

# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

September 2002

Vol. XXXVIII, 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 2002

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- September 9**      **Mauve: How One Man Invented a Color That Changed the World**, by Simon Garfield  
A teen-aged chemistry student accidentally discovered a beautiful color and revolutionized the worlds of fashion, industry and chemical research.  
Reviewed by **Gene Rowland**, GE/GRC Retiree and Editor, Friends of SCPL Newsletter.
- September 16**      **Junk English**, by Ken Smith  
Junk English is the equivalent of junk food—too much and the mind gets mushy. Nouns used as verbs, verbs as nouns, and numerous other offenses are humorously discussed in this book.  
Reviewed by **Dan Halloran**, Professor, Siena College, and Gazette Op-Ed contributor.
- September 23**      **Mother Jones: The Most Dangerous Woman in America**, by Elliott J. Gorn  
Biography of a famous union organizer and rabble-rouser.  
Reviewed by **Marianne Comfort**, free lance writer and grant writer for SICM.
- September 30**      **The Moral Obligation to be Intelligent**, essays by Lionel Trilling  
Provocative essays and lectures on topics from Austen, James, and Frost, to connections between art, neuroses, and politics  
Reviewed by **Frank Robinson**, Retired, New York State Administrative Law Judge, and author of Albany's O'Connell Machine: An American Political Relic.
- October 7**      **Spies**, by Michael Frayn  
Nostalgic, bittersweet novel of secrecy and imagination and a children's game turned deadly serious.  
Reviewed by **Robert Donovan**, Retired Professor of English,
- October 14**      **Library Closed-Columbus Day observed**
- October 21**      **Memoirs: A Twentieth Century Journey in Science and Politics**, by Edward Teller  
Beautifully written recollections of a great, albeit controversial, scientific figure.  
Reviewed by **Dr. William Edelstein**, physicist.
- October 28**      **The Seven Sins of Memory: How the Mind Forgets and Remembers**, by Dr. Daniel Schacter  
Anyone who has forgotten a name or fact, or where they put their glasses or keys will find much of interest in this well-documented and informative book.  
Reviewed by **Frank Ciervo**, Assistant Director of Communications, N.Y. State Bar Assoc.

### LITERARY SERIES November, 2002

#### LINCOLN'S RHETORIC

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- November 4**      **Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America**, by Garry Wills  
Discussed by **Professor Kendall Birr**, Emeritus Professor of History at SUNYA
- November 11**      **Library Closed—Veteran's Day**
- November 18**      **Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural**, by Ronald C. White, Jr.  
Discussed by **Professor Richard Kendall**, Professor of History, SUNYA

## FALL BOOK SALE – SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

Please tell everyone you know about the book sale on Saturday, September 21, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Central Library. The ½ price sale will begin at 3:00, and the \$2.00 bag sale at 3:30. We have thousands of books of all descriptions, and hundreds of records. We need lots of customers! Anyone who would like to help should call Ellie Rowland (370-1958) or Virginia Thompson (374-9399). Thanks for supporting the sale!

### BOOK TALK ON ALFRED E. SMITH

Author Christopher M. Finan will talk about his new book *Alfred E. Smith: The Happy Warrior*, a biography of the New York State governor, on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the McChesney Meeting Room of the central library, 99 Clinton Street. The free program, entitled *Alfred E. Smith, the Red Scare, and the Birth of First Amendment Rights* is being co-sponsored by the Open Door Bookstore. Copies of the author's book will be available for purchase, and for his signing. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends of the Library.

Mr. Finan is also president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression (ABFFE). He will be discussing the issue of First Amendment rights and the freedom to read. Banned Books Week is September 21-28, sponsored by the ABFFE and the American Library Association. Watch for displays at the central library and The Open Door.

### SPRING BOOK SALE

A huge "Thank You" to all the many volunteers who made the May 4 book sale successful: weekly book sorters; set-up and clean-up crews; record and tape sorters; organizers of inventory; promoters, public relations and "spreading the news" people; sign makers; cashiers and floaters. Thanks also go to the library staff for their patience and cooperation. All of you are to be commended for making these semi-annual sales an enduring tradition in the city of Schenectady.

Outside organizations that supported the event were: General Electric Training Center and Law, Order and Justice who provided people for set-up. Dunkin Donuts, Price Chopper and Hannaford provided refreshments for the workers and donated paper bags.

We made \$7875 (after expenses) that was given to SCPL to buy new books for the branch libraries.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Valerie Catlin recently received an **Outstanding Service Award** from the Capital District Library Council, in recognition of her 12 years of service. Val is a library assistant-automation for the Mohawk Valley Library Association, and a former editor of the Friends of SCPL Newsletter.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership Chair Ed Reilly reports that 510 members have renewed their membership for our program year that began July 1. The 202 members that have not yet renewed are encouraged to remit contributions to Treasurer Junice Wusterbarth. Those who are not sure whether their last contribution was credited to the current year may call Ed Reilly at 393-0950 or write to him at [cybernet@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cybernet@nycap.rr.com).

