Richmond; Appomattox; Lincoln's assassination.

Reviewed by **Dr. James Gavin**, Retired Physician and Chair, UCALL Steering Committee

January 14 **On Her Own: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker**, by A'Lelia Bundles

Born to poverty, Madam Walker became one of the first black female entrepreneurs.

Reviewed by **Malinda Myers**, Social Activist and Trustee of SCPL

### VIOLIN RECITAL

The Friends of SCPL will present violinist Jonathan Chu in a recital, including works of Ysaye, Bach & Brahms, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 6, 2002 in the McChesney Room. Jonathan, formerly a student of Marianne Pashler, is now a junior at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. He is first violinist of the Clementine String Quartet, which received first prize in the National MTNA Competition in Washington, D.C. last spring.



**NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS**

Our thanks to the circulation volunteers who prepared and mailed the September newsletter: Florence Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Peg Fisher, Bernie and Dot Gerberg, Bill and Lois Isles, Alice Kussman, Millie Neslin, Gert Schutz, Helen Steiner and Bill White.

**Harold Wusterbarth Receives Daniel W. Casey Empire Friends Library Advocacy Award**

Harold Wusterbarth, a member and treasurer of the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees, was recently presented with the Daniel W. Casey Empire Friends Library Advocacy Award. The Library Friends Roundtable of the New York Library Association gives this award annually to an individual or group whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or friends organizations.

Harold received the award because of his service both as a Mohawk Valley Library Association and Schenectady County Public Library trustee. His contributions to MVLA include serving on the Joint Automation Governance Board, which

oversees the automation program for libraries in eight counties, and instituting clear financial controls and reports for the association. He has regularly participated in Legislative Lobby Day in Albany, encouraging state legislators to increase support for libraries.

Harold Wusterbarth has been an SCPL trustee since 1982 and served as president from 1989 until 1995. During his tenure as president, the Glenville and Niskayuna Branch Libraries were built and all library facilities were converted to automated circulation. He has also been most effective in securing additional county support for our library over the years.

<b>FRIENDS OF SCPL</b>	
99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305	
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Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth
Membership	Ed Reilly, 393-0950
Newsletter Circ.	Mildred Neslin, Rudy Dehn
Newsletter Ed.	Gene Rowland

**FRIEND to FRIEND: Won't you help to increase our circle of Friends by giving this form to your neighbors and asking them to join?**

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library has operated for more than 35 years to strengthen and enhance the public library system of our county. Our members, through generous donations of time and payment of annual dues, make possible a wide variety of programs and services that would not otherwise be available. Won't you join us in our support? The dues are modest, the service important, the satisfaction great. Just fill out the form below and mail it with your check (to "Friends of SCPL") to the Treasurer, Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305-2083

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – FRIENDS OF THE SCHENECTADY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Individual: \$5.00                      NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Family: \$10.00                        ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing: \$15.00                      \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting: \$25.00                      PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \$25.00                        E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Patron: \$100.00

**Note: Donations of \$25.00 or more will qualify for GE or IBM Matching Funds**

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

January 2002

Vol. XXXVII, No. 3

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### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN WINTER 2001

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

**January 7** **April 1865: The Month that Saved America**, by Jay Winik

A few decisions, a quirk of fate, and a shift in luck affected the future development of the United States. Reviewed by **Dr. James Gavin**, retired physician and chair of UCALL Steering Committee.

**January 14** **On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker**, by A'Lelia Bundles

Freeborn daughter of slaves established a very successful hair care business, and was active in race and women's issues.

Reviewed by **Malinda Myers**, social activist and SCPL Trustee.

**January 28** **Wide as the Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution it Inspired**, by Benson Bobrick

Contributions of the various translators of the Bible; history, religion, and literary criticism.

Reviewed by **John Karl**, retired history teacher and recent UCALL presenter.

**February 4** **History, the Novel and Reality**

Discussed by **Dr. Jack Vanderhoof**, Professor Emeritus, Russell Sage College

**February 11** **E=mc<sup>2</sup>: A Biography of the World's Most Famous Equation**, by David Bodanis

An entertaining story of Einstein's formulation of the famous energy equation.

