Note: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listings for days and times.

NOON PROGRAMS-FALL 2009

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN
Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

Sept. 14  Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain by Maryanne Wolf; reviewed by Sherri Lyons, Empire State College. “The author, a professor of child development at Tufts University, integrates psychology and archaeology, linguistics and education, history and neuroscience in a truly path-breaking look at the development of the reading brain.”

Sept. 21  Emily Post –Daughter of the Gilded Age, Mistress of American Manners by Laura Claridge; reviewed by Anne Bishop, retired teacher of history and social studies. “Despite her limited access to Emily Post's personal papers, Laura Claridge does her best to bring Post to life against the ever-changing cultural landscape of the early 20th century.”

Sept. 28  First Darling of the Morning: Selected Memories of an Indian Childhood by Thrity Umrigar; reviewed by Esther Willison, former teacher at the Open School, and published short story writer. “Freelance journalist Umrigar, author of The Space Between Us, alternates between sweet and biting accounts of her middle-class Parsi upbringing in 1960s and 1970s Bombay.”

Oct. 5  The Execution of Willie Francis: Race, Murder and the Search for Justice in the American South by Gilbert King; reviewed by Helga Schroeter, community activist, member League of Women Voters. “In 1946 in the small town of St. Martinsville, Louisiana, 17-year-old Willie Francis was arrested for the murder of the town pharmacist. Drawing on extensive research and interviews, King offers a compelling page-turner that examines American racism and justice in the region featured in the book and movie Dead Man Walking.”

Oct. 19  The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon by David Grann; reviewed by Robert Dickson, local businessman. “In 1925, renowned British explorer Col. Percy Harrison Fawcett embarked on a much publicized search to find the city of Z, site of an ancient Amazonian civilization that may or may not have existed. Fawcett, along with his grown son Jack, never returned…the book examines the stranglehold of passion as Grann's vigorous research mirrors Fawcett's obsession with uncovering the mysteries of the jungle.”

Oct. 26  Champlain’s Dream  David Hackett Fischer; reviewed by Andrew Chestnut, community activist. “Fischer, Pulitzer Prize–winner for Washington's Crossing, has produced the definitive biography of Samuel de Champlain (1567–1635): spy, explorer, courtier, soldier, sailor, ethnologist, mapmaker, and founder and governor of New France (today's Quebec), which he founded in 1608.”

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND – LITERARY DESTINATIONS!

On Wednesday, October 14, 2009, the Friends of the Library will sponsor their next Literary Trip to visit Arrowhead, the home of Herman Melville in Pittsfield, Ma. www.mobydick.org/ and Edith Wharton's home in Lenox, Ma. www.edithwharton.org/, with lunch at the historic Cranwell Resort www.cranwell.com also in Lenox. The trip costs $80 for Friends and $90 for non-members and includes guided tours of the two homes and a talk at the luncheon about Cranwell’s interesting past. We will depart promptly at 7:45 a.m. from the library’s parking lot and return by 6 p.m. Registration forms are available at the Central Library, all branches, the Whitney Book Corner and the library’s website www.scpl.org/. Checks must accompany all forms; registration deadline is September 11. For more information, contact Lisa Holt at lahnisky@yahoo.com.
SEPTEMBER

Defiance Wed., September 2 at noon & Thurs., September 3 at 7pm
Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, Jamie Bell
Paramount Vantage; Directed by Edward Zwick
Rated R; 137 minutes; 2008
It is 1941 in Eastern Europe and amid the massacre of the Jews, three brothers manage to escape into the woods near their home. Initially just surviving, they soon begin a desperate battle against the Nazi’s. Their bravery attracts others to their fight for freedom as they find a way to avenge the deaths of their loved ones.

Great New Wonderful Wed., September 9 at noon & Thurs., September 10 at 7pm
Maggie Gyllenhaal, Edie Falco, Tony Shaloub
First Independent Pictures; Directed by David Leiner
Rated R; 87 minutes; 2006
This powerful film weaves together the stories of five New Yorkers in an uncertain post-9-11 world. As each tries to pursue the goals of their daily lives the anger and disappointment that bubbles under the surface grows ever closer to the top when combined with the stress of this life-altering tragedy.

