

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

September/October 2005

Vol. XLI, 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 7 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 p.m.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN - FALL 2005

Linda Witkowski, Books Sandwiched In Coordinator
Barbara Grasier, Program Chair, Friends of SCPL

September 12 *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, by Jared Diamond

In this book Diamond attempts to demonstrate through case histories of small micro-climates, from Easter Island and modern Montana to Iceland and Greenland, how civilizations disintegrate: mishandling of the fragile environment causes wars, famines, depopulation, and eventual breakdown. The case is made that we modern wastrels should learn from them all before it is too late.

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

September 19 *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, by

Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

“Dubner and Levitt deconstruct everything from the organizational structure of drug-dealing gangs to baby-naming patterns. While some chapters might seem frivolous, others touch on more serious issues, including a detailed look at Levitt's controversial linkage between the legalization of abortion and a reduced crime rate two decades later.” - Publishers Weekly

Reviewed by **Robert Coan**, attorney and student of political history

September 26 *Bloodsworth: The True Story of the First Death Row Inmate Exonerated by DNA*,

by Tim Junkin. *Bloodsworth* tells the chilling story of Kirk Bloodsworth, who spent nine years in prison -- including two on death row -- for a murder he did not commit. He finally realized that DNA evidence could prove his innocence, and was able to get his sentence overturned.

Reviewed by **Anita Paul**, traveler, teacher in Botswana

October 3 *A Splendor of Letters: The Permanence of Books in an Impermanent World*,

by Nicholas A. Basbanes

“The final volume in an acclaimed trilogy for bibliophiles (after *A Gentle Madness* and *Patience & Fortitude*) focuses on efforts to preserve books and other printed matter from the ravages of deterioration, destruction and obsolescence.” - Publishers Weekly

Reviewed by **The Rev. Art Hudack**, Minister, Woodlawn Reformed Church, lecturer

October 17 *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words*, by Ronald C. White

Acclaimed historian Ronald White looks closely at the speeches Lincoln gave to provide a nuanced portrait of the man and his presidency.

Reviewed by **Martha Schmulbach**, retired teacher and actor

October 24 *Everything Bad Is Good for You: How Today's Popular Culture Is Actually Making Us Smarter*, by Stephen Johnson

Drawing from fields as diverse as neuroscience, economics, and literary theory, Johnson argues that the junk culture we're so eager to dismiss is in fact making us more intelligent.

Reviewed by **Paul O'Brian**, teacher and writer

October 31 *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War*, by Andrew Bacevich

In this provocative new book, Bacevich warns of a dangerous dual obsession that has taken hold of Americans, conservatives and liberals alike. It is a marriage of militarism and utopian ideology — of unprecedented military might wed to a blind faith in the universality of American values.

Reviewed by **Dr. Joseph Board**, Professor Emeritus of Government, Union College

November 7 *Typical American* by Gish Jen

This classic first novel is “a poignant and deftly told tale of immigrants coming to terms with the possibilities of America and with their own limitations (and) foibles...” - Library Journal. To be reviewed as part of a Library program on “Becoming American”. Reviewer to be announced.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

The Music Committee has arranged a program **Worlds of Music** for **Sunday, October 23rd**, at 2:30 p.m. in the McChesney Room. Schenectady musician, Tom Ross, will perform a tour of the world's jazz music from India, Africa, and America. Tom received his PhD in world music at Wesleyan University, and his two Fulbright scholarships to study music in India and Niger. A teacher at Union College, he composes music based on his native jazz with influences from many different countries for this family concert.

EXCITING NEWS

The 2005 May book sale was a huge success, netting \$11,870 to benefit the library branches. This happened through the combined efforts of many people and organizations. More than 160 people participated the weekend of the sale. Approximately 20,000 books have been recycled into the hands of happy customers. The semiannual sales are great community events.

The accolades are many for this sale: Dunkin' Donuts, Hannaford, and Price Chopper for refreshments for the workers and paper products and bags, General Electric Power University and Law, Order and Justice for indispensable set-up workers, Bern Allanson, George Gould and Leah Leonard for organization, Fred Thompson for organizing, storing, and selling the records, Nancy Virkler for financial management, Literacy Volunteers of America for selling food, Lisa Holt for publicity, and the library staff for their wonderful cooperation - especially Victor Jakway and Sandy Anderson.

Also essential to the sale are the fifteen sorters of donated and library-discarded books, led by Phyllis Bornt, who worked weekly on Wed. from 9:00 to noon to make the sales possible. Due to the number of books for this sale, sorters often worked two days a week. They are: Phil Adams, Bern Allanson, George Gould, Marianne Hall, Ann Hicks, Leah Leonard, Jeanne Manchester, Nancy Ottati, Joyce Parry, Lois Quillian, Alice Reed, Ellie Rowland, Fred Thompson, Trudy Thun, and Sally and Simon Weinstein. Without their efforts there would be no sales.

What made this the most successful sale? We believe it was the publicity, as we offered the same number of books and the same set-up as previous sales. Lisa had our ad in all the region's papers and TV bulletin boards, and members distributed flyers to local merchants. But, most important was the notice posted on a web site, BookSaleFinder.com. This attracted buyers from as far away as Virginia. This web listing made the difference.

The fall sale will be **October 1 and the bag sale on October 2**. We will need many more volunteers, especially to set up for the bag sale on Sunday from noon to 1:00. If you would like to work in any capacity, from a sit-down job to set-up, please call Ellie at 370-1958. We also ask you to remove the flyer for the sale from this newsletter and post it in a public place. Additional copies will be available at the Whitney Book Corner.

(by Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson, Co-Chairs)

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

A five-book discussion series on "Jewish Literature: Identity and Imagination" will be held at the main library on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM, beginning on September 13. Peter Heinegg is the program scholar who will lead these discussions. Registration is required, by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511. Books to sign out and discussion packets are available.

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with the One County, One Book program can call Karen Bradley at 388-4533, or e-mail her at kbradley@sals.edu. Volunteers will be contacted in September. Voting on selected titles will take place from September 15 to October 15.

A mystery author, S.J. Rozan, will be at the central library on November 2, 2005 at 7:00 PM for a program and book signing.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Friends would like to acknowledge memorial gifts that have been received, during the past year, in memory of Margaret Fischer and Shirley McGettrick.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past few months have seen a whirlwind of activity at Schenectady County Libraries. Members of the Friends have been involved in two major projects this spring and summer: The plans for the addition and renovations of the Central Library are moving along smoothly and we are awaiting final drawings and cost estimates from the architect. The One County, One Book committee, headed by Gloria Zampini and Karen Bradley, is nearly ready to present a short list of books from which residents will vote their preference. Another project, the compiling of a 40 year history of the Friends, has been undertaken by Anne Yunick and Phyllis Bornt. This should be ready for our 40th anniversary next year (2006). Friends have also joined Steve Fitz and library trustees to form a public relations committee to promote our libraries and their programs. Two of our branches, Niskayuna and Woodlawn, celebrated anniversaries this summer with festivities. Before we have time to catch our breaths, the fall programs will be in full swing. Keep watch for all the breaking news. (by [John Karl](#))

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The Whitney Book Corner will be open extended hours during the semi annual Book Sale on Saturday October 1. To accommodate shoppers, the Store will be open from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

The Book Store is looking for a new Manager(s). Joyce Parry and George Gould have decided to retire after nearly four years in the job. We feel that new blood will bring new ideas and help the continued growth of the Whitney Book Corner. Give it some thought and consider volunteering for this job. It IS rewarding and satisfying and the people are great to work with.

EXPERIENCE, the interior decorators that are our across-the-street neighbors, came to us one Friday afternoon in need of 100-150 books to be used to decorate a room. We were able to help them and they in turn made a donation of \$150 to the Friends. They started as good neighbors by bringing us an artificial flower arrangement when we opened, so it was good to return the favor. (by [George Gould](#))

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members into The Friends of SCPL: Mr. Sammie Fantroy, Jr.; Ann Gotwals; Dr. Leonard & Esther Meiselman; Betsey A. Morgan; Brian Norenski; Juliana Postgood; Mr. & Mrs. Keith Rolfe; Beverly Ann Roth; Stewart & Harriette Sacklow; David & Shobha Smith; Allen & Barbara Wood; Jim & Linda Zasada.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION TEAM

The May/June newsletter was distributed by the following team: Helen Steiner, John & Gail Karl, Anne Yunick, Rudy Dehn, Gert Schutz, Doris Clark, Lois & Bill Isles, Ed Reilly, and Bill and Mary Jane Beaulieu. Our thanks to them all.

DECEMBER MUSIC PROGRAM

The Music Committee has planned a program of **Music by Young Performers on Sunday, December 4th**, in the McChesney Room at 2.30 p.m.. The performers include Madalyn Parnas, violinist; Cicely Parnas, Cellist; and Young In Lee, Pianist. Madalyn Parnas was the winner of the 2005 Stefan Prize awarded by the League of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. Look for more details in the next issue of the Newsletter.