Reviewed by **Gary Goodman**, Physics teacher, retired, Niskayuna High School; teacher in MAT program, Union College

**February 18** **Library Closed, President's Day**

**February 25** **Savage Beauty: The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay**. By Nancy Milford

The life story of the first winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

Reviewed by **Ernie Tetrault**, Local radio and television broadcaster

### WINTER FICTION BOOK SALE

Hardback fiction books will be sold on **Sunday, January 27 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**, and on **Monday, January 28 through Wednesday, January 30th from 9:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.** The sale will be held in the hall between the McChesney Room and the Library at the main branch in downtown Schenectady. Since the fall book sales, so many books have been donated for next spring's sale, May 4, that the board decided to have a mid-winter sale just for fiction, including mystery, romance and popular novels. The books will be sold for \$1.00 each. Each day new books will be brought down from the sorting area as space becomes available. Anyone wishing to help should call Simon Weinstein at 377-6638 or Ellie Rowland at 370-1958. Mark your calendar with these dates, and tell all your friends and neighbors about the sale. We hope to see you there.

### CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE

An impromptu sale of children's books, held December 5 and 6 at the Rotterdam and Niskayuna Branches, netted \$750. The dates were chosen to coincide with story hours at the branches and holiday buying. The books were new, surplus items sent to the library by the publishers. As usual all the proceeds will go to the library to purchase new books for the branches. A huge THANK YOU goes to the following people for the success of the sale: Kathleen August, Maxine Borom, Anne Marie Brown, Anne Carey, Rose Cooper, Marion Farlin, Frank Feiner, George Gould, Bernie Hallanson, Lois and Bill Isles, Kabby Lowe, Lynn Lucas, Dorothy Meyers, Ethel and Oliver Murray, Charlotte Purnell, Ellie and Gene Rowland, Sally and Simon Weinstein, and Junice and Harold Wusterbarth. Everyone did a wonderful job!

**SCIENCE SERIES 2002** – Mondays in March will feature a series of science lectures, at noon in the McChesney Room. The speaker for March 4<sup>th</sup> is Dr. Danielle Walker, Manager, Semiconductor Technology Laboratory, GE Corporate R&D. Speakers for March 11, 18 and 25 will be announced in the next newsletter.



## MUSICAL PROGRAMS

**Saturday, January 26** Daniel Teitler will present a piano recital in the McChesney Room at 3:00 p.m. Music to be performed will include works by Bach, Chopin, Messiaen, Beethoven and Liszt. Daniel Teitler is a freshman at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, pursuing a degree in piano performance and music history. He is especially interested in performing and promoting the music of contemporary composers. Dan won the Schenectady Symphony's Parillo Competition in 2000. He has studied with Joseph Fennimore and Noel Liberty.

**Sunday, February 24** At 3:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room, Malinda Myers will present An Introduction to the Negro Spiritual. Malinda will sing a number of spirituals and Charlotte Palmeri will perform a piano selection. Malinda Myers is active in numerous community organizations, and very much involved with education and the library. She is also a music lover and sings in her church choir. The main purpose of this program is to keep the Negro Spiritual alive by encouraging an appreciation of this type of music.

### ONLINE FEATURE IS ADDED

Those of you who enjoy receiving lists of new materials at the Central Library may want to check out the online versions on our Web site. Our catalog has a new feature that allows linking to specific entries in the catalog. The new materials pages on our site now take advantage of this, and by clicking on the title you'll be able to find out more about it, as well as which libraries own it and whether it's available. The new materials pages may be found at <http://www.scpl.org/new/>. Thanks to SALS for adding this to our catalog!

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to the circulation volunteers who prepared and mailed the November newsletter: Florence Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Peg Fisher, Bernie and Dorothy Gerberg, Bill and Lois Isles, Alice Kussman, Mildred Neslin, Gert Schutz, Dick Sills, and Helen Steiner.

### FRIENDS OF SCPL

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Newsletter Editor	Gene Rowland

### POETRY TALKS

Save the four Tuesdays in February for a series of talks about poetry, to be presented by the Friends of SCPL and the Library. Each Tuesday at noon, in the McChesney Room, a different speaker will talk about some era in poetry, a particular genre, a particular poet, or methods of writing poetry. The details are not complete, but be assured that the Tuesdays in February will be provocative, informative, and moving.