### SUMMER READING CLUB.

Serena Butch reports that the Summer Reading Club has been a great success. Hundreds of children enjoyed reading, earning prizes and attending special programs. The Friends funded 16 programs at the central library and all nine branches. They included magician Joe Goode, naturalists George Steele and Beth Bidwell, science educator Carol Ann Margolis, storyteller Mary Murphy, and several other performers. Friends' funds also helped purchase reading incentives such as sea creature erasers and bubble pens, all in keeping with our watery theme of Splish, Splash, Read. A good time was had by all!

### LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS

A new roof has been installed on the central library building. Energy efficiency will be improved because a very substantial layer of insulation was also applied. A new rug will be installed in September. It will replace the worn out rug that dates back to the construction of the central library in 1969. The well-worn rug at the Woodlawn Branch was recently replaced and has added greatly to the attractiveness of that building.

Circulation of books and other materials for the first six months of this year has increased system-wide by 8.4% when compared with the same period last year. The increase amounts to 38,037 items.

### WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

600 Union Street, Corner of Clinton  
377-4670

*Operated by the Friends of SCPL for the benefit of the main library and its branches.*

**OPEN: Monday to Friday 10-4  
Thursdays to 7  
Saturdays 10-2  
CLOSED Sundays**

*Paperback and hard cover books in most subjects; records, videos, CDs and cassettes.*

**Come, Browse and Buy!**

**To volunteer in the store, call 377-4670**

# HELP WANTED

PLEASE HELP THE BOOK SALE BY POSTING THIS NOTICE IN  
YOUR FAVORITE PUBLIC GATHERING PLACE

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*Friends of the  
Schenectady County Public Library*

# BOOK SALE

*hard covers  
paperbacks  
biographies  
records  
travel books  
best sellers  
mysteries  
children's books  
non-fiction*



**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2002  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Bag sale at 3:30 pm**

**Schenectady County Public Library**  
99 Clinton Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
388-4500

*Coffee, Pastries and Hot Dogs will be sold during the Sale*

**NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS**

The newsletter circulation team, under the leadership of Millie Neslin and Rudy Dehn, did their usual fine job of collating, mailing and distributing the May newsletter. May workers, in addition to the chair people, are: Florence Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Peg Fisher, Dot and Bernie Gerberg, Lois and Bill Isles, Alice Kussman, Gert Schutz, Dick Sills, Beth Fritz and Anne Yunick. Thanks to all!

**NEW MEMBERS**

Be sure to welcome the following new members who have joined with us in recent months: Joan Amell, Susan Apt, Karen Bradley, Robert Brawn, Judith Bresler, Susan & Ian Bubb, Anne Calvagno, Lynn & Elton Cook, Nancy Crapo, Thomas Crowl, The DiVietro family, Austin Gavarn, Umber Gold, Wayne Griffin, Bea & Gerald Hahn, Jennifer Hayner, Walter Isaacs, Nancy & Manfred Jonas, Baxter & Shirley Josselyn, Barbara Katz, Karen & Robert Konarkiewicz, Jeanne Manchester, Mary Matz, Bernard & Barbara McEvoy, Donald Millard, Roger Miller, Ann Moore, Albert Muir, William & Harriet Murphy, Nancy Nichols, June O'Connor, Hitesh Patel, (Continued ->)

**NEW MEMBERS (Continued)**

Oliver Presson David Presson & Lorraine Calleri, Patricia Rase, Karen Schell, Robert Slater, Jean Stebbins-Hellkamp, Kacy & Peter Tavarone, Peter Weinberg, R. Witkowski, Lucille and Carl Wukits.

**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
Priti Irani	Linda Witkowski

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 Newsletter Circulation: Mildred Neslin and RudyDehn  
 Newsletter Editor: 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

November 2002

Vol. XXXVIII, 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.

### LITERARY SERIES      November, 2002 Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

#### Lincoln's Rhetoric

November 4    **Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America**, by Garry Wills  
Discussed by **Professor Kendall Birr**, Emeritus Professor of History, SUNYA

November 11    **Library Closed - Veteran's Day**

November 18    **Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural**, by Ronald C. White, Jr.  
Discussed by **Professor Richard Kendall**, Professor of History, SUNYA

### TABLE TALKS      FALL 2002 Coordinated by Ed Reilly

November 25    **"How Research Universities Enhance Economic Development:  
What SEMATECH Means for Upstate New York."**  
**Christopher D'Elia**, Professor of Environmental Science and former Vice-President for Research,  
The University at Albany

December 2    **"Rebuilding Schenectady Block by Block"**  
**John Samatulski**, Executive Director, Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation

December 9    **"Common Counsel from the Common Council - Regionalization of the Capital District"**  
**Helen Desfosses**, Associate Provost for Educational Development, Rockefeller College,  
State University of New York at Albany, and President of the City of Albany Common Council.