**REELS - A Free Film Series Presented in the McChesney Room at the
Main Library**

**SEPTEMBER - RECENT THOUGHT
PROVOKING RELEASES**

**Wednesday, September 7 at noon &
Thursday September 8 at 7pm
*ENDURING LOVE***

Daniel Craig, Rhys Ifans, Samantha Morton
Paramount Classics; Dir. by Roger Michell
Rated R; 100 minutes; 2004

Sitting in the beautiful English countryside, Joe is getting ready to propose to his girlfriend Claire. At that moment a hot air balloon plunges from the sky and, in trying to help, one of Joe's friends is accidentally killed. Joe is plagued with guilt over this and cannot get past this incident. The fragile nature of love and the need to find meaning in an accident provide the thrust for this engaging story.

**Wednesday, September 14 at noon &
Thursday, September 15 at 7pm
*THE MILAGRO BEANFIELD WAR***

Chick Vennera, Ruben Blades, John Heard
Universal Pictures; Dir. by Robert Redford
Rated R; 118 minutes; 1988.

The Milagro Beanfield War invites us into the humorous and magical world of the Milagro Valley with its spirited cast of characters—a place where fantasy mingles with reality and anything can happen. Based on John Nichols' novel, a lone Chicano handyman illegally irrigates his parched beanfield using water that was earmarked for a major development. His tiny act snowballs, setting in motion a chain of events that have overwhelming consequences for the people of this small town.

**Wednesday, September 21 at noon &
Thursday, September 22 at 7pm
*CRASH***

Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon,
Jennifer Esposito
Lions Gate Films; Directed by Paul Haggis
Rated R; 100 minutes; 2005

A seemingly simple car accident in Los Angeles brings together a very diverse group of people. As their lives collide the issue of racism and racial profiling is explored as each of these people work through their own fears and inherent prejudices. This film is an example of the interconnectedness of life in the melting pot.

**Wednesday, September 28 at noon &
Thursday, September 29 at 7pm
*BORN INTO BROTHELS***

Documentary Feature, ThinkFilm Inc.;
Directed by Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman
In Bengali and English with English subtitles
R; 85 minutes; 2004

This inspiring Academy-Award winning film documents the journey of photographer Zana Briski and the children of prostitutes from Calcutta's Red Light District. Briski gives the children cameras and teaches them to take pictures, helping them view their world with new eyes and find beauty in unlikely places.

**OCTOBER - CLASSIC CHINESE
FILMS**

**Wednesday, October 5 at noon &
Thursday October 6 at 7pm
*JU-DOU***

Miramax Films; Directed by Fengliang Yang &
Yimou Zhang
Rated PG-13; 95 min; 1990

In Mandarin with English subtitles
A woman married to the brutal owner of a dye mill in rural China is forced to raise her son as her husband's heir without revealing his parentage in this circular tragedy. Filmed in glowing technicolour, this tale of romantic and familial love in the face of unbreakable tradition is more universal than its setting.

**Wednesday, October 12 at noon &
Thursday, October 13 at 7pm
*HERO***

Jet Li, Tony Leung, Maggie Cheung Man-
Yuk, Zhang Ziyi
Miramax Films; Directed by Zhang Yimou
Rated PG-13; 96 minutes; 2004

In Mandarin with English subtitles
In ancient China, warring factions amongst the six kingdoms of the country conspired to assassinate the powerful ruler, Gin. A minor official with no name defeats all three warriors sent to kill the ruler. Gin invites him to tell the story in this lush and beautifully crafted martial arts epic.

**Wednesday, October 19 at noon &
Thursday, October 20 at 7pm
*THE WEDDING BANQUET***

Winston Chao, May Chin, Mitchell
Lichtenstein
Samuel Goldwyn; Directed by Ang Lee
Not Rated; 109 minutes; 1993
In Mandarin and English

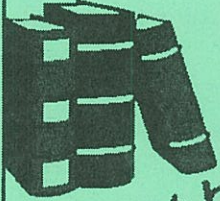
A Chinese yuppie living in New York decides that a marriage of convenience is the perfect way to prevent his parents—who live in Taiwan—from discovering he is gay. But his plans backfire when his parents insist on coming to New York for the wedding in this seductive comedy.

**Wednesday, October 26 at noon &
Thursday, October 27 at 7pm
*CHUNGKING EXPRESS***

Brigitte Lin Ching-Hsia, Takeshi Kaneshiro
Miramax Films; Directed by Wong Kar-Wai
Rated PG-13; 103 minutes; 1996
In Cantonese with English subtitles
From popular Hong Kong filmmaker Wong Kar-Wai comes an excellent two-segmented pop culture romance that takes a detailed peek at the flashy yet gentle lives of two proud policemen who, after being dumped by their girlfriends, fall for a heroin dealer and a counter girl.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

BOOK SALE



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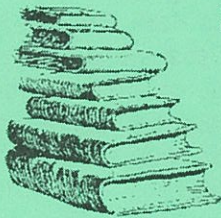
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**SATURDAY,
October 1, 2005
9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

*** \$ 2.00 Bag Sale *
Sunday, October 2
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**



Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
388-4500
www.scpl.org

Coffee & donuts will be sold by the Literacy Volunteers of America.

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
NEWSLETTER

November/December 2005

Vol. XLI, 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 7 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 p.m.

Monday Noon Programs, Fall 2005
Barbara Grasier, Program Chair

FALL FEATURE - RICHES FOR READERS: THE MAGIC OF STORY TELLING

Coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano

November 14 NANCY MARIE PAYNE, member of Faith and Values Story Tellers and the Story Circle of the Capital District

November 21 LOIS FOIGHT HODGES AND JEANNINE LAVERTY, members of SweetLand Storytellers and the Story Circle of the Capital District

TABLE TALKS

Coordinated by Ed Reilly

November 28 DORIS AIKEN, founder and president of RID (Remove Intoxicated Drivers)
DWI Legislation—What Still Needs to be Done

December 5 ALVIN MAGID, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, State University of New York at Albany
Facing Off: China and the U.S.—Conflict, Competition, and Cooperation

December 12 SUZANN SMART, Executive Director, Ellis Hospital Foundation
How Much is Your Health Worth?

December 19 PAUL ELISHA, Commentator, WAMC/Northeast Public Radio
Welcome to the Dumbed-Down Generation: an America of Lost Language, Missing Initiative, and Minuscule Vision

MUSIC PROGRAMS

Etude Club will present **Music at Noon**, an hour's program of music, in the McChesney Room on **Friday, November 18th**.

On **Sunday December 4th**, at 2.30 p.m. in the McChesney room there will be a Musical Recital presented by the following young musicians: Madelyn Parnas, violin; Cicely Parnas, cello; Young in Lee, piano, with Gordon Hibberd, piano accompanist. The program will include compositions by the following composers: Haydn, Beethoven, Kreisler, Brahms, Boeliman, and Mozart. This concert will be the second in the yearlong series arranged by the Music Committee of the Friends. Refreshments will follow the program

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Friends programs are in full swing so be sure to check out dates and times in this newsletter. By the time you receive the newsletter, a book will have been chosen for the One County, One Book program. Watch for information in the newspaper and in future newsletters about the reading schedule and special events related to the chosen book.

The plans for the central library expansion are moving along and we are waiting for the architect's final designs and cost estimates.

The book sale on Oct. 1st. and 2nd was a great success, in large part because of the tremendous effort by all the volunteers who worked that weekend. Special thanks to the co-chairs, Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson, who brought the whole thing together. Space won't allow me to name all of the volunteers, but we are grateful for their efforts. Watch for dates of special sales and for the next Spring sale. (By John Karl)

REELS - A Free Film Series Presented in the McChesney Room at the Main Library

November

**Wednesday, November 2 at noon &
Thursday, November 3 at 7pm
KEYS TO THE HOUSE**

(In Italian with English subtitles)

Andrea Rossi, Kim Rossi Stuart, Charlotte Rampling
Lions Gate Films; Directed by Gianni Amelio
Rated PG; 105 minutes; 2005

Gianni abandoned his handicapped son, Paolo, when he was born. Now, fifteen years later, guilt-stricken Gianni is ready to meet Paolo and start over. Gianni accompanies Paolo to a Berlin hospital where Gianni comes face to face with his son's terrible suffering. Gianni finds encouragement from another parent with a disabled child, but is it enough to reconcile his difficult relationship with Paolo?