### THIRD ANNUAL POETRY GALA

It's not too early to start thinking about the Poetry Gala on Sunday, April 14, 2002 in the McChesney Room. Come to recite, come to hear; come to a lovely afternoon in April. Light refreshments will be available at 2:00 p.m. preceding the readings from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. If you would like to read or recite a favorite poem, please call Linda Witkowski, 374-7904 or Simon Weinstein, 377-6638.

### DO YOU NEED AN ENCYCLOPEDIA?

Friends of SCPL have six sets in fine condition for sale:

Americana 1994, 23 Volumes	\$75
Colliers 1992, 24 Volumes	\$40
Colliers 1991, 24 Volumes	\$35
Americana 1990, 30 Volumes	\$50
Britannica 1990, 29 Volumes	\$50
Colliers 1973, 24 Volumes	\$25

Thomas Register and Illustrated Family Health also available. Call (518) 393-2516 for an appointment to see or buy the books

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

March 2002

Vol. XXXVII, No. 4

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### SCIENCE SERIES - Winter, 2002

Coordinated by Dr. Walter Grattidge

- March 4      **Geological Research in Deep Antarctica**  
Speaker: **Professor Molly Fritz Miller**, Geology Dept., Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- March 11     **Supporting Science in Antarctica**  
Speaker: **Richard Saburro, Colonel, USAF (ret.)** Commander, Operation Deep Freeze—  
Antarctica. President and CEO, Starfire Systems, Watervliet, NY
- March 18     **Revealing and Redefining Grain Structures in Material--Orientation Imaging**  
Speaker: **Dr. John Sutliff**, President, HKL Technology, Burnt Hills, NY
- March 25     **Wide Band Semiconductors and Their Applications**  
Speaker: **Dr. Danielle Walker**, Manager, Semiconductor Technology Laboratory, GE Global  
Research Center, Schenectady, NY

### LITERARY SERIES April, 2002

Opera: **The Words and the Music**

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- April 1       **Shakespeare and Opera**  
Speaker: **Robert Jaquay**, Director, William K. Sanford Library, Colonie, NY
- April 8       **Molto Agitato, Mayhem Behind the Music at the Metropolitan Opera** by Johanna Fiedler  
Speaker: **Dr. Richard Goldman**, former director, doctoral program in Humanistic Studies,  
SUNY Albany

### FOURTH ANNUAL POETRY GALA

Please join us to celebrate National Poetry Month at the Poetry Gala on Sunday, April 14, 2002 in the McChesney Room. Come to recite, come to hear; come to a lovely afternoon in April. Light refreshments will be available at 2:00 p.m. preceding the readings from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. If you would like to read or recite a favorite poem, please call Linda Witkowski, 374-7904 or Simon Weinstein, 377-6638.

### TABLE TALKS – Spring, 2002

Coordinated by Ed Reilly

- April 15      **Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dep't of Justice**  
Topic: "War and Peace: Challenges and Opportunities for America in the New World."
- April 22      **John Egan, CEO of Albany International Airport**  
Topic: "Transportation Security in the New Normal World: How our Freedoms are  
Impacted."
- April 29      **Ricki Lewis, Science writer**  
Topic: "The potential of Stem Cell Therapies."

### GREAT DISCUSSIONS, 2002

"Great Decisions, 2002", the National Nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association Discussion Series, will be held at the Central Library. The series began on Tuesday, February 5, 2001 and will continue for eight successive Tuesdays. The meetings will be held in the McChesney Room from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM and the public is invited to participate in these sessions free of charge. Call Richard Mehan, 374-7886, for more information.



## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

SCPL entered a float in Schenectady's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas parade held on Friday, November 23, 2001. Our float featured Cat in the Hat, holiday lighting, a Christmas tree, and a storytelling session with children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends of library staff. The entire project was planned, coordinated and executed by the library staff association with financial assistance from the library board of trustees. We were most pleased when the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce presented the "Chairs" award to the library in recognition of the excellence of our float.