December 16    **"International Law and the War on Terrorism"**  
**James Thuo Gathii**, Assistant Professor of Law, Albany Law School

### MUSICAL PROGRAMS Organized by the Music Committee of the Friends.

On **Sunday, November 24 at 3:00 PM** in the McChesney Room, Caroline Feinberg and Esther Kim, students of Mrs. Kay Kang, will give a Piano Recital. They will play music by Liszt, Ginastera, Ravel, Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Debussy Copeland and Brahms. Refreshments will follow the Concert.

Members of The Etude Club of Schenectady will present a concert on **Friday, December 6 at 12:00 noon** in the McChesney Room.

#### A PARTING MESSAGE from RON LAGASSE

As many of you know, I shall be retiring in mid-December, after more than 25 years as director of this wonderful library. During this long tenure, my greatest satisfaction has been constant reminders of the positive ways in which the library every day touches the lives of people of all ages and from all walks of life – from a toddler attending her first library program to a nursing home resident receiving a large print book by his favorite author. The Friends of the Library, through their generous donations of time, talents and funds, have improved the quality of life in our community in more ways than can be listed here. I have always been most impressed and thankful for this dedication.

The very supportive citizens and government of Schenectady County combined with the dedicated library trustees; staff, volunteers and Friends of the Library are a winning combination that has resulted in quality library service at a very reasonable cost, for which we can all be justifiably proud.

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the newsletter circulation team, under the leadership of Millie Neslin and Rudy Dehn, for collating, mailing and distributing the September newsletter. September workers, in addition to the chair people, are: Florence and Win Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Peg Fisher, Beth Fritz, Dot and Bernie Gerberg, Lois and Bill Isles, Alice Kussman, Dick Sills, Gert Schutz, Helen Steiner and Anne Yunick.

### NEW MEMBERS

Ed Reilly reports that the following persons have recently joined the Friends. Please make them welcome:

Barbara Andrus, Bob & Sally Clark, Richard Clowe, Chris Coughlin, Paula Czaban-Schaeffer, Ruth Doering, Marijo Dougherty & Norm Bauman, Lynn Edelman, Suzanne Fillipan, Kathleen Frake, Theresa Giana, Catherine Griego, Lorina Hoelscher, Gail & John Karl, Robert Lang, Linda Laski, Paul Lomio, Dick & Reba Mehan, Lois & Tony Miller, Ruth Mullins, Bob & Roslyn Nathan, Jack & Marcia O'Hare, Karen Prescott, Shirley Rodd, Patricia Rush, Lee Schaller, Janet Shiely, Harry & Sybil Steven, Shenequa Storey, Joseph Suhrada, Berkeley Wohlabaugh, and Connie & John Young.

### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

This popular series will resume on January 13, 2003. Watch for details in the January newsletter.

### IN MEMORIAM

The Friends extend our condolences to the family and friends of Elizabeth (Betty) Wemple who died early in October. Betty was a volunteer in the SCPL Reference Dep't and a valued member of Friends of the Library.

### FRIENDS OF SCPL

99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305

#### Board of Directors:

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Geri Gallagher-Lopez	Howard Sheffey
Bernard Gerberg	Fred Thompson
Priti Irani	Linda Witkowski

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Newsletter Circulation: Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn  
Newsletter Editor: Gene Rowland

### BOOK SALE RESULTS

The annual Fall Book Sale was held on Saturday, September 21 at the central library. Thanks to the 95 volunteers who worked, the sale was a great success. More than \$7750 was raised for SCPL. A special thanks is due to Nancy Virkler, Val Catlin and Walter Hayes who kept track of the finances as they have done for many sales. Friday afternoon, fifteen young men from GE Power Systems' training program helped the Friends volunteers to bring all the books down from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Dunkin Donuts, Hannaford and Price Chopper donated refreshments and supplies. A nice addition to the sale was the coffee and food sold by the library staff.

The book sales are made possible each year by the large numbers of books donated by Friends of SCPL and by the people of Schenectady County. So thanks again to everyone who shared in the work and the fun of a successful fall sale.

### WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The Whitney Book Corner continues to do well. We now have over eighty volunteer booksellers, who often turn out to be our best customers as well! We could use some new volunteers willing to work as substitutes and to cover the 4 to 7 PM shift on Thursday. Those interested should contact Ellie Rowland at 370-1958.

**Special Sales:** a November sale (Nov. 11 to 16), will feature two tables of reference books at reduced prices. During the weeks of December 9 and December 16 the Book Corner will feature new children's books, offered for bargain prices. Approximately 300 books are available, covering a range of children's interests from early reader to teenager. This is a repeat of the successful sale offered last year at the Rotterdam and Niskayuna branches.

### WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

January 2003

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

### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN January-March, 2003

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

#### January 13 Crossroads of Freedom:

**Antietam, The Battle that Changed the Course of the Civil War**, by James M. McPherson  
This battle was a pivotal moment of the war, and possibly of the young republic itself.  
Reviewed by **Dr. James Gavin**, Physician and Chair of UCALL steering committee.

#### January 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Library Closed

#### January 27 Housekeeping, by Marilynne Robinson

Quiet, humorous book, where lives change drastically when nothing seems to be happening  
Reviewed by **Esther Willison**, educator, author, and Open Door staff member.

#### February 3 My Life as a Pit Bull: Collaring the Drunk Driver, by Doris Aiken

Local activist and author, Doris Aiken, took on the alcohol industry, defense lawyers, and an apathetic public - and won!  
Reviewed by **Carl Strock**, Daily Gazette columnist.

#### February 10 Skating to Antarctica: A Journey to the End of the World, by Jenny Diski

A blend of travel essay and the personal memoir of a troubled childhood  
Reviewed by **Maria Beurmann**, educator, poet, and mountain climber.

#### February 24 The New Rabbi: A Congregation Searches for its Leader, by Stephen Fried

A riveting look into the search for personal faith, and the tension between secular concerns and ancient tradition in affluent America - within the search for a new Rabbi  
Reviewed by **Julia Helfman**, former Schenectady County Human Rights Commissioner.

#### March 3 The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, by Anne Fadiman

The non-fiction account of a Laotian family's encounter with American culture and western medicine  
Reviewed by **Joan Ham**, pianist and social worker

### MUSICAL PROGRAMS

**Stephanie Pieck** will perform a piano recital on **Sunday February 2, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room, playing compositions by Bach, Beethoven, Prokofiev and Debussy. Refreshments will follow.

**Wei-Hsun Yuan** will present a piano recital on **Sunday March 2, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room. He will play pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt and Debussy. Refreshments will follow the recital.

### FOURTH ANNUAL POETRY GALA

It's not too early to start thinking about the Poetry Gala on **Sunday, April 6, 2003** 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.

### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

A giant fiction sale will take place in the lobby of the central library, 99 Clinton Street, **January 26, 27 & 28**. The event will begin on Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and continue on Monday and Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Categories of books for sale will be modern fiction, mysteries, historical fiction, romance novels and science fiction. The best news is that all books will be sold for only \$1.00! Inventories will be refilled daily, so new titles will be available each day. Anyone wishing to help should call Ellie Rowland, 370-1958.

### VALENTINE SPECIAL

Romance novels will be on sale in the Whitney Book Corner, from **February 14 to February 28, 2003**, for only one dollar each. Here's a chance to shake the winter chill by curling up with several hot romance novels.

## REEL BOOKS

A Schenectady County Public Library Free Film Series

These films will be presented in the McChesney Room of the Central Library, 99 Clinton Street

**Thursday, January 23 at 7pm      *A BEAUTIFUL MIND***

USA, 2001, 136 minutes, PG-13

Directed by Ron Howard; based on the book by Sylvia Nasar

**Thursday, January 30 at 7pm      *THE AGE OF INNOCENCE***

USA, 1993, 139 minutes, PG

Directed by Martin Scorsese; based on the novel by Edith Wharton

**Thursday, February 6 at 7pm      *SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS***

USA, 1999, 127 minutes, PG-13

Directed by Scott Hicks; based on the novel by David Guterson

**Thursday, February 20 at 2pm      *HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE***

USA, 2001, 152 minutes, PG

Directed by Chris Columbus; based on the novel by J.K. Rowling

**Thursday, February 20 at 7pm      *CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON***

USA/Hong Kong/China/Taiwan, 2000, 120 minutes, Subtitles, PG-13

Directed by Ang Lee; based on the book by Du Lu Wang

**Thursday, February, 27 at 7pm      *THE REMAINS OF THE DAY***

USA/UK, 1993, 138 minutes, PG

Directed by James Ivory; based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro

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### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to the circulation volunteers who prepared and mailed the November newsletter: Florence Bigelow, Laurie Brooks, Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Beth Fritz, Bernie and Dorothy Gerberg, Bill and Lois Isles, Mildred Neslin, Gert Schutz, Dick Sills and Anne Yunick.

### BOOK STORE VOLUNTEERS

A few more people are needed at the Whitney Book Corner, to replace some of our loyal volunteers who will be going to warmer places for the winter months. The required time commitment is for two-hour shifts, twice a month. Interested? Please call Ellie Rowland at 370-1958.