Sin Nombre Wed., September 16 at noon & Thurs., September 17 at 7pm
Paulina Gaytan, Edgar M. Flores, Buillermo Villegas
Focus Features; Directed by Cary Fukunaga
Rated R; 96 minute; 2009; Spanish with English subtitles
Seeking the promise of America, a beautiful young Honduran woman, Sayra, joins her father and uncle on an odyssey en route to the United States. Along the way she crosses paths with a Mexican gang member who is trying to outrun his violent past and elude his former associates. Together they must rely on faith, trust and street smarts if they are to survive their increasingly perilous journey towards the hope of new lives.

Soloist Wed., September 23 at noon & Thurs., September 24 at 7pm
Jamie Foxx, Robert Downey, Jr., Catherine Keener
DreamWorks Pictures; Directed by Joe Wright
Rated PG-13; 109 minutes; 2009
This biographical drama tells the true life story of musical prodigy Nathaniel Ayers. He dropped out of Julliard after developing schizophrenia and became a homeless musician on the streets of Los Angeles. A reporter looking for an article finds Ayers one day and develops a close relationship with the troubled but gifted artist.

Sunshine Cleaning Wed., September 30 at noon & Thurs., October 1 at 7pm
Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Alan Arkin
Overture Films; Directed by Christine Jeffs
Rated R; 91 minutes; 2008
Rose Lorkowski leaves her cheerleading days behind and is now a single mom working as a cleaning lady. Rose finds her best chance at quick financial success and getting her troubled son into private school in the lucrative field of crime-scene clean up.

OCTOBER

IS ITALIA MONTH!

My Brother Is An Only Child Wed., October 7 at noon & Thurs., October 8 at 7pm
Elia Germano, Luca Zingarette, Angela Finocchiaro
Image Entertainment; Directed by Daniele Luchetti
Rated R; 108 minutes; 2008; Italian with English subtitles
In a province just south of Rome we are introduced to Accio, one of a family of seven, who is a difficult child and drives his parents to desperation. He thinks that he wants to join a mission but soon realizes that priesthood is not for him. He returns back home and becomes politically involved in the local Fascist Party in rebellion against his family’s leftist beliefs.

Best Of Youth Wed., October 14 at noon & Thurs., October 15 at 7pm
Part 1 Wednesday, Part 2 Thursday
Luigi Lo Cascio, Alessio Boni, Adriana Asti, Sonia Bregamasco
Miramax Films; Directed by Marco Tullio Giordana
Rated R; 366 minutes; 2004; Italian with English subtitles
This drama, very grand in scope, follows the life of an Italian family over nearly 40 years (1966-2000). The film tells their story, centering on brothers Nicola and Matteo, but also brings to light the dramatic historical events that changed the country in that time period.

I’m Not Scared Wed., October 21 at noon & Thurs., October 22 at 7pm
Aitana Sanchez-Gijon, Dino Abbrescia, Giorgio Careccia, Giuseppe Cristiano
Miramax Films; Directed by Gabriele Salvatores
Rated R; 108 minutes; 2004; Italian with English subtitles
A young boy, Michele, finds another boy imprisoned in a hole next to an abandoned house in the middle of an impossibly beautiful Tuscan landscape. As he investigates further, he discovers that the adults (including his own parents) of his idyllic little town are all involved in a nefarious ransom scheme.

Tickets Wed., October 28 at noon & Thurs., October 29 at 7pm
Facets Multimedia
115 minutes; 2006; Italian with English subtitles
Three stories all set on a train traveling between Central Europe and Rome, which plays host to romantic encounters, arguments, and laughter.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It is humbling to see all the hard working volunteers at the book sales, the Whitney Book Corner, sorting the old books and records in the library, creating and coordinating the many programs and all the other miscellaneous jobs that the Friends participate in. We are truly fortunate to have such a large group of outstanding volunteers. I was told that the president’s job was the easiest one and I tend to agree although I am willing to pitch in when help is needed.

We can use your help to move along the Central Library expansion project by contacting the County Legislators (Susan Savage, Gary Hughes and Karen Johnson) and requesting their support. We have had several meetings but progress is very slow. We are hopeful that progress will improve as we approach the fall elections. - Bill Leitch

BOOK SALES

In May the semi-annual book sale was a huge success. The efforts of more than 200 people produced over $17,000 profit for the betterment of the Schenectady Library. We are continuing to sell the unsold books remaining after the two big book sales to BooksProQuo from New Jersey. This gives us a small profit, doesn’t burden the library staff, and makes everyone happy that the books aren’t going to the dump. This is done after we have exhausted ways to give leftovers to other non-profit agencies.