**Wednesday, November 9 at noon &
Thursday, November 10 at 7pm
SCHULTZE GETS THE BLUES**

(German and English with English subtitles)
Horst Krause, Harald Warmbrunn, Karl Fred Muller,
Ursula Schucht; Directed by Michael Schorr
Rated PG; 114 minutes; 2004

Schultze finds himself forced into retirement from the salt mines of Germany. Ensnared in his boring free time, Schultze flicks on the radio only to have his world revitalized by the sound of Zydeco music. He picks up his accordion and a new genre is born as he travels from German music festivals to America's southwest in this tale of the magic a new passion can unleash.

**Wednesday, November 16 at noon &
Thursday, November 17 at 7pm
ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW**

Miranda July, John Hawkes, Miles Thompson,
Brandon Ratcliff, Ellen Greer
IFC Films; Directed by Miranda July
Rated R; 90 minutes; 2005

Christine's job is to chauffeur the elderly around in her car, but what she really wants is her own art gallery and the attention of scruffy shoe salesman Richard. Richard has just separated from his wife and is dealing with his two sons who pose as adult fetishists in online chat rooms. The quirky characters and dialogue come non-stop in this directorial debut for Miranda July.

**Wednesday, November 23 at noon
SACRED PLANET**

Documentary

Walt Disney Pictures; Directed by Jon Long
Not Rated; 40 minutes; 2004

Narrated by Robert Redford, this large screen format film takes the viewer into regions of the earth that have been untouched and unchanged by human hands. Journeys to places such as New Zealand, Namibia, United States, Borneo and Thailand treat you to the magical sights and sounds of nature

**Wednesday, November 30 at noon &
Thursday, December 1 at 7pm
MAD HOT BALLROOM**

Documentary Feature

Paramount Classics; Directed by Marilyn Agreló
Rated PG; 105 minutes; 2005

There is a program in many New York City schools that requires students to take ten weeks of ballroom dancing. This inspiring documentary follows 11 year olds from three schools in the toughest and most culturally diverse neighborhoods in NYC. These kids must overcome awkwardness with the opposite sex, a lack of self-confidence and their tempting surroundings to create a new path for themselves.

December

**Wednesday, December 7 at noon &
Thursday, December 8 at 7pm
THE BALLAD OF JACK AND ROSE**

Daniel Day-Lewis, Catherine Keener,
Camilla Belle, Paul Dano
IFC Films; Directed by Rebecca Miller
Rated R; 111 minutes; 2005

Jack is a single widower father who has raised his 16-year-old daughter Rose in an abandoned commune on a remote island. When Jack is diagnosed with a terminal illness he realizes that he must help his daughter ease into the real world so he brings in a woman and her two young sons from the mainland to help with Rose's difficult transition.

**Wednesday, December 14 at noon &
Thursday, December 15 at 7pm
CINDERELLA MAN**

Russell Crowe, Renee Zellweger, Craig Bierko,
Paul Giamatti
Universal Pictures; Directed by Ron Howard
Rated PG-13; 2005

Legendary athlete Jim Braddock was a once – promising boxer who had to leave the ring after a string of losses. As the nation entered the Great Depression, he took a series of jobs to feed his family until a chance cancellation gave him the opportunity to fight again. After his amazing and unlikely win, he was dubbed the "Cinderella Man" and went on to become the heavyweight boxing champ, elevating his own game but also representing the dreams of the disenfranchised masses.

**Wednesday, December 21 at noon &
Thursday, December 22 at 7pm
WINTER SOLSTICE**

Anthony LaPaglia, Allison Janney, Ron Livingston,
Aaron Stanford. Paramount Classics; Directed by Josh
Sternfield; Rated R; 111 Minutes; 2005

A widower in the suburbs of New Jersey has responsibility for raising both of his sons. He must deal with the decision made by his older son to leave home while trying to reconcile the self-destructive behavior of his younger son.

**Wednesday, December 28 at noon &
Thursday, December 29 at 7pm
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS**

Documentary Feature

Narrated by Morgan Freeman
Warner Independent Pictures; Directed by Luc Jacquet
Rated G; 84 minutes; 2005

This beautiful nature documentary follows the annual journey of emperor penguins to their breeding ground in Antarctica. Rife with obstacles, the film focuses on one cute and steadfast pair as they face birth and death, dating and mating, predators and even love in their fight for survival.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER
600 Union Street, Corner of Clinton
377-4670

www.whitneybookcorner.com

*OPEN: Monday to Friday 10-4
Thursdays to 7
Saturdays 11-3
CLOSED Sundays*

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

A SUCCESSFUL SALE

Over 100 workers, plus beautiful weather, helped the book sale, Oct. 1 and 2 to be a grand success. The sale netted over \$11,500. We would like especially to thank George Gould, Lois Harden, John Karl, Don Leach, Leah and Bill Leonard, Bob Mackeown, Gene Rowland, Joe Suhrada, three people from GE and three people from LOJ who brought more than 20,000 books from the upstairs storage area on Friday afternoon. It was an overwhelming job well done.

The weekly sorters, cashiers, organizers and all the others, who do important jobs like advertising and set-up, worked together to make the event both financially successful and fun to attend. As usual, help from the library staff was invaluable. Most importantly, the sales couldn't happen if people didn't donate books, so keep bringing donations to the library loading dock. Please read the new guidelines for donations below.

The next semi-annual sale will be May 6 and 7, 2006 and The Friends will also hold a mid-winter fiction sale in the hall of the Library.

Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson, Co-Chairs

DONATION GUIDELINES

Hard cover and paperback books in good condition

CD's, Cassettes, Videos, and Books on Tape

Your donation may be added to the library's collection, or given to the Friends of the Library for the Whitney Book Corner or the Friends book sales.

Due to limits in storage, disposal space, and potential for damage to the library's collection, **the library**

cannot accept materials listed below:

- Books with torn or yellowed pages
- Dirty, stained books, or water damaged books
- Musty material smelling of mildew---try the sniff test!
- Magazines
- Reader's Digest Condensed Books
- Textbooks older than five years,
- Encyclopedias older than ten years
- Computer books older than three years
- Computer software or software manuals three years or older

Please leave all donations on the loading dock in the library parking lot

Donation tax credit forms may be obtained at the reference desk

BOOK CORNER SALES

The Whitney Book Corner has two Christmas related sales coming up in November and December. The first is a \$1.00 per book sale of all Christmas theme books and will be held November 14-26. The second sale is one of our more popular sales: New Children's Books. These books are brand new and in lovely condition, and as a result usually sell out quickly.

OUTREACH SERVICES

Outreach Services is an important part of SCPL that some of us don't know much about. They are looking for volunteers to help with their valuable services to the community:

Two volunteers with good computer skills are needed to assist in assembling a catalog of Large Print and Audio Books for the homebound.

Three or four volunteers are needed to bring library materials to residents of senior facilities such as nursing homes. Interested persons should: like to read; enjoy visiting the elderly and/or physically disabled; and be available year round (no "snowbirds", please). These folks will be asked to work weekdays, daytime hours, and should be able to lift and push loads of books.

For more information, please call Paula Carosella or Ann Moore in the Outreach office, at 388-4521.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION TEAM

We wish to thank the people who met in September to distribute the Friends newsletter. The team consisted of: Kathleen August, Bill Beaulieu, Doris Clark, Rudy Dehn, Gail Karl, John Karl, Ed Reilly, Dick Sills, Anne Yunick, and Helen Steiner.

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Jewish Literature Book Discussions, facilitated by Peter Heinegg:

November 1st, at 7pm, *Centaur in the Garden*
by Moacyr Scliar

November 15th, at 7pm, *Kaaterskill Falls*
by Allegra Goodman

Tuesday, November 8th, at 2pm, there will be a discussion of Dennis Lehane's *Mystic River* for the afternoon SCPL book discussion group in Room 215. This is open to everyone.

NEWS FLASH!!!

THE ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK SELECTION

HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED:

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

BY HARPER LEE

Schenectady County's One County, One Book program will encourage the entire community to join together in reading, discussing, and participating in programs associated with THE SAME BOOK! Book discussions may take place in libraries, bookstores, homes, offices, churches and temples, schools and colleges, senior centers, or anywhere people gather! The goal was to select a book that would be appropriate to use in our County public and private schools, at SCCC, and Union College, as well as the main library and SCPL's nine branch libraries. To see how you can help in developing this program, go to the next page.

ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK PROGRAM

The One County, One Book program is in need of volunteers. Some of the major areas with which we will need help are:

- **Programming** – coming up with ideas on programming that the library or other groups such as school/community groups could do based on the theme of the winning book.
- **Book Kits** – assembling book kits/discussion packets that would be used by book discussion groups, schools, or any group of individuals in our community who would like to host a discussion group.
- **Publicity** – a group who would come up with ideas on how to involve the community, including publicizing programs associated with the book.
- **School Connection** – we hope to involve all of our county public and private K-12 schools, SCCC, and Union College. Generating and carrying out ideas on school involvement, curriculum ideas, and resources for teachers to use are all ideas with which this committee will work.
- **Discussion Leaders** – a good job for anyone who has participated in a book discussion group – willing to help facilitate a discussion of the book with school/community groups, if needed. Members of the library staff would provide training for this. Groups may be interested in participating but may not know how to get started.