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### FRIENDS OF SCPL

99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305

#### Board of Directors:

President      Simon Weinstein  
President Elect    Edwin Reilly  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.    Naomi Bristol  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.    George C. Gould, III  
Secretary      Ethel Murray  
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Philip Adams  
Bernard Allanson

Doris Bauman  
Renie Federighi  
Geri Gallagher-Lopez  
Bernard Gerberg  
Priti Irani  
Frank Keetz  
Grace Riccabono  
Eleanor Rowland

Gretchen Savage  
Fred Thompson  
Linda Witkowski  
Newsletter Circulation: Mildred  
Neslin and RudyDehn  
Newsletter Editor: Gene Rowland

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

March 2003

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

### SCIENCE SERIES MARCH 2003

Coordinated by Dr. Walter Grattidge

- March 10 **Applying a Scientific Method to a Critical Industrial Field—Silicones**  
**Dr. William Ward**, Chemical Engineer (Retired), GE Global Research Center
- March 17 **Collapse of the Mediterranean Bronze Age Civilization: A Failure of High Tech Defense**  
**Dr. John F. Brown** (Retired), GE Global Research Center
- March 24 **Nano Science & Technology: Potential Industrial Applications**  
**Margaret Blohm** - Manager, Nanotechnology Project, GE Global Research Center
- March 31 **The Oceans and Society: Challenges and Opportunities Related to its Living Resources**  
**Professor Christopher F. D'Elia**, Department of Biological Sciences, SUNYA

### FOURTH ANNUAL POETRY GALA

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Gala will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2003 in the McChesney Room. Come spend a lovely Sunday afternoon listening to your friends and neighbors sharing some of their favorite poems. Refreshments and music will be available at 2:00 p.m. preceding the readings. Recitations begin at 2:30 and will conclude by 4:00 p.m. If you would like to read or recite a favorite poem, please call Linda Witkowski, 374-7904. Everyone is welcome!*

### SPRING FICTION SERIES

Best Sellers – “Speakers Choice”

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

- April 7 **Douglas Blackburn**, Staff Writer and Book Commentator, Albany Times Union
- April 14 **Richard Holt**, Retired English Teacher, Niskayuna High School

### TABLE TALKS SPRING 2003

Coordinated by Ed Reilly

- April 21 **"Things I Can't Write in My Column"**  
**Fred LeBrun**, Albany Times-Union
- April 28 **"Morality and Markets—Why Does It Matter?"**  
**Susan Belden**, Associate Professor of Finance, Skidmore College
- May 5 **"The View from Inside an HMO."**  
**Dennis L. Allen, M.D.**, Chief Medical Officer, and **Scott Averill**, Chief Marketing Officer, MVP Health Care
- May 12 **"Attracting Women to a Technological University"**  
**Teresa Duffy**, Dean of Enrollment Management, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

### MUSIC PROGRAMS

The Etude Club of Schenectady will present its annual spring program on **Sunday, March 23rd** at 2:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room. The concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the music.

The Etude Club will present its final "Music at Noon" program for the season on **Friday, May 2nd** from 12:00 to 1:00 at the Niskayuna Public Library.

The Music Committee of the Friends of the Library proudly presents "The Unashamed Accompanist: Joann Rautenberg and Friends", on **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room. Joann is a well-known pianist who has given pleasure to many over the years with her excellent work as an accompanist. The program will include works for flute, oboe, clarinet, voice, cello, and one-piano four-hands.

## REEL EPICS

### A Schenectady County Public Library Free Film Series

These films will be presented in the McChesney Room of the Central Library, 99 Clinton Street

**Thursday, March 6 at 7pm**

**LAWRENCE OF ARABIA**

UK, 1962, 217 minutes, PG

Director: David Leon

A movie that defines "epic".

**Thursday, March 20 at 7pm**

**RAN**

Japan, 1985, 160 minutes, subtitles, R

Director: Akira Kurosawa

A retelling of Shakespeare's "King Lear" by one of the greatest directors of all time.

**Thursday, March 27 at 7pm**

**KUNDUN**

USA, 1997, 128 minutes, PG-13

Director: Martin Scorsese

The sorrow of modern Tibet and the life of the 14<sup>th</sup> Dali Lama are chronicled in this epic.