Big thank you to: GE Power University and Global Research Center for assisting in the set-up and clean-up after the sales; Sandy Andersen who does our graphics, Betty Jean Lent and Bob Schumaker who do the basic set-up, and Randy Lucia who does our security. We especially appreciate the library staff for their encouragement and tolerance of the disruption our activities cause to their professional environment. The Friends who act as cashiers and organizers deserve a special thanks for their warm and helpful attitude when they are dealing with the buying public. This continues the impression that SCPL welcomes all and is The Place to Be in Schenectady County.

– Ellie Rowland

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Did you know we are “Green”? We recycle books and multi-media materials that patrons donate to the Main Library. Sorters organize and sort books that either go to our store or sell at the two big sales (May, September) at the main library. We keep our inventory current.

We’ve had successful sales including our paperback sale in July. We also have semi-monthly sales from time to time, including multimedia. This summer we had a six week coupon sale (Buy 1, Get 1 free) that was advertised in the newspaper and on the website. Also, to support the library Children’s Reading Program, we offered a free book coupon to each child that fulfilled the reading requirements.

A survey was given to patrons at our store. The question was: “how did you hear about our store?” Answers: website, word of mouth, newspaper, bookmarks, and flyers. Comments: Great service, location, location, location; support downtown businesses; great store and people.

Don’t forget to check out our updated website: www.whitneybookcorner.org

-Gail Karl, Manager

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

The second in the series of Town and Gown lectures will be held on September 15 at 7 p.m. in the McChesney room. Professor Mark Walker, Chair of the History Department at Union College, will give a talk entitled “Nazi Science? Racial Hygiene, Autarky and Weapons of Mass Destruction”. This program, sponsored by the Trustees of the Schenectady County Public Library and Union College is intended to bring Union’s professors to the Library. The first Town and Gown program, held on July 7, was very successful. Professor Tom Werner spoke on “Sports Doping”.

ONE COUNTY/ONE BOOK is back for the 5th season! The nominated books will be announced this fall so get your reading glasses ready!

Library Pass Program- Enjoy a visit to one of the following venues with free passes available at the Central Library: Iwerks at Proctors Theatre, Schenectady Museum and Suits-Bueche Planetarium, Schenectady Civic Players, Mabee Farm Historic Site, and Empire State Aerosciences Museum. For more information on the Library Pass Program, go to www.scpl.org or call 388-4500.

• ATTENTION – computer savvy individuals! Central Library is soon starting new one-on-one, hands-on tutoring sessions that will pair a volunteer with someone who’s just starting to use a computer. Those seeking help may need tips on using a mouse or accessing a website. These computer novices will have taken our introductory classes on these topics, but may need a little extra help and reinforcement along the way. If you’re interested or need further information please contact Mary Ann Warner at 388-4573 or mw Warner@mwarner@sals.edu

• Do you love to garden? Does the growth of weeds challenge you rather than get you down? The Friends of the Library are looking for a few good people to tend the garden that borders the main parking lot. Contact Bill Leitch at 346-7337 if interested.

• Cashiers, organizers, set-up and clean-up positions available for the upcoming Book Sale, Sept. 25 & 27. Contact Ellie Rowland at 370-1958.
WELCOME TO THE FRIENDS

The following are new members to the Friends: Joan Bergin, Connie Erikson, Laura Michelson, Judith Ricci, Mr. and Mrs. James Sefcik, Morris Eiland, Don and Marilyn Leach, Louise Peake, Catherine W. Joynson, Diane and Gabe Basil, Lawson and Patricia Harris, Sharon Jordan, Kristina Phillip, Dr. Kathy Grant, Joe Landry, William R. Poppino, Lynne Brosch, Theresa DaMassa, Winifred DaLaria.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

BOOK SALE

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

most books
$1.00

paperbacks
3/$1.00

Large
selection of
records

SATURDAY,
September 26, 2009
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

*$ 2.00 Bag Sale*
Sunday, September 27
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.
NOON PROGRAMS

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN
Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

Nov. 2  Up From History: The Life of Booker T. Washington by Robert J. Norrell; reviewed by Loren Broc, Ph.D. candidate and teaching assistant at the University of Rochester. “The much-misunderstood Booker T. Washington, the most prominent African-American leader of his time, is brought back to life in riveting fashion.”

SPECIAL FEATURES-ETHNIC IMAGES
Gioia Ottaviano, Coordinator

Nov. 9  Margaret Lynch Brennan, author, activist, educator and lecturer will review the 100 year history of Irish domestics in America.