Anyone interested in volunteering with one of these jobs can contact Karen Bradley at 388-4533 or email her at kbradley@sals.edu and indicate which area they would like to sign up for. An organizational meeting will be held by mid-November for each of the groups above.

FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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SCHENECTADY, NY 12305

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SCHENECTADY, NY
PERMIT #7

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 Saturdays at 11 p.m.

Monday Noon Programs, Winter 2006
Barbara Grasier, Program Chair

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN
Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

January 9-- *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

Reviewed by **Cecelia Garfinkel**, social activist, and local reviewer.

Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era south, defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge and his kids against prejudice.

January 16-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 23-- *Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition and the Defeat of the Moors*, by James R. Reston

Reviewed by **Dr. James Gavin**, retired physician, past chairman of UCALL Steering Committee.

A riveting account of the pivotal events of 1492, a year when towering political ambitions, horrific religious excesses and a drive toward adventure and conquest changed the world forever.

January 30-- *Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio*, by Jeffrey Kluger

Reviewed by **Gene Rowland**, GE Global Research Center (retired)

Time magazine senior writer Kluger tells how polio was beaten 50 years ago in one of the triumphs of modern medicine. The tale of one of the greatest scientific accomplishments of the twentieth century.

February 6-- *No Greater Glory: The Four Immortal Chaplains and the Sinking of the Dorchester in World War II*, by Dan Kurzman

Reviewed by **Frank Taormina**, local historian and retired Assistant Superintendent, Niskayuna Central Schools. How four U.S. Army chaplains of different faiths went together to their deaths and forever changed the lives of the men they saved.

February 13-- *Sprawl: A Complete History*, by Robert Bruegmann

Reviewed by **Don Gavin**, physicist, UCALL Steering Committee member

In his incisive history of the expanded city, Bruegmann overturns every assumption we have about sprawl. He demonstrates that sprawl is neither recent nor particularly American.

February 20-- Presidents' Day Holiday

February 27-- *Camino de Santiago de Compostelo*--Ancient pilgrimage trail across northern Spain

An illustrated talk by **Patricia Rush** about her walk along the trail, in the context of books about the Camino. Patricia Rush is a former President of the Board of the Environmental Clearing House of Schenectady.

MUSIC FOR FUN RECITAL

To commemorate Mozart's 250th. birthday on Friday January 27th. 2006, the Music for Fun Group of local musicians will present a recital including the 4 Horn Concerti and Rondo by Mozart. The Program will start at 3.30 p.m. in the McChesney Room. Artists include: Ronald Patrick, Josef Shmee, Paul Nance, James Dick and Julia Withers (horns), and Christine Patrick, piano.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the most pleasant tasks I have performed this past year is thanking all those who work hard to make the Friends a great organization and an asset for the people of Schenectady. There are too many hard workers to mention them all in this space, but you should be aware of two who have been the outstanding force behind the success of the Whitney Book Corner: Joyce Parry and George Gould. As the store's only managers since its opening, Joyce and George have worked tirelessly to keep the operation going. Joyce and George have retired from their management positions but continue to work as hard as ever for the store. The managers' positions, however, will not be vacant. Renie Federighi and Richard Holt have agreed to serve for indefinite terms, for which all Friends are grateful. We are looking forward to continued success for the store. I must also remind you about the Herculean efforts of Ellie Rowland, our volunteer coordinator. She is not retiring, but deserves a great round of thanks for her work for the store and for the book sales each year. (Continued on Page 2)

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have recently joined the Friends of SCPL. Please welcome them.

Joan Aigner, Christine Angione, Rose & Anthony Califano, Jim & Lucy Comly, Janet R.F. Crandell, Anne C. DeCrosta, Susan Garrett, Robert & Valerie Kerker, Experience & Creative Design, Inc.; Donna Lull, Kathryn Masten, Denise & David McGraw, Paul E. Mitchell, James & Valerie O'Dell, Jane S. Olsen, Anthony J. Orsino, R. Phillips, Jocelyn Pranis, Linda A. Rea, Sandra M. Reutter, Dr. Ronald A. Scharf, Ellen Schultz, Warren S. Taylor, Lisa B. Thompson, Sherrie Wentraub, and Lorene & Bart Zabin.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER REPORT

The Whitney Book Corner is completing 2005 with continued growth in sales. The third quarter was the highest in the store's history at \$8869 in gross sales, and the years' revenue (extrapolated) is the highest as well, at \$33,300 in gross sales. Kudos to all the people, (more than 100), who have been involved with the store. We still have a payroll of \$0, and a work force to be envied.

There will be new management of the store beginning in early 2006 with Renie Federighi and Rich Holt taking on the duties of co-managers. With these talented people in charge, it is expected that the store will continue to grow and prosper. The store has two upcoming sales that should not be missed:

February 6-17: Romance Novels at \$1.00 per hardback and Paperbacks at 3/\$1.00

March 20-April 1: All Paperbacks at 3/\$1.00

Joyce Parry and George Gould wish to thank all the people involved for making the nearly four years of managing the store both easy and fun.

The History of the Mystery Genre

Presenter: Frankie Bailey, mystery author and University at Albany professor

Some topics to be discussed:

The evolution of the mystery genre in Britain and the United States

The impact of Civil Rights and the women's movement of the 1960s on the mystery novel.

The treatment of social issues in the modern mystery novel and the impact of new technology on crime fiction.

McChesney Room, Central Library

Saturday, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m.
(Snow Date: Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

Two reminders for your attention: Remember to participate in the One County, One Book program beginning this month (January) and running until April. Look for opportunities for discussion of To Kill a Mockingbird during the program.

The Friends are also planning a major event to celebrate 40 years of service to the community. Look for plans of what will be done. The date will probably be April 4, which is the Tuesday of Library Week.

GREAT DECISIONS 2006

The Great Decisions, a free discussion series, is sponsored by the national, non-partisan, Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org). It aims to encourage free and open discussion of major foreign policy issues. It is a chance for all who are interested to express their thoughts and opinions, and to hear those of others.

The FPA publishes a discussion guide, which presents a comprehensive balanced review of each topic. It is helpful, but not mandatory. A copy of the 2006 edition may be ordered (\$17), by calling Phil Adams - 393 9505, or Frank Feiner 377 9448.

The 2006 series will meet on the following Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 in the McChesney Room:

- Feb 14 - UN Reform
- Feb 21 - The US and Iran
- Feb 28 - Energy Resources
- Mar 7 - Brazil
- Mar 14 - China and India: Partners or competitors?
- Mar 21 - Human rights in the age of terrorism
- Mar 28 - Turkey
- Apr 4 - Pandemics and Security

Your attendance will be welcomed.

MATCH YOUR GIFTS: A REMINDER

All GE employees, retirees, and surviving spouses who give a minimum of \$25 to the Friends of SCPL are eligible for a matching gift. Gifts can be registered by telephone at 1-800-305-0669 or via the Internet at www.gefoundation.com

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

600 Union Street, Corner of Clinton
377-4670

www.whitneybookcorner.com

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 11-3

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

REELS

A Free Film Series of Recent Thought Provoking Releases

Wednesday, January 4 at noon & Thursday, January 5 at 7pm

NOBODY'S FOOL

Paul Newman, Jessica Tandy, Melanie Griffith, Dylan Walsh
Paramount; Directed by Robert Benton - Rated R; 118 minutes; 1995

From director Robert Benton comes this touchingly sentimental portrait of small-town America. Academy Award winner Paul Newman stars as Sully, a local has-been who has been squeaking by all his life through minor construction jobs in his depressing hometown in Upstate New York. The late, great Jessica Tandy, in her final role splendidly plays his eternally cheerful landlady who may just be able to turn Sully's life around. Melanie Griffith co-stars in this refreshing and compassionate motion picture.

Wednesday, January 11 at noon & Thursday, January 12 at 7pm

TWILIGHT

Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman, Stockard Channing, James Garner
Paramount Pictures; Directed by Robert Benton; Rated R; 94 minutes; 1998

Academy Award® winning director Robert Benton paints a portrait of present-day Los Angeles infused with blackmail, murder, sexuality, moral excess and the memorable characters that cloud its landscape. Paul Newman and Susan Sarandon star in this witty and suspenseful drama about a retired shopworn Los Angeles private investigator (Newman) who agrees to help long-time friends, former screen legend Jack Ames (Gene Hackman) and his wife Catherine (Susan Sarandon). A favor is expected, and he rapidly becomes embroiled in the center of a dangerous and complex murder mystery.