### GREAT DECISIONS, 2003

"Great Decisions, 2003", the National Nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association Discussion Series, will be held at the Schenectady County Public Library and will begin on Tuesday, February 4, 2003 and continue for eight successive Tuesdays. 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. The topics to be discussed this year are as follows:

- Feb. 4** Alone or together: the U.S. and the world.
- Feb. 11** Afghanistan: a fragile peace.
- Feb. 18** The uneasy U.S.-Saudi alliance.
- Feb. 25** U.S. and Nigeria: thinking beyond oil.
- Mar. 4** International food wars: growing controversies.
- Mar. 11** China in transition: is real change imminent?
- Mar. 18** Europe: state of the union.
- Mar. 25** The global struggle for women's rights.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

New members of The Friends of SCPL include: Jeff & Sandy Anderson, Paul & Serena Butch, Arliene Callahan, Paula Carosella, Patricia Castelli, Pat & Clarence Countermine, Bob Dial, Linda Flynt, Carolyn Hermes, Marlene King, Gerald Kirsch, Andy Kulmatiski, Philip Maddaus, Rick & Tricia Margas, Janice Martin, Richard Morin, Maryse Narcisse-Pean, Deborah Noyes, Danae & Mustafa Ozbay, Paul & Linda Pflieger, Lorrie Runnels, Sheila Simmons, Mario & Anne Marie Spadafora.

Renewal notices for the membership year that ends on June 30, 2004 will be mailed in mid-April. For the first time since its inception 37 years ago, the Friends' Board of Directors has recommended a change in suggested contribution levels. 82% of our members already contribute at or above the suggested new minimum of \$10. The new levels are:

Individual	\$10	Supporting	\$35	Contributing	\$25
Family	\$15	Business	\$50	Patron	\$100 or more

### SPRING BOOK SALE

**May 3, 2003** is the date for The Friends of SCPL huge semi-annual book sale, to be held at the Central Library, 99 Clinton Street. Sale hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 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.

### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN, SPRING 2003

This popular series resumes in May. Listed here are the first two programs for the spring season:

**May 19** **Lunar Men: Five Friends Whose Curiosity Changed the World** by Jenny Uglow  
Reviewed by **George Wise**, Physicist and Historian (Retired), GE Global Research Center

**June 2** **Coal: A Human History** by Barbara Freese  
Reviewed by Robert Fleischer, Geology Professor, Union College

**Friends of Schenectady County Public Library - Annual Dinner Meeting  
Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at 6:15p.m. - McChesney Room**

**Kevin DeFebbo**, Schenectady County Manager, will be our guest speaker.  
He will be sharing with us his vision for Schenectady County

Gershon's Catering will cater **BUFFET DINNER**, consisting of:

Chicken Marsala	Tossed Salad
Pasta Primavera	Dinner Rolls
Green Beans Almondine	Brownies and Mixed Cookies
Rice Pilaf	Choice of Beverage

**MUSIC** - Following the meal a talented young pianist, Alice Lee, will offer two studies by Chopin and a movement from the Beethoven C Major Sonata.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 31 – PLEASE USE FORM BELOW**

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

**Board of Directors - First three-year term, 2003-2006:**

Lisa Holt, John Karl, Jeanne Manchester, Joyce Parry, Anne Yunick

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Lisa Holt was a high school social studies teacher who got her Master's in library science and joined Schenectady Public Library. She then moved to the State Library in Reference and recently retired from library administration. Active at the Whitney Book Corner and other volunteer activities, she is a newly hired substitute Librarian at SCPL.

John Karl spent 32 years teaching History to the youth at Bethlehem Central High School. Now he is a "community volunteer," active in the Zion Lutheran Church, the Home Furnishings Program, model railroading, and matting and framing his wife's artwork. He is an active volunteer at the Whitney Book Corner.

Jeanne Manchester, a native Schenectadian, raised 5 children and worked as Unit Secretary at the Ellis Hospital Oncology Unit and as an Administrative Assistant at the American Red Cross. She is an avid reader who likes to be surrounded by books so enjoys her time at the Whitney Book Corner. She also volunteers at Proctor's Act II Antique Store.

Joyce Parry came to Schenectady as an Engineering Assistant at GE's Large Turbine Department and stayed to be a homemaker. She has also worked as a bank teller and in the business office of the Schenectady Museum. She has volunteered throughout her life with Girl Scouts, PTA, Sunday school and, of course, the Library. She is currently Co-Manager of the Whitney Book Corner.

Ann Yunich is a mother of three, grandmother of four and a volunteer who has been active in Girl Scouts, Junior League, AARP tax counseling, Whitney Book Corner and last year helped in the gardens at the Niskayuna Library. She retired from H&R Block and spends time traveling, reading, walking, baking and relaxing at their camp on Jenny Lake.