If you have visited the central library lately, you may have noticed some major changes. The reference collection has been reduced in size and moved closer to the reference desk in order to make it more relevant and accessible. Our increasing dependence upon on-line databases and the Internet has made this possible. The space that was freed up is being used for circulating materials and seating for the public. The results are already apparent. (By Ron Lagasse)

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

For many years, The Friends of SCPL have dreamed of having a used bookstore. Now this dream is about to come true. As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Friends will rent a store facility at the corner of Clinton and Union Streets. Much work is required to have the shop ready for a mid-April opening. Joyce Parry and George Gould will be co-managers of the Whitney Book Corner. Initially, the store will be open each Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More days will be added if business is brisk. Friends who want to help set up or operate the store are invited to contact Ellie Rowland at 370-1958 or [erowland@nycap.rr.com](mailto:erowland@nycap.rr.com).

The start-up funds for this enterprise will come from the Whitney Fund, bequeathed by Pat Whitney. Pat successfully chaired the biannual book sales for many years, and had hoped that the Friends might someday have a bookstore.

## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to the circulation volunteers who prepared and mailed the January newsletter: Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Peg Fisher, Bernie and Dorothy Gerberg, Bill and Lois Isles, Kathy Lippett, Gert Schutz, Bill White, and Anne Yunick

## SETS OF BOOKS AVAILABLE

(Call 393-2516 for More Information)

- 1993 Encyclopedia Britannica \$75.00  
(29 Volumes, Excellent Condition)
- 1986 Family Health Encyclopedia \$25.00  
(24 Volumes, Excellent Condition)
- Classic Club, 17 volumes of classics \$20.00  
(Good to Fair Condition)
- 2000 Thomas Register \$35.00  
(33 Volumes, Excellent Condition)
- Steven Foster Sheet Music (boxed) \$20.00
- Book of 1000 Nights and a Night \$25.00

(Pub. by Richard F Burton, 16 Volumes)

## ACTIVITIES FOR LIBRARY WEEK

April 14-20, 2002 is National Library Week. This year's theme is **Discover@yourlibrary**. Several special activities are planned at SCPL for this annual observance. Here are some of them:

**Sunday, April 14** – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Gala

**Monday, April 15** – Kickoff of "Table Talks"

**Tuesday, April 16** – several "Behind the Scenes" library tours will be held throughout the day.

**Wednesday, April 17** – Dean Davis, animal expert, will present "Leaping Lizards" at 12:00 noon and 1:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 17** - Annual Friends Dinner at 6:15 p.m. in the McChesney room.

**Thursday, April 18** – Alan Weschler, Journalist, will present a travelogue at 7:00 p.m. about his bike tour through Pakistan.

**Saturday, April 20** – Percussionist Brian Mellick will perform at the central library at 1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 21** – a Poetry Reception will be held in the Children's Room at the central library. This event will be the culmination of a Poetry Contest for area school children. Poetry will be on display and prizes will be awarded.

Throughout the week, banners will be displayed at the central and branch libraries. The Schenectady Gazette will publish a feature article on SCPL, and there will be public service announcements on local radio stations. Jo Adams will present one or more programs on computer technology for new Americans. The Friends of SCPL will distribute tokens of appreciation to the library staff.

## MUSICAL PROGRAMS

**Friday, March 15** - The Etude Club will present Music At Noon in the McChesney Room (at 12:00 p.m.). Compositions by Puccini, Brahms, Loeillet, Handel and Granados will be performed.

**Sunday, April 7** - The Etude Club Annual Concert will be given at 2:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room. Musical works by Brahms, David Baker and others will be featured.

## FUTURE EVENTS

The popular Books Sandwiched In series will resume on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, with a review by **Charles Myers**. Mr. Myers is a retired SCCC chemistry teacher, writer and painter. He will review "**Brunelleschi's Dome**" by Ross King, the fascinating story of an historic engineering marvel – the dome on Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral in Florence, Italy.

## FRIENDS OF SCPL

99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305

President Simon Weinstein

President Elect Linda Witkowski

Vice President Naomi Bristol

Secretary Ethel Murray

Treasurer Junice Wusterbarth

Membership Ed Reilly, 393-0950

Newsletter Circ. Mildred Neslin, Rudy Dehn

Newsletter Editor Gene Rowland



## A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF SCPL

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff and library users, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Friends of the Library who have worked extremely hard in sorting and preparing for the yearly book sales. The revenues generated by these book sales have certainly helped to expand and update branch collections, which reflect clearly in the increases of branch circulation. The book sale fund has been used for purchasing new, popular materials for branches because the current book budget cannot meet the demands.