Wednesday, January 18 at noon & Thursday, January 19 at 7pm

***EMPIRE FALLS* (Part 1)**

Wednesday, January 25 at noon & Thursday, January 26 at 7pm

***EMPIRE FALLS* (Part 2)**

Ed Harris, Helen Hunt, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward
Directed by Fred Schepisi, HBO Films, 120 minutes; 2005

A drama that swoops in on Empire Falls, an economically depressed mill town in Maine, and lifetime resident Miles Roby (Harris), who's run the town's top restaurant for some twenty years. Miles is surrounded by his wife (Hunt), meddling father (Newman), and hostile boss (Woodward).

Wednesday, February 1 at noon & Thursday, February 2 at 7pm

MURDERBALL

Documentary Feature

ThinkFilm; Directed by Henry Alex Rubin and Dana Adam Shapiro; Rated R; 86 minutes; 2005

This documentary follows the lives of rough and tumble rugby players who also happen to be quadriplegics. We follow the hard-hitting action on the court where players smash each other with reinforced wheelchairs and off the court where these amazing men will make you think differently about the word "disabled."

Wednesday, February 8 at noon & Thursday, February 9 at 7pm

BROKEN FLOWERS

Bill Murray, Frances Conroy, Julie Delpy, Sharon Stone
Focus Features; Directed by Jim Jarmusch; Rated R; 105 minutes; 2005

As his latest girlfriend dumps the devoutly single Don Johnston, he receives an anonymous letter telling him that he has a son who may be looking for him. This revelation causes this aging lothario to examine his past relationships. He sets off to search through his exes to see who holds the key to this mystery.

Wednesday, February 15 at noon & Thursday, February 16 at 7pm

THE CONSTANT GARDENER

Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz, Danny Huston, Bill Nighy
Focus Features; Directed by Fernando Meirelles
Rated R; 129 minutes; 2005

When a well known lawyer/activist turns up dead in Kenya, everyone involved assumes that her previously uninterested husband will stay out of the situation. Instead, driven by remorse for his wife's death and anger at rumors of her infidelity, he embarks on a personal odyssey that will lead him into a conspiracy more far-reaching than he ever could have imagined.

Wednesday, February 22 at noon & Thursday, February 23 at 7pm

OLIVER TWIST

Ben Kingsley, Barney Clark, Jamie Foreman, Harry Eden
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Roman Polanski; Rated PG-13; 125 minutes; 2005

Academy Award®-winning director Roman Polanski brings Charles Dickens' beloved classic to life in a compelling new film. This unique version captures the novel's important themes about humanity and society – all set against the, backdrop of gritty Industrial Revolution London.

*The Friends of the Schenectady County
Public Library*

FICTION BOOK SALE

January 28-30, 2006

All Hardcover and Trade Fiction



\$1.00

*Sale will be held in the lobby at the Central
Library during library hours.*

Schenectady County Public Library
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www.scpl.org

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2006

Vol. XLI, 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 Saturdays at 11 p.m.

SCIENCE SERIES -Winter 2006

Coordinated by Dr. Walter Grattidge

- March 6th. The Nobel Prize and Me**
Ivar Giaever, Nobel Prize Winner
Emeritus Professor, RPI, Troy, NY
- March 13th. SuperPower Inc. – A New Industry for Schenectady**
Phil Pellegrino, President
SuperPower Inc., Schenectady, NY
- March 20th. Nanotechnology – Is it coming to Fruition?**
Linda Schadler, Professor
Materials Science Department, RPI, Troy, NY
- March 27th. Economics as Physics – Challenges and New Approaches in Risk Management**
Richard Messmer, PhD, Staff Scientist
GE Global Research, Niskayuna, NY

SPRING SPECIAL NOON PROGRAMS - April 2006

Gioia Ottaviano, Spring Specials Coordinator

Barbara Grasier, Program Chair, Friends, SCPL

"Premiers Plus" - Previewing the 2006 Summer Opera Season

April 3--Glimmerglass Opera, Cooperstown

The Greater Good--world premier, plus *The Barber of Seville*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Jenufa*
Presented by Don Marazzo, Director of Public Relations and Andrea Blaskovich, Marketing and Public Relations Assistant.

April 10--Lake George Opera, Saratoga Springs

Our Town--world premier, plus *The Barber of Seville*, *Pagliacci*, and *Maestro de Capella* complete the series.

Presented by Curtis Tucker, General Director

EASTER WEEK BOOK REVIEW

Hosted by Ed Reilly

- April 17** *Teacher Man: A Memoir*, by Frank McCourt
Reviewed by **Frank Taormina**, a former teacher and administrator in the Niskayuna School District and a local historian.

Long before he was a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Frank McCourt was a teacher in the New York City schools. Relationships formed with 12,000 mostly teenaged students over 30 years form the basis for his new memoir, *Teacher Man*. McCourt tells Jacki Lyden about life in the classroom.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

April-May, 2006

Linda Witkowski, Books Sandwiched in Coordinator

- April 24** *Shadowplay: The Hidden Beliefs and Coded Politics of William Shakespeare*, by Clare Asquith

Reviewed by **Philip Sheehan**, op ed writer/reviewer, Gazette Newspapers

Was William Shakespeare a pillar of Reformation England or an underground Roman Catholic dissident? Hidden for centuries, the 'Shakespeare Code' has finally revealed its secrets, thanks to Clare Asquith's ground-breaking scholarship, detailed in her new book, 'Shadowplay.'

May 1 *Dogs of God: Columbus, the Inquisition and the Defeat of the Moors*, by James R. Reston
Reviewed by **Dr. James Gavin**, retired physician, past chairman of UCALL Steering
Committee

A riveting account of the pivotal events of 1492, a year when towering political ambitions, horrific religious excesses and a drive toward adventure and conquest changed the world forever.

May 8 *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*, by Cokie Roberts
Reviewed by **Marilyn Kemp Rothstein**, author of textbooks on state and local government;
writer for regional magazines

Drawing upon personal correspondence and private journals, **Founding Mothers** brings to life the everyday trials, extraordinary triumphs, and often surprising stories of Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Deborah Reed Franklin, Eliza Pinckney, Martha Washington, and other patriotic and passionate women, each of whom played a role in raising our nation.

SPRING MUSIC PROGRAMS

Etude Club of Schenectady will present a concert on **March 5th at 2:00 p.m.** in the McChesney Room, featuring music for soprano, piano, harp, oboe, flute and cello. Performers include Stephanie Pieck, Susan Kokernak, Barbara Ganey, Jean Hayes, Cathie-Jo Brun, Elizabeth Huntley, Nina Vepritskaya and Joan Ham.

The Friends Music Committee has arranged for a piano recital to be presented by Minji Park on **Sunday March 12th** in the McChesney Room at 2.30 p.m. Minji Park is the 2005 winner of the Piano Competition sponsored by the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. The program will include compositions by Bach, Haydn, Liszt, Chopin and Prokofiev. Refreshments will follow the program.

ATTENTION: LOVERS OF POETRY

The 7th Annual Poetry Gala will soon be upon us. We will gather on **Sunday, April 2**, in the McChesney Room, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. After enjoying music, refreshments and socializing with friends, the program will begin at 2:30. Come hear your friends, neighbors and co-workers reading some of their favorite poems. If you would like to be a presenter at this lovely event, call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904. Time is available for only seventeen presenters, so please call to reserve a place. This gala is based on the National Poetry Project initiated by Robert Pinsky, a former U.S. Poet Laureate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By **John Karl**

I want to call your attention to the sign-up for the annual dinner. Because this is a special year and we will need more room and we have a special speaker, we are having the dinner at the Community College. Be sure to sign up early, because we are limited to 100 seats. As part of the annual report, attendees will be given a history of the four decades of Friends. If you cannot attend the dinner and want a copy, they will be available at the library. Also, we are planning the volunteer recognition picnic for Friday, June 16 at the Niskayuna River Road Park. Volunteers will be admitted free and guests will have to pay a minimal charge. Look for invitations this spring. George Gould and Joyce Parry will soon be selling the best of our donated books on-line. This will be one more way of raising funds to support the library. Look for information on the library website.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Monday, April 3 Schenectady County Historical Society librarian **Virginia Bolen** will present an Ancestry program called "**Tracing Your Roots with Ancestry**" at 7:00 pm in the McChesney Room.

Tuesday, April 4 A film of the PBS program entitled "**Scottsboro Trials**" will be shown at noon in the McChesney Room.

Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 5 at noon and Thursday, April 6, at 7pm
There will be showings of the film *To Kill A Mockingbird* in the McChesney Room

Wednesday, April 5 **Dan DiNicola** will lead a film discussion of *To Kill A Mockingbird* at 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 8 Our *One County, One Book* scholar, **Claudia Durst Johnson**, will be doing a program on *To Kill A Mockingbird*. She is nationally renowned and has published many books on great works of American literature; two on our book in particular. This program will be held at Schenectady County Community College Taylor Auditorium, will include southern refreshments and will be a celebration of the end of our first community reading event. The whole community is invited.