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**Board of Directors - Second three-year term, 2003-2006:**

Doris Bauman, Grace Riccabono

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

Philip Adams 1/05	Bernard Gerberg 1/04	Eleanor Rowland 2/05
Bernard Allanson 1/05	Priti Irani 1/05	Gretchen Savage 1/04
Naomi Bristol 2/04	Frank Keetz 1/05	Fred Thompson 2/04
Renie Federighi 2/04	Ethel Murray 2/04	Linda Witkowski 2/05
Geri Gallagher-Lopez 2/04	Edwin Reilly 2/05	Simon Weinstein 0/06

**Officers, 2002-2003**

President:	Edwin D. Reilly, Jr.	Secretary:	Ethel Murray
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Eleanor Rowland	Treasurer:	Junice Wusterbarth
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Naomi Bristol	Assistant Treasurer:	Geri Gallagher-Lopez
President Elect:	Bernard Allanson		

**Submitted by the Nominating Committee:**

Bernard K. Allanson, Chair; Val Catlin, Edwin Reilly, Eleanor Rowland, Virginia Thompson

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**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library  
Tuesday April 8, 2003 @ 6:15 p.m.**

**Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation  
McChesney Room**

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (@\$13.50/person)  
Attendee names (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail (before March 31) to:**

**Doris Bauman  
1684 Gower Rd.  
Scotia, New York 12302**

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The bookstore continues to thrive! We have just completed a Valentines Day sale of hardback romance novels and will have a weeklong sale of paperback books beginning Monday, March 17. Included in books on sale will be some sets (collections) of Earle Stanley Gardner and P.G. Wodehouse, as well as a large number of good condition paperbacks. We are nearing our first anniversary – a time to review what we are doing and how we are doing it. Any suggestions will be welcomed.

## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

The Friends of SCPL are fortunate to have a dedicated staff of volunteers, coordinated by Mildred Neslin and Rudy Dehn, who fold, address and distribute each issue of the newsletter. The loyal crew who performed these tasks in January consisted of Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Peg Fisher, Beth Fritz, Lois and Bill Isles, Mildred Neslin and Dick Sills. Thanks again, folks!

## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK EVENTS -- April 6-12, 2003 Theme: Learning @ the Library

- Sunday, April 6** Poetry Gala, 2 PM
- Monday, April 7** *Eight Men Out* (movie) 7 PM; directed by Schenectady native John Sayles
- Tuesday, April 8** Computer Class: Health Information Sources, 9-10:30 AM  
Friends Annual Dinner 6 PM
- Wednesday, April 9** Microsoft Word Basics, 9-11 AM  
Jazz Concert: Dixie Cats, 7 PM
- Thursday, April 10** Cultural Highlights of Schenectady County, 11AM - 6:30 PM  
Introduction to Genealogy 7 -8:30 PM
- Friday, April 11** Visit your local branch library!
- Saturday, April 12** Books and Brunch (Book: *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham) at 10 AM  
The Puppet People: *The Last Dragon* at 2 PM

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## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

600 Union Street, Corner of Clinton 377-4670

*Operated by the Friends of SCPL for the benefit of the main library and its branches.*

**OPEN: Monday to Friday 10-4**  
**Thursdays to 7**  
**Saturdays 10-2**  
**CLOSED Sundays**

*Paperback and hard cover books in most subjects; records, videos, CDs and cassettes.*

***Come, Browse and Buy!***

***To volunteer in the store, call 370-1958***

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**FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**99 CLINTON STREET**  
**SCHENECTADY, NY 12305**

<b>U.S POSTAGE PAID</b> <b>NON-PROFIT ORG.</b> <b>SCHENECTADY, NY</b> <b>PERMIT #7</b>
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**DATED MATERIAL**

# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

May 2003

Vol. XXXVIII, 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, 2003

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski

- May 19**      **Lunar Men: Five Friends Whose Curiosity Changed the World** by Jenny Uglow  
In the 1760s, a group including Erasmus Darwin and Josiah Wedgewood met monthly to exchange ideas and experiments, essentially starting the Industrial Revolution. History that reads like a novel.  
Reviewed by **Dr. George Wise**, Dudley Observatory (formerly with GE Global Research)
- June 2**      **Coal: A Human History** by Barbara Freese  
Coal has been a life-altering material, providing warmth in homes and fueling the world's industries. Society now faces a conundrum, due to the harmful effects of coal on the world's environment.  
Reviewed by **Dr. Robert Fleischer**, Geologist, Union College
- June 9**      **Three Roads to the Alamo: The Lives and Fortunes of David Crockett, James Bowie, and William Barret Travis** by William Davis  
This book traces the lives of three American folk-legends, converging at the obscure Spanish mission where they died together. A fascinating tale of three disparate men united in an historic cause.  
Reviewed by **Robert Dickson**, a local Businessman
- June 16**      **Tuxedo Park** by Jennet Conant  
A Wall Street tycoon, in 1928, established a premier research lab and hired scientists whose work in the 1930s contributed to developing radar and the atomic bomb, critical technologies in WWII.  
Reviewed by **Dr. Donald Gavin**, Scientist

### MUSIC PROGRAMS

The Etude Club of Schenectady will present its final "Music at Noon" program for the season on **Friday, May 2nd** from 12:00 to 1:00 at the Niskayuna Public Library. The concert is free and open to the public.