We have also saved a lot of money by selecting and replacing needed titles from the donated books. You have done a great job in sorting and putting aside good books from the donated materials for librarians to consider. In 2001 we estimate about \$17,000 worth of books that were selected from donated books by either adding new titles or replacing old copies. Three quarters of the paperbacks processed for branches have been acquired from these donations. Paperbacks are very popular at branches. About 25% of branch fiction circulation comes from paperbacks.

Please let the Friends know how much we appreciate your generosity to donate your time and energy. It is a good feeling to know that we can always count on our "friends".

Sincerely,

Wonja Brucker, Assistant Director

## WINTER HARDBACK FICTION SALE

The first-ever hardback fiction book sale was a roaring success, netting \$2,942 to purchase books and materials for the branch libraries. Success was due to excellent coverage in the Schenectady Gazette, the Friends who spread the word, co-operation and help of the library staff, and all the people who worked on the sale. They were Kathleen and Jack August, Phyllis Bornt, Anne Marie Brown, Pat Bucykowski, Anne Carey, Bob Dawson, Renie Federighi, Jeanette and Howard Gerlaugh, Lois and Bill Isles, Shirlee and Baxter Josselyn, Ethel and Oliver Murrery, Eileen Neuhaus, Emily and John O'Grady, Lidia Pasamanick, Joyce Parry, Edwin Reilly, Ellie and Gene Rowland, Gretchen Savage, Betty and Owen Sutton, Virginia and Fred Thompson, Anne Yunick, Sally and Simon Weinstein, Jean Wildgrube and Linda Witkowski. A special thank you to Bernard Allanson for keeping the book tables well supplied with new books all four days.

## SPRING BOOK SALE MAY 5, 2002

Save the date of Saturday, May 5 for the big annual Spring Book Sale at the Main Branch of the Library. All types of children's and adult books: hard and paperback books, fiction and non-fiction, magazines, tapes and records, foreign language books, and cookbooks will be on sale in abundance. Many volunteers will be needed to make this sale a success. Call Ellie Rowland, 370-1958 to offer assistance by working a 2 1/2 hr. shift, or to help set-up Friday afternoon, Saturday in the early morning or after 4:00pm Saturday to take down remaining books.

## WELCOME THE NEW REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

Robert Lang has joined the Reference Department as a full time reference librarian. Bob was already serving in the department as a part-time librarian, and comes to SCPL from the Development Office at Union College. He also has experience working in the library at the Daily Gazette newspaper. In addition to his Reference Desk duties, Bob will be responsible for development of the biography collection.

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**FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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SCHENECTADY, NY 12305**

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**DATED MATERIAL**



**Friends of Schenectady County Public Library - Annual Dinner Meeting  
Wednesday, April 17, 2002 at 6:15p.m. - McChesney Room**

Steve Fitz, President of the SCPL Board of Trustees, will be our guest speaker.  
His topic will be: "The Friends of SCPL – Beyond Book Sales"

**BUFFET DINNER** will be catered by Classic Caterers of Burnt Hills:

Chicken with Spinach-Cheese Stuffing	Caesar Salad
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes	Homemade Sourdough Bread with Sun Dried Tomatoes and Basil
Fresh Fruit Bowl	Fudge Pudding Cake
Tabouli	Choice of Beverage
Four Bean Salad	

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 8 – PLEASE USE FORM BELOW**

**ELECTIONS** – the Nominating Committee will propose the following people for officers and directors:

**Board of Directors - First three-year term, 2002-2005:**

Philip Adams was born and raised in Maryland, and is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University, with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is retired from GE after a diverse career in the management of projects, both domestic and international. His wife Jo is a long time member of the Library staff.

Bernard K. Allanson, now retired, is a former trade association executive specializing in legislative and political affairs, an insurance instructor, and a bankruptcy custodian. Currently, he is a book sale volunteer, an English tutor, a plant sale parking attendant, music student and holiday spirit, as well as husband, father and grandfather.

Priti Irani is currently Project Director, CDC Assessment Initiative with the Public Health Information Group, Center for Community Health at NYS Dep't of Health. She previously worked for nine years as a public health educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Schenectady County Public Health Services.

Frank Keetz of Niskayuna taught history and economics at the Bethlehem Senior High School for 38 years and has published several books about the history of baseball. He has been an active member of the Friends and also of the Northeast Parent and Child Society.