Nov. 16  Ceil Mack, Director of Public Relations and Marketing for New York Oncology Hematology will report on life in the Catskills in a talk entitled “Memories of a Bagel Baker’s Daughter”.

TABLE TALKS
John Karl, Coordinator

Nov. 23  Paul Milton, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer for Ellis Medicine will share information about Ellis’ plans for five new projects that will expand and enhance services in our community as we enter a new era in health care.

Nov. 30  Steve Weisse of the Replica Dutch ship Half Moon will discuss Henry Hudson’s four voyages, shipboard life, Native American interactions and the founding of the New Netherland colony. He will have a display of some interpretive models of the ship.

Dec. 7  Appropriate for the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Al Singleman, Commander of the Albany-Saratoga base of retired submariners, will present a history of the submarine service in World War II. He will have models for display.

Dec. 14  Dr. Quintin Bullock, new President of Schenectady County Community College, will present a program entitled “Leading in Challenging Times”.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

The Etude Club will present Music at Noon, an hour long program of classical music in the McChesney room on Friday, November 20. The program is free and open to the public.

A program of music for woodwinds will be held on Sunday, November 29, 2009 at 2.30 p.m.in the McChesney room. The Quartet “Women of Note” with guest artist Thomas Gerbino will honor the 75th anniversary of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. Ted Mihran, orchestra historian and violinist, will comment on “The Schenectady Symphony - 75 years in Concert with the Community”. Music will include works by Telemann, Mozart, Carl Maria von Weber, Vaughan Williams and Gershwin. Refreshments will follow the program.

SAVE THE DATES: Starting on January 3, 2010 and running through March 28 the Music Committee of the Friends will present a varied set of programs to be held every Sunday at 2:30 in the McChesney Room. The complete listing will be published in the next newsletter.
**NOVEMBER**

**Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired**
Documentary Feature
ThinkFilm; Directed by Marina Zenovich
Rated: 75 minutes; 2008
The exile of director Roman Polanski has become legendary over the years. After being convicted of having sexual intercourse with a minor, Polanski fled the country rather than serving jail time. This film takes the viewer through the trial and its many inconsistencies with both archival footage and interviews with Polanski’s friends and colleagues.

**Grace is Gone**
John Cusack, Doug Dearth, Alessandro Nivola
The Weinstein Company;
Directed by James C. Strouse
Rated PG-13; 85 minutes; 2007
Upon hearing his wife was killed in the Iraq war, Stanley realizes that he cannot think of a way to break the news to his two daughters. He takes them on a road trip to their favorite amusement park while trying to prepare himself for both the delivery of the life changing announcement as well as reconciling his own feelings in this emotional drama.

**Food, Inc.**
Documentary Feature
Magnolia Pictures; Directed by Robert Kenner
Rated PG; 94 minutes; 2009
This controversial film lifts the veil on our nation’s food industry. Our nation’s food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment. We have bigger, better, longer lasting food but we also have new strains of e coli, are riddled with widespread obesity and have an epidemic level of diabetes among adults.

**Rocket Science**
Reece Thompson, Anna Kendrick, Vincent Piazza
Picturehouse; Directed by Jeffrey Blitz
Rated R; 98 minutes; 2007
Hal Hefner is an average sophomore who is cursed with a homophobe for a dad and little opportunity for art education. When John discovers that famous Russian artist Nicoli Seroff lives nearby, he introduces himself to the cantankerous alcoholic, hoping to become his student. Nicoli hates the world but John’s intelligence piques his curiosity and the two spend a summer in the country discussing art and life, learning from each other.

**DECEMBER**

**Away We Go**
John Krasinski, Maya Rudolph, Jeff Daniels
Focus Features; Directed by Sam Mendes
Rated PG-13; 106 minutes; 2009
A couple expecting their first child travels around the U.S. in order to find a perfect place to start their family once the parents with whom they were going to stay decide to move. Along the Way, they have misadventures and find fresh connections with an assortment of relatives and old friends who just might help them discover “home” on their own terms for the first time.