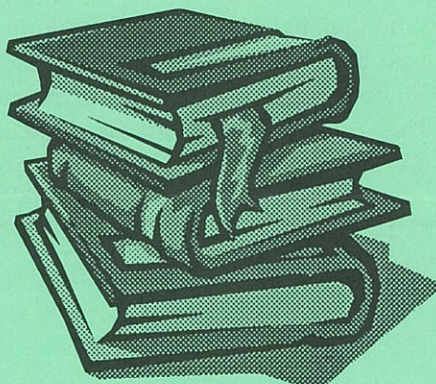
### *FRIENDS OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY*

## SPRING BOOK SALE MAY 3, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FICTION AND NON-FICTION

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

RECORDS, ETC.



HARD COVERS

PAPERBACKS

SNACK BAR

COME AND BRING A FRIEND

SCHENECTADY LIBRARY - MAIN BRANCH

99 CLINTON STREET

## FRIENDS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The Friends annual meeting was held in the McChesney Room on Tuesday, April 8. Kevin DeFebbo, Schenectady County Manager, was our speaker. Mr. DeFebbo spoke of the importance of libraries in his life and his determination to continue the excellence of SCPL. Gershon's Catering served a delicious dinner. Alice Lee treated the audience to three delightful piano selections. Simon Weinstein reported on a variety of successful activities, including book sales that brought in more than \$35,000 to be spent for new books and materials, and a profitable first year for the Whitney Book Corner. Award certificates were presented to Virginia Murphy, Katherine and Charles Swartz, and Junice Wusterbarth, who have worked on more than twenty book sales. A slate of new and continuing officers and directors, proposed by the nominating committee, were elected. Andy Kulmatiski, Library Director, reported that total circulation at the ten library locations is expected to reach 1,000,000 items this year. Of the county's 146,000 residents, 78,000 have library cards. In Andy's words, "Any resident can visit the library and access the best our culture has to offer". During the year, some of the facility improvements recommended in the Master Plan have been completed. These include the new carpets, new work areas, and completion of the energy-efficient lighting that will save \$30,000 per year in energy costs.

### "Schenectady-The Melting Pot"

An ongoing series of ethnic programs

## SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Welcomes

### Our New Neighbors - The Guyanese

Saturday, May 17 at 2pm - Mayor Al Jurczynski will speak about his recent trip to Guyana and describe how the Guyanese came to Schenectady.

*Guyanese refreshments will be available following the talk.*

99 Clinton St.

Schenectady, New York 12305

## 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REPORT

### WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

George Gould and Joyce Parry reported at the annual meeting, "...the Whitney Book Corner has been a success, making money to support the SCPL system, and returning good books to service". The store is now fully staffed by more than 100 volunteers.

## FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

99 CLINTON STREET

SCHENECTADY, NY 12305

Thanks to the efforts of many Friends the rented space on Union Street has been made into a cozy, attractive place. Annualized sales, based on the first 45 weeks of operation, are approximately \$28,000. The estimated number of books sold is more than 9000 volumes, and net proceeds to the Friends are projected to be \$19,000. All of these funds will be used for the benefit of SCPL.

## REEL WRITING

A Free Film Series Of Well-Written Films

Thursday, May 15 at 7pm - *About A Boy*

UK, 2002, 101 minutes, Rated PG-13

Cynical, immature Hugh Grant being taught to grow up by a little boy.

Based on a novel by Nick Hornby

Thursday, May 22 at 7pm - *Far From Heaven*

USA, 2002, 107 minutes, Rated PG-13

Julianne Moore & Dennis Quaid play the perfect 50's couple with problems.

Written by Todd Haynes.

Thursday, May 29 at 7pm - *Possession*

USA, 2002, 102 minutes, Rated PG-13

Gwyneth Paltrow in a brainy romance about hidden letters.

Based on a novel by A.S. Byatt

Thursday, June 5 at 7pm - *Up At The Villa*

UK, 2000, 115 minutes, Rated PG-13

Kristin Scott Thomas trying to find love in Florence, Italy.

Based on novella by W. Somerset Maugham

Thursday, June 19 at 7pm - *The Gift*

USA, 2000, 112 minutes, Rated R (Violence, language, nudity)

Cate Blanchett has "The Gift" in this thriller.

Written by Billy Bob Thornton & Tom Epperson

Thursday, June 26 at 7pm - *Joe Gould's Secret*

USA, 2000, 104 minutes, Rated R (Some language, nudity)

Wander through a crazed New York with Ian Holm & Stanley Tucci

Based on books by Joseph Mitchell

## VIDEO RECORDER NEEDED

We are seeking to improve the quality of videotaping of the Friends Monday noon and special programs, both with regard to image quality and sound. Those with the proper portable equipment to do so are asked to contact Ed Reilly at [cybernet@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cybernet@nycap.rr.com) or call Ed at 393-0950

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