FRIENDS OF SCPL- 40TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Thursday, April 6, 2006, 6:15p.m., Casola Dining Room - Elston Hall
Schenectady County Community College (SCCC), 178 Washington Avenue, Schenectady

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library are invited to a 40th Anniversary Annual Dinner Meeting in the beautiful Casola Dining Room at the Schenectady County Community College (see Page 4 for directions to SCCC). The culinary arts students at SCCC prepare each dish. Both the culinary arts and hotel and restaurant management students provide the dining room service. As seating is limited, we can accommodate only the first 100 people who make reservations by March 18.

Sister Anne Bryan Smollin, Ph.D., a popular speaker who receives rave reviews for her enormous energy, insights, and sense of humor will be the speaker. Sister Smollin is Executive Director of Counseling for Laity, which offers guidance for married couples, families, adults, and adolescents; serves as a therapist, consultant to hospitals, and adjunct professor at several colleges. She is also President of the Board of Clowns on Rounds and the author of four books: *Tickle Your Soul: Live Well, Love Much, Laugh Often*; *Polish Your Soul and Spruce Up Your Heart*; *God Knows You're Stressed: Simple Ways to Restore Your Balance*; and *Jiggle Your Heart*.

THE MENU

Tossed Garden Salad

Entrée – Choice of Chicken Boursin, Sliced Sirloin or Stuffed Grilled Portabella Mushroom:

- Chicken Boursin – boneless breast of chicken stuffed with boursin cheese and fresh spinach, pan fried and topped with a Mornay sauce.
- Sliced Sirloin – tender sirloin of beef sliced and served with roasted shallots and a port wine demi-glaze.
- Stuffed Grilled Portabella Mushroom – served with roasted red peppers and goat cheese and served on a bed of wilted spinach

Green Beans Amandine

Oven Roasted Potato

Carrot Cake

Bakery Breads or Dinner Roll

Coffee, Decaf, hot and iced Tea

MUSIC - Following the meal, we will be treated to a musical performance by two young pianists.

ELECTIONS – The nominating committee will present the following persons for officers and directors:

Board of Directors - First three-year term, 2006-2009: Valerie Catlin, Judy Dillenbach, Renie Federighi, Sally Magid, Debbie McCambridge, and Dick Mehan

Valerie Catlin has worked for the Mohawk Valley Library System for over 25 years. She has helped with our book sales for many years, and served on the Board in the 1990's when she was both newsletter editor and president of the Friends, SCPL. She is also active in the First Unitarian Society.

Judy Dillenbach is a Contract Management Specialist for the NYS Office of Children & Family Services. She is a former board member and long time volunteer at the Animal Protective Foundation, a basic dog obedience teacher, and a member of Soroptimist International of Schenectady. She has facilitated the donation of children's books to *Boaters for Books* and also to *Reader to Reader*.

Renie Federighi retired from WMHT's education department 12 years ago and has spent her time since then volunteering for the State Museum, United Way, AAUW and SCPL. She also travels extensively in Europe and plays in sanctioned and social bridge games. She has recently accepted the job of co-managing the Whitney Book Corner, along with Rich Holt.

Sally Magid is a retired English teacher with the Schenectady City School District. She has served on the Schenectady County Board of Social Services and the B'nai B'rith Housing Board. Currently she is involved with Literacy Volunteers and does volunteer work at Pleasant Valley Elementary School in Schenectady.

Debbie McCambridge has a degree in Library Science and has worked in a number of libraries in Florida and New York State. She is currently employed by the Niskayuna Branch of SCPL.

Dick Mehan, retired from the former GE Research & Development Center, is active in a number of community organizations including the Great Decisions Program (secretary), Planned Parenthood (escort), Literacy Volunteers of America, and the Schenectady County Jail Library Program.

March REELS - A Free Film Series of Thought Provoking Releases

These films will be presented in the McChesney Room of the Central library at 99 Clinton Street.

ENRON: THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM (Documentary Feature)

Wednesday, March 1 at noon & Thursday, March 2 at 7pm

(Magnolia Pictures; Directed by Alex Gibney, 109 minutes; 2005) This film chronicles one of the largest corporate disasters in history. Executives of Enron schemed and scammed to skyrocket their stock price, then walked away with billions of dollars leaving the employees with nothing. Featured are insider accounts and rare corporate audio and video tapes that show the road to ruin.

ELIZABETHTOWN - Wednesday, March 8 at noon & Thursday, March 9 at 7pm

(Kirsten Dunst, Orlando Bloom, Susan Sarandon, Alec Baldwin; Paramount Pictures; Directed by Cameron Crowe. Rated PG-13; 138 minutes; 2005) Drew Baylor has just introduced a product that lost his company hundreds of millions of dollars, been fired and been dumped by his girlfriend. On the verge of suicide, he must suddenly travel to Kentucky to attend his father's memorial. In this small town he finds a purpose in life, as he is responsible for fulfilling his father's last wishes. He then develops an interest in a caring flight attendant who helps him navigate the rough waters ahead.

PROOF - Wednesday, March 15 at noon & Thursday, March 16 at 7pm

(Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins, Hope Davis; Miramax Films; Directed by John Madden. Rated PG-13; 96 minutes; 2004) Catherine is a devoted daughter who must come to grips with the death of her father, a brilliant math professor who had lost his grip on reality. She is helped through this process by one her father's former students as they search through her father's notebooks in hope of discovering some of his brilliant ideas. This haunting tale demonstrates the fragility of life and love.

NORTH COUNTRY - Wednesday, March 22 at noon & Thursday, March 23 at 7pm

(Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand, Jeremy Renner, Sissy Spacek; Warner Bros.; Directed by Niki Caro. Rated R; 123 minutes; 2005) This film is a fictionalized account of the first major successful sexual harassment case in the United States – Jenson vs. Eveleth Mines. A woman miner confronted her harassers in a 1984 lawsuit and won the landmark case.

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK - Wednesday, March 29 at noon & Thursday, March 30 at 7pm

(David Strathairn, Patricia Clarkson, George Clooney, Jeff Daniels; Warner Independent Pictures; Directed by George Clooney, Rated PG; 93 minutes; 2005) In the 1950s broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow hosted the two most popular news programs on television. He used his position to help end Senator Joseph McCarthy's communist "witch-hunts" that were throwing the country into hysteria. McCarthy turned his venom on Murrow, but the reporter's facts and enlightened ideals finally won out.

April REELS - A Free Film Series of Thought Provoking Releases

These films will be presented in the McChesney Room of the Central library at 99 Clinton Street.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD - Wednesday, April 5 at noon & Thursday, April 6 at 7pm

(Gregory Peck, Mary Badham; Universal Pictures; Directed by Robert Mulligan; Black and White; Not Rated; 129 minutes; 1962) You have read the novel as part of our "One County One Book" program, now watch the film. Six-year-old Jean Louise "Scout" Finch (Mary Badham) is growing up in the Depression era of the early 1930s in a small Southern town in this highly acclaimed motion picture based on Harper Lee's novel. Jean's father (Gregory Peck), the town lawyer, is a wise, quiet man with a great sense of justice who defends a poor, black man accused of rape. Winner of three Academy Awards® including Best Actor for Gregory Peck

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE - Wednesday, April 12 at noon & Thursday, April 13 at 7pm

(Keira Knightley, Matthew MacFadyen, Judi Dench, Donald Sutherland; Focus Features; Directed by Joe Wright; Rated PG; 127 minutes; 2005) Based on Jane Austen's beloved novel about the five single Bennet sisters, a proper English family is turned upside down when the wealthy Mr. Bingley and his best friend Mr. Darcy arrive. Stubborn Elizabeth Bennett crosses paths with the impossibly snobbish Mr. Darcy and discovers that the only man she can't stand may be the only man she will ever love.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE - Wednesday, April 19 at noon & Thursday, April 20 at 7pm

(Georgie Henley, Tilda Swinton, Rupert Everett, Jim Broadbent; Walt Disney Pictures; Directed by Andrew Adamson; Rated PG; 140 minutes; 2005) Based on the timeless novel by C.S. Lewis, four London children are sent to a professor's country home during World War II. They stumble into a magic wardrobe which leads to a mystical land called Narnia. Narnia is filled with amazing creatures and the children soon join forces with the lion Aslan to fight the evil witch Jadis who has cast an icy curse over the land.

EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED- Wednesday, April 26 at noon & Thursday, April 27 at 7pm

(Elijah Wood, Eugene Hutz, Boris Leskin, Jason Schwartzman; Warner Independent Pictures; Directed by Liev Schreiber; Rated PG-13; 105 minutes; 2005) A young Jewish American man goes on a quest to find the woman who saved his grandfather in a small Ukrainian town that was decimated by the Nazi invasion. His companions are his cranky grandfather and his grandson who won't shut up. What begins as a tour from hell turns into a very meaningful journey with revelations that will change all of their lives.

Candidates for Election (Continued)

Board of Directors - Second three-year term, 2006-2009: Lisa Holt, John Karl, and Anne Yunick.

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

Philip Adams (2/08)	William Beaulieu (1/07)	Robert Mackeown (1/07)
Bernard Allanson (2/08)	Phyllis Bornt (1/07)	Gretchen Savage (2/07)
Kathleen August (1/08)	Joan Ham (1/07)	Frank Taormina (1/07)
Barbara Grasier (1/08)	Carolyn Hermes (1/07)	
Priti Irani (2/08)		

Officers, 2006-2007

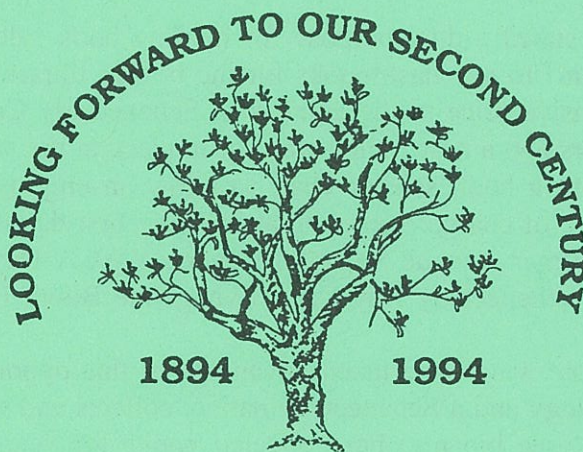
President: John Karl 2 nd	Vice President: Carolyn Hermes
President Elect: Frank Taormina	Secretary: Anne Yunick
1 st Vice President: Philip Adams	Treasurer: Junice Wusterbarth

Submitted by the Nominating Committee, Barbara Grasier, Chair
Bill Beaulieu, Lisa Holt, Ellie Rowland, Jean Wildgrube, Gloria Zampini

Directions to SCCC: For detailed, go to <http://www.sunysccc.edu/about/visit.htm>

Friends Annual Dinner attendees may **park in "Faculty/Staff" rows**. The Casola Dining Room is located in Elston Hall. If you are driving in **from the east** via Route 5, State Street, turn left at Washington Avenue in front of the College. Turn right into main parking lot. If you are driving in **from the west** (Scotia/Glenville), via Route 5, *turn right at the "Schenectady County Community College" exit ramp off the Western Gateway Bridge. Turn left at stop sign into main parking lot. If you are coming in **from I-890**, take the exit for Erie Boulevard, stay to the left and follow ramp "To Route 5, Scotia." At the traffic light, turn left on to State Street, Route 5 West and follow directions from *.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY SATURDAY MARCH 18 – PLEASE USE FORM BELOW



SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Thursday April 6, 2006 @ 6:15 p.m.

Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation
Casola Dining Room, SCCC

Number attending _____
Amount Enclosed _____ at \$ 19.00/person

Attendee names (Please print)

Circle One choice of entree

_____	Boursin Chicken	Sliced Sirloin	Stuffed Portabella
_____	Boursin Chicken	Sliced Sirloin	Stuffed Portabella

Contact Phone Number: _____

Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail with the reservation form to: Simon Weinstein, 4036 Windsor Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309. Completed forms are needed by March 18.

ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK DISCUSSION

The SCPL book discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be held on Saturday, March 18th, at 2:00pm in the McChesney Room. The discussion will be facilitated by **Frankie Bailey**, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at SUNY Albany.

MIDWINTER FICTION SALE

Thanks to over forty-five volunteers and almost spring-like weather the midwinter Fiction Sale was a smashing success. We profited \$2,927.70! The unique part of this sale, held January 28-30, was the continuous restocking of the book tables. Special thanks to Leah and Bill Leonard, Phil Adams and Bern Allanson, Valerie Catlin, and Gene Rowland for working over time and to all the set-up people, cashiers and organizers, who truly made this a total team effort. Our thanks also go to the custodial staff of the library for their cooperation, without which the sale couldn't happen. **The Spring Book Sale is scheduled for May 6th and 7th – don't miss it!** (by Ellie Rowland)

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to those who helped prepare the January Newsletter for mailing: Dick Sills, Ed Reilly, Rudy Dehn, Bill Beaulieu, Gail Karl, John Karl, Helen Steiner, Doris Clark, Trudy Carpenter, Roger Grasier, Barbara Grasier, and special thanks to Anne Yunick for the goodies.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons have recently joined the Friends of SCPL. Please welcome: Chester Harvey & Katherine Armstrong, Adrienne Bashe, Rachel T. Capovani, Paul Cardinal, Thomas Collins, Karl Drexler, Barbara A. Follain, Doug Klein, Debbie & Charlie McCambridge, Carol Jean Noyes, Tracy & Martin Peterson, Amy Schindler, Genevieve Stebbins and Joanne Reynolds & Richard Wagner.

Following the Annual Meeting in April, membership notices will be mailed for the fiscal year 2007 which covers the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

FRIENDS DONATE TO NON-PROFIT AGENCIES

The Friends of the SCPL have stated a dual purpose for holding book sales. One, naturally, is to make money that is used by library staff to purchase books for the branch libraries. But, equally important is to provide books at a very inexpensive price to the citizens of Schenectady County and beyond. In keeping with this latter purpose, five years ago a new policy was put in place at the sales. Any non-profit agency or charity may request a letter from a book sale co-chair to allow an employee, volunteer, or client of the organization to choose books free of charge beginning at 2:30 the first day of the sale. Many organizations have participated in this offer: Elmer Avenue School Teachers; YWCA Day Care, Residence and Shelter; Department of Social Services; Schenectady Day Care; Evangeline Booth House; Center for the Disabled and Head Start.

There are two very special people, who have taken advantage of this opportunity. Michael Dygert, of the SUNY Department of Anthropology and a Schenectady native, collects and sends books at his own expense to Nicaragua. Judy Dillenbach (see bio p.5) has collected books for years for underprivileged children. Many are sent to Miami, to the Books for Boaters program. Yachtsmen then take donated books to children of the Caribbean Islands and Bahamas. This fall she sent 251 pounds of books to the Reader to Reader program that provided books to Katrina victims and the Books for Boaters.

Other organizations are invited to benefit from this program at the next sale May 6th and 7th. If you wish to suggest an organization to receive a letter, please call Ellie Rowland, 370-1958 with the charity's name and address and the name of a person to be responsible for the use of the letter.

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SCHENECTADY, NY 12305

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

May/June 2006

Vol. XLI, 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 7 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 p.m.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN SPRING 2006

Coordinated by Linda Witkowski
Barbara Grasier, Program Chair, Friends of SCPL

May 8-- *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*, by Cokie Roberts

Reviewed by **Marilyn Kemp Rothstein**, author of textbooks on state and local government; writer for regional magazines

Drawing upon personal correspondence and private journals, *Founding Mothers* brings to life the everyday trials, extraordinary triumphs, and often surprising stories of Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Deborah Reed Franklin, Eliza Pinckney, Martha Washington, and other patriotic and passionate women, each of whom played a role in raising our nation.

May 15-- *The Miraculous Fever-Tree: Malaria and the Quest for a Cure That Changed the World*, by Fiammetta Rocco, literary editor of *The Economist*

Reviewed by **Dr. Twitty Styles**, Emeritus Professor of Biology, Union College

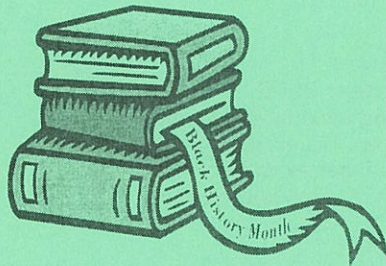
What do the following have in common: a couple eloping to Africa, a papal conclave, Jesuits in Peru, a disastrous English naval expedition, Kew Gardens, the Panama Canal, and the Nobel Prize? Answer (which you could hardly have guessed): all are in some way connected with the discovery and distribution of quinine, and the scientific inquiry into it, and into malaria, the disease it cured.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

BOOK SALE

MOST BOOKS

\$1.00



PAPERBACKS

3/\$1.00

hard covers
paperbacks
biographies
cookbooks
records & CDs
foreign language books
mysteries
children's books
fiction & nonfiction
large print books

LARGE
SELECTION OF
RECORDS



Schenectady County Public Library

99 Clinton Street

Schenectady, NY 12305

(Coffee & donuts will be sold by the Literacy Volunteers of America.)