**My Sister’s Keeper**
Cameron Diaz, Alec Baldwin, Abigail Breslin
New Line Cinema.; Directed by Nick Cassavetes
Rated PG-13; 106 minutes; 2009
After their daughter is stricken with leukemia, a couple conceives another child who can provide a donor match. The family is torn apart when, after countless surgeries, transfusions and shots so that her older sister Kate can somehow fight leukemia, the healthy younger sibling sues her parents for the right to decide how her body is used.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thanks to all the Friends for their camaraderie and hard work while working on or sponsoring the following: the outstanding fall used book sale; the very successful 7 days a week sales at the Whitney Book Corner; continual support work including used book sorting, lifting, moving and storage; the new, successful computer book sale activity; the educational library literary trips; the great programs at the McChesney Room and finally, all the other important volunteer jobs that support our great library. – Bill Leitch

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Hundreds of video tapes are flying out of the WBC at $.50 each. A patron of the Central Library said that the WBC is a gem, and never close it. We even had a marriage proposal at the bookstore! Don’t forget our gift certificates; they would be great for the upcoming holidays.

Please check out our website for more good news & upcoming sale events:
www.whitneybookcorner.org – Gail Karl

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have 28 new members and would like to welcome the following people: C. Brooke Brannigan, Leonara Darling, Penny DeFelippo, Kathy Kohler, Sari & Michael Medick, Margaret Vrooman, Michele Warrell, Charles & Jenny Frank, Claudia Marrhew, Mary Ann Tote, Maggie Wilkinson, Jessa Allen, Phyllis Budka, Susan Grey, Carol Cascio, Lois Etkin, Janet Kristel, Antonia Rader, Eileen Sowa, Kate Vrtiak, Paula Carosella, Marion Burns, Bruce Northrup, Dawn Knutson, Germaine Doremus, Lillian Zola, Nancy Fitzroy, and Jennifer Hayner.

We want to thank all of the members who report their contributions for the GE matching gift program! GE now matches quarterly and all gifts of $25 or more can be registered at www.gefoundation.com or by phone at 1-800-305-0669. Fall renewal reminders will be mailed in early November; our fiscal year is from July 1-June 30.

DID YOU KNOW?

A new plaque is gracing the front of the Scotia Branch of the Library commemorating the placement of the building on the National Register of Historic Places. Funding for this was provided by the Friends. Stop by to see it!

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

The Annual Community of Writers Program will be held on Sunday, November 22, 2009, at 2pm in the McChesney Room. The following writers will be appearing in this year’s program: Schenectady County's new Poet Laureate Steve Hillard Swartz, Bonnie Harlan-Stankus (memoir, personal essay), Malcolm Willison (poetry), Melinda Morris Perrin (poetry), William Patrick (Saving Troy), Sarah Howes (essay), Sylvie Brier (historic mystery), Jack Rightmyer (A Funny Thing About Teaching), Bill Buell (Gazette writer/book Historic Schenectady County), and two members of the SCPL Creative Writing Group: Wonja Brucker (memoir) and Rhema Boston. A reception will follow the program and the writers will have their works for sale.

A Business & Bagels program will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. in the McChesney Room. Lately the technology world is in a “twitter” about social networking. MySpace started the trend, but now businesses are getting on board with websites like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Does social networking matter for your business? In this session Kathy Montgomery, owner of LTF Tech, will discuss the principles behind the trend, how some of the major services work, and how to decide whether your business should jump on the social networking bandwagon.

Wicked Fun! SCPL will be celebrating “Wicked Wednesday” on December 9, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. in the McChesney Room with the appearance of Gregory Maguire, the author of Wicked and many other works, including a Christmas novel. This is the opening day of Wicked at Proctor’s and downtown Schenectady will become the Emerald City. Registration is required by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511. A special basket incentive is being put together which will include two tickets to the show and other treats and will be on display at the Central Library beginning October 31, 2009. Those attending the program will be able to enter the drawing; a reception will follow. Additionally, the library is partnering with Janet Hutchison of the Open Door Bookstore to conduct a pre-sale of selected titles. Order forms will be available October 31, 2009 at all SCPL libraries, the Open Door, the Whitney and online at www.scpl.org. The first 25 people to do a pre-order will get a free copy of a Gregory Maguire book.

DISTRIBUTION TEAM

Thank you to the following for working on the September/October newsletter: Rudy Dehn, John Karl, Bill & Mary Liz Leitch, Anne Yunick, Julie Shepelavy, and Lois & Bill Isles.
The Friends made $19,745 from the semi-annual book sale held September 26 and 27; $1,716 of this amount was made at the bag sale. The Whitney Book Corner sold almost $800 worth of books and VHS tapes that same Saturday and Sunday. At 9:00 there was a large crush of people, which did diminish some during the day, but the sale was generally a busy, happy place. Our outside cashiers were the heroes of the day because even though it was sunny, a cold wind was blowing. The customers found all the workers helpful, enthusiastic, and informed.