**Board of Directors - Second three-year term, 2002-2005:**

Edwin Reilly, Eleanor Rowland, and Linda Witkowski

**Board of Directors - Continuing in office (term/end of term):**

Doris Bauman 1/03	Bernard Gerberg 1/04	Gretchen Savage 1/04
Naomi Bristol 2/04	George Gould III 1/04	Howard Sheffey 1/04
Renie Federighi 2/04	Ethel Murray 2/04	Fred Thompson 2/04
Geri Gallagher-Lopez 2/04	Grace Riccabono 1/03	Simon Weinstein 2/03

**Board of Directors - Retiring:**

Anne Marie Brown and Jean Wildgrube

**Officers, 2002-2003**

**Continuing:**

President:	Simon Weinstein
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Naomi Bristol
Secretary:	Ethel Murray
Treasurer:	Junice Wusterbarth

**New:**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	George C Gould III
President Elect:	Edwin Reilly

George C. Gould III, a continuing board member and book sale organizer, is co-manager of the new Whitney Book Corner. George is retired from GE Power Systems, where he managed the study of corrosion in large steam turbines and generators. He has served on the boards of Troy Music Hall and Ballston Spa Golf Club. Edwin D. Reilly Jr. is currently the Membership Chair of the Friends and Coordinator of our Table Talk series. He is also vice-president of the Schenectady County Historical Society, Emeritus Professor of Computer Science at the University at Albany, and the former Supervisor of the Town of Niskayuna.

**Submitted by the Nominating Committee:**

Phyllis Bornt, Naomi Bristol, Leah Leonard, Eleanor Rowland, Gloria Zampini

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**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library  
Wednesday April 17, 2002 @ 6:15 p.m.**

**Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation  
McChesney Room**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (@\$12.00/person)  
Attendee names (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail (before April 8) to:  
Jeannette K. Gerlaugh  
1951 Village Rd.  
Schenectady, New York 12309



# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

May 2002

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

### BOOKS SANDWICHED-IN SPRING, 2002

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- May 6**      **Brunelleschi's Dome** by Ross King  
The fascinating story of the construction of the dome on the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral in Florence, Italy.  
Reviewed by **Charles Meyer**, retired SCCC Chemistry Teacher, writer and painter
- May 13**     **Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood**, by Alexandra Fuller  
The Rhodesian Civil War's impact on family and place told by a young white girl.  
Reviewed by **Dr. Anne Roberts**, Teacher of Children's Literature, Reading Dept., and former librarian, SUNY Albany
- May 20**     **Enemies of the Enlightenment: The French Counter-Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity**, by Darrin McMahon  
Anti-philosophies and the continuing culture wars still with us "from Cambridge to Kabul".  
(Wall Street Journal Bookshelf)  
Reviewed by **Dr. Manfred Jonas**, retired History Professor, Union College
- June 3**      **On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker**, by A'Lelia Bundles  
(Rescheduled from Jan 14, 2002)  
Freeborn daughter of slaves established a successful hair care business, and was active in race and women's issues.  
Reviewed by **Malinda Myers**, social activist and SCPL Trustee.
- June 10**     **Mayor Corning: Albany Icon, Albany Enigma**, by Paul Grondahl  
Biography of Erastus Corning, master politician  
Reviewed by **Robert Coan**, Attorney and student of political history.
- June 17**     **Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper**, by Nicholson Baker  
Should libraries preserve books for their intrinsic value or provide access to information within the books via microforms?  
Reviewed by **Ed Reilly**, Friends of SCPL Board member, Emeritus Professor of Computer Science at SUNY, and former Supervisor of Niskayuna.

### MUSICAL PROGRAM – JUNE 22

Aaron Kuan will present a violin recital, performing compositions by Bach, Grieg and Lalo, on Saturday, June 22, 2002 at 3 p.m. in the McChesney Room. His mother, pianist Flora Lu Kuan, will accompany him. Aaron appeared with the Schenectady Symphony in March 2002, in a performance of the Wieniawski Violin Concerto in d minor. He is currently studying violin in the pre-college program at the Julliard School in New York. Refreshments will follow the recital.