Saturday,

May 6, 2006

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

\$2.00 Bag Sale

Sunday, May 7

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

REELS

A Free Film Series of Recent Thought Provoking Releases

Wednesday, May 3 at noon & Thursday, May 4 at 7pm

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

Ziyi Zhang, Ken Watanabe, Michelle Yeoh, Koji Yakusho

Columbia Pictures; Directed by Rob Marshall; Rated PG-13; 145 minutes; 2005

This sweeping romantic epic sends us through the mysterious and exotic world of the geisha. Impoverished nine-year-old Chiyo is sold to a geisha house and treated cruelly until her stunning beauty is recognized and she is rescued. Chiyo goes on to become the most famous geisha in Japan, entering a society of wealth, privilege and political intrigue until World War II changes the world forever.

Wednesday, May 10 at noon & Thursday, May 11 at 7pm

PARADISE NOW

Lubna Azabal, Hiam Abbass, Kais Nashef, Ali Suliman

Warner Independent Pictures; Directed by Hany Abu-Assad; Rated PG-13; 90 minutes; 2005

Khaled and Said are two young Palestinian men who are just hours away from becoming suicide bombers in Tel Aviv. After a final night with their families the two are moved to the border with bombs strapped to their bodies. When something goes wrong, the two men lose each other and must make the choice for themselves whether to complete their mission.

Wednesday, May 17 at noon & Thursday, May 18 at 7pm

SHOPGIRL

Steve Martin, Claire Danes, Jason Schwartzman

Touchstone Pictures; Directed by Anand Tucker; Rated R; 104 minutes; 2005

Based on Steve Martin's book, this film is a funny and poignant story of love in the modern age. Mirabelle sells accessories in a high-end department store and struggles to pay her bills. When she is swept off her feet by a rich older man, she revels in all that it brings. In the end, she must make a decision between the easy life and a real chance at love with a penniless musician.

Wednesday, May 24 at noon & Thursday, May 25 at 7pm

JARHEAD

Jamie Foxx, Jake Gyllenhaal, Chris Cooper, Peter Sarsgaard

Universal Pictures; Directed by Sam Mendes; Rated R; 123 minutes; 2005

Based on a U.S. Marine's book about his experiences fighting in Kuwait, this film follows the path of enlistee Swoff. Swoff jumps into battle with a group of guys facing intolerable heat, no cover and an enemy they can't fully fathom. The only thing that sustains them is a wicked sense of humor.

Wednesday, May 31 at noon & Thursday, June 1 at 7pm

MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS

Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins, Christopher Guest

Weinstein Company; Directed by Stephen Frears; Rated R; 103 minutes; 2006

Laura Henderson buys an old London theater and opens it up as the Windmill, a performance hall which goes down in history for, among other things, its all-nude revues.

Wednesday, June 7 at noon & Thursday, June 8 at 7pm

MUNICH

Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Geoffrey Rush, Mathieu Kassovitz

Universal Pictures; Directed by Steven Spielberg; Rated R; 2005

In 1972, the world sat stunned as eleven Israeli athletes were kidnapped from the Summer Olympics in Munich and were killed by a group of Palestinian militants. After this incident, a secret Mossad agency was asked to track down and assassinate the planners of the massacre. Their mission and the toll it takes on them is the focus of this intense drama.

Wednesday, June 14 at noon & Thursday, June 15 at 7pm

AN UNFINISHED LIFE

Robert Redford, Jennifer Lopez, Morgan Freeman, Josh Lucas

Miramax Films; Directed by Lasse Hallstrom; Rated PG-13; 100 minutes; 2005.

Elna Gilkyson is a tough skinned, retired rancher who has shut himself off from his family following his only son's death a decade ago. When out of the blue, the very person he blames for his son's accident arrives on his doorstep. His ex-daughter-in-law Jean has survived abuse and decides that the only way to care for her daughter is to seek help from her ex-father-in-law. This unusual meeting results in two people discovering a reservoir of forgiveness that neither of them knew existed.

Wednesday, June 21 at noon & Thursday, June 22 at 7pm

THE PRODUCERS

Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Uma Thurman, Will Ferrell

Universal Pictures; Directed by Susan Stroman; Rated PG-13; 134 minutes; 2005

Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane reprise their Tony award winning stage roles on the big screen. Two down-on-their luck producers attempt to create the worst musical ever to bilk investors but instead "Springtime for Hitler" becomes the toast of Broadway in this rousing musical.

Wednesday, June 28 at noon & Thursday, June 29 at 7pm

THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED

Shia LaBeouf, Stephen Dillane, Peter Firth, Elias Koteas, Peyton List

Walt Disney Pictures; Directed by Bill Paxton; Rated PG; 115 minutes; 2005

This is the untold true story about the courage and passion of one of America's greatest sports heroes. At the 1913 U.S. Open, an amateur working-class boy shocked the world when he beat the defending British champion in what was formerly only a "gentleman's game."

Membership

Join the Friends to receive our bi-monthly newsletters and become eligible to volunteer at book sales and the Whitney Book Corner. Cut out the following form and mail with your contribution to the Treasurer, Friends of the Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305. A GE employee, retired or not, or his or her surviving spouse who contributes \$25 or more will have the contribution matched if it is reported to the GE Matching Gift Center 1 (800) 305-0669 or at www.gefoundation.com.

Contribution levels are:

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

Name _____

Address _____

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Contribution \$ _____

GE eligible? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, date called in:

I am interested in volunteering for (check all that apply):

Semi-annual book sale

Whitney Book Corner

Online book sales

Newsletter mailings

FRIENDS OF SCPL

99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305

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Circulation: Kathleen August and Rudy Dehn
Editor: Gene Rowland

Sharing Oral History

The Schenectady County Public Library and the New York Folklore Society are calling for first generation Schenectady immigrant impressions and stories for our **Becoming American Project**.

The goal of this ongoing oral history program is to record the experiences of Schenectady's newest residents who are from other countries, and to add those stories to the Library collection. **Please come and share your stories and experiences.**

This program is made possible with funds provided by the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library. At the Library, contact Jo Ann Adams for information at 388-4522

President's Message (by John Karl)

The annual dinner meeting has come and gone and Friends is now in its 41st year. The evening at the Community College was great. The food, the service, the speaker, Sr. Anne Bryan Smollin, and the company were terrific; a fitting way to commemorate 40 years of service to the community. While it was impossible to thank all who work during the year, I wanted to express appreciation for the efforts of Phyllis Bornt and Anne Yunick, who compiled the information that completed the 40 year History of Friends.

A word of welcome to the new board members: Debbie McCambridge, Sally Magid, Dick Mehan, Valerie Catlin, Renie Federighi and Judy Dillenbach. Also, regretfully, we wish farewell to Bob Mackeown, who is "retiring" to Connecticut. We will miss him on the board.

We are looking forward to the annual volunteer recognition picnic which Friends co-sponsors with the trustees. If you have been a regular volunteer, you will be receiving an invitation soon. The picnic is on June 16 at 5:30 at the Niskayuna River Road Park.

Congratulations to Karen Bradley, Gloria Zampini and the library staff who made the One County, One Book endeavor such a success. Look for a repeat of the program with a different book in the coming months.

New Members

We welcome the following persons who have recently joined the Friends of SCPL: C. Allen, Sidney & Lois Berke, Thomas L. Dunne, Norlene Gageway, John Hawley, Elizabeth Kmen, Reuben A. Powell, Hasna Kaddo, Diana Martin, and James Jian Zhang.

Newsletter Distribution

Those responsible for the newsletter distribution on March 1st were: John and Gail Karl; Rudy Dehn; Bill Beaulieu; Helen Steiner; Dick Sills; Lois and Bill Isles; Anne Yunick; Janet Patterson; and Kathy August.

SPECIAL SCIENCE LECTURE Hubbert's Peak – the End of Cheap Oil

This lecture will be presented by Richard Baertsch of GE/GRC (Retired) at 12:00 Noon on **Monday, May 22, 2006** in the McChesney Room at the Central Library, 99 Clinton Street.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

600 Union Street, Corner of Clinton
377-4670

www.whitneybookcorner.com

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

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ADVANCE NOTICE

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2006

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

\$2.00 BAG SALE SUNDAY, MAY 4

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Most Books \$1.00

HARD COVERS

Paperbacks 3/\$1.00

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COOKBOOKS

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**Large Selection
Of Records**

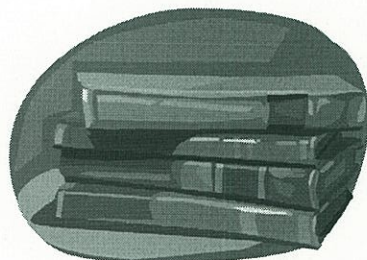
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