## SPRING BOOK SALE MAY 4, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



Y'ALL COME

BRING A FRIEND

SCHENECTADY LIBRARY – MAIN BRANCH



### FRIENDS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The Friends annual meeting was held in the McChesney Room on Wednesday, April 17. Classic Caterers served a delicious dinner. The audience was treated to three delightful piano selections by eight-year-old Christine Liao. Simon Weinstein and other Board members reported on a variety of successful activities, including five book sales that brought in a total of \$26,818 to be spent for new books and materials. Award certificates were presented to 28 Friends who have worked on more than twenty book sales. Mary Dunham and Martha Wallender were honored for their many years of service in organizing the Children's department of the sales. A slate of new and continuing officers and directors, proposed by the nominating committee, were elected.

Ron Lagasse, Library Director, reported an increase in circulation of almost 50,000 items in 2001; implementation of the Gates Foundation Grant to create a computer learning laboratory; a successful rearrangement of the library space and the replacement of all fluorescent lighting fixtures, with expected annual savings of \$25,000 in energy costs.

Steve Fitz, President of the SCPL Board of Trustees, speaking on "The Friends of the Library - Beyond Book Sales", lauded the many accomplishments of the Friends and urged us to serve as advocates for the Library. He emphasized the importance of a central library as a force for revitalization of the downtown area. Mr. Fitz, along with Ron Lagasse, will be speaking to the Schenectady County Legislature on Monday, July 1. They will report on recent programs at the library and describe the plans for expansion that require added financial support from the Legislature. Interested Friends may wish to attend the meeting to voice their support.

### WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

A dream of many people was realized when the Whitney Book Corner opened for business April 18<sup>th</sup> at 600 Union Street (corner of Union and Clinton streets). The store is attractive, with a friendly atmosphere. It is stocked with thousands of books, drawn from all our regular sale categories, as well as records, tapes, CDs and videos. The store will be open Monday and Friday 10 - 4, Thursday 10 - 7, and Saturday 10 - 2. A formal Grand Opening will be held on Saturday, May 4, to coincide with the Spring Book Sale (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Smile E-Z the Clown will be on hand at 1:00 p.m. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

### NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman Ed Reilly reports that forty-two new members have been received since last September, and some of the new people have already volunteered to help with Friends projects. How's that for GOOD NEWS?

### THE UNSUNG HEROES

The Friends of SCPL have sponsored book sales to benefit the library for more than twenty-five years. Over one hundred volunteers, too numerous to list here, have helped to make those twice-annual sales successful. We want to say a huge "Thank You" to all of you who work so hard. But, none of this would be possible without the people who (every Wednesday morning) sort, categorize and shelve the books that will be sold in the spring and fall. The volume of books that must be handled is almost overwhelming! The people who have carried out this Herculean effort for many years include: Bernard Allanson, Phyllis Bornt, Renie Federighi, George Gould, Elsie Maddous, Joyce Parry, Lois Quillian, Alice Reed, Jean Rettie, Sally and Simon Weinstein, and also Adele Brown and Dorothea Ham who are now retired. New volunteers who have joined the sorting and shelving crew this year are: Phil Adams, Dorothea Potochnik and Ellie Rowland. We salute them all for a job well done.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The SCPL Outreach Program is looking for volunteers who would like to visit nursing homes, senior centers, and homebound clients to read to senior citizens. If you like to read fiction and would like to visit old folks, please contact Wonja Brucker, the program coordinator, at 388-4522.

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to the circulation volunteers who prepared and mailed the March newsletter: Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Bernie and Dorothy Gerberg, Bill and Lois Isles, Beth Fritz, Dick Sills, Bill White, Rudy Dehn and Millie Neslin.

### FRIENDS OF SCPL

99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305

#### Board of Directors:

President	Simon Weinstein
President Elect	Edwin Reilly
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Naomi Bristol
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	George C. Gould, III
Secretary	Ethel Murray
Treasurer	Junice Wusterbarth

Philip Adams	Frank Keetz
Bernard Allanson	Grace Riccabono
Doris Bauman	Eleanor Rowland
Renie Federighi	Gretchen Savage
Geri Gallagher-Lopez	Howard Sheffey
Bernard Gerberg	Fred Thompson
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Newsletter Circulation: Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn  
Newsletter Editor: Gene Rowland

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