How do we make this kind of money? The people of Schenectady County and elsewhere donate a huge number of books in good condition to the Friends and the library gives us books no longer needed for its collection. From these two sources come the books for the Whitney, the sales, and online selling. In turn, the money we make at the book sales goes to purchase books for the branch libraries. Since the May sale until August 31, the Whitney made over $15,000 and $2,800 was raised by on-line sales. The volumes for all three money-making ventures come from the efforts of the Wednesday sorters and volunteers working at other times.

The sale depends on a huge number of workers. Most of the cashiers, organizers, department coordinators and set up crew are members of the Friends, but the setting up of the sale could not have happened without the additional efforts of The GE Power University, led by Matt Mattson and the Bridge Center volunteers. Thank you! A big change: Bern Allanson took over the selling of records at “Fred’s Place” in the hall, named for Fred Thompson, who had so successfully managed the records and the media for all the years that records have been sold at the sale. Fred collected them, stored them, sorted them, stocked the Whitney with them, and sold them at the sales for fourteen years. Thank you Fred!

We also wish to thank the library staff for enduring the disruption of their work environment during the sale. A special thanks goes to Betty Jean Lent and Bob Schumaker for the banners and table set-ups and general guidance, George Kirker for constructing the dealer’s tent, Sandy Anderson for graphics and Randy Lucia for security. We are thankful that the remaining books are sold to Pro Quo Books for recycling.

Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to make this sale the best ever!

-Virginia Thompson and Ellie Rowland, Co-Chairpersons
NOTE: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listings for days and times.

NOON PROGRAMS

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN
Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

Jan. 4  Emily Post – Daughter of the Gilded Age, Mistress of American Manners by Laura Claridge; reviewed by Anne Bishop, retired history teacher. “Despite her limited access to Emily Post's personal papers, Laura Claridge does her best to bring Post to life against the ever-changing cultural landscape of the early 20th century.”

Jan. 11 Bold Endeavors: How Our Government Built America and Must Do It Again by Felix Rohatyn; reviewed by Dr. William Valchovic, General Electric retiree. “A compelling narrative of ten large and transformative events in American history …an absorbing journey about determined national leaders …who found the will, steadiness, and political acumen to make decisions that were often unpopular but that proved to be visionary.”

Jan. 25 Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain by Oliver Sacks; reviewed by Dr. Walter Grattidge, Coordinator of the Friends Science Series. “Sacks examines the extreme effects of music on the human brain and how lives can be utterly transformed by the simplest of harmonies.”

Feb. 1 The Peculiar Life of Sundays: A Cultural History of Sunday Observances in the Christian West by Stephen Miller; reviewed by Arthur Hudak, Missioner at First Reformed Church in Schenectady. “A fascinating cultural history of Sunday that draws on some of our best-known writers and public figures.”

Feb. 8 The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care by T.R. Reid; reviewed by C. Christopher Rush, consultant on health care planning and financing. “Reid explores health-care systems around the world in an effort to understand why the U.S. remains the only first world nation to refuse its citizens universal health care.”

Feb. 22 Why We Cooperate by Michael Tomasello; reviewed by Dr. George Wise, retired director of the Dudley Observatory and speech writer for General Electric R&D. “Tomasello, co-director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, shares his theories on how human cooperation evolved and suggests it is a defining characteristic of our species.”

Great Decisions 2010

The Great Decisions discussion series, held on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the McChesney Room, is free of charge and sponsored by the national, non-partisan Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org). Its purpose is to encourage free and open discussion of major foreign policy issues. A discussion guide that gives participants a comprehensive balanced view of each of the topics is helpful, but not mandatory. A copy may be ordered by contacting Phil Adams (393 9505) padams1@jhu.edu, or Frank Feiner (377 9448) FFEINER@nycap.rr.com. The series topics are as follows:

Feb. 2 – Special Envoys  Mar. 2 – Global Financial Crisis
Feb. 9 – Kenya/East Africa  Mar. 9 – Russia and its Neighbors
Feb. 16 – Global Crime  Mar. 16 – The Persian Gulf
January

Wednesday, January 6 at noon & January 7 at 7pm

_Brotherhood of the Wolf_
Samuel Le Bihan, Mark Dacascos, Emile Dequenne, Vincent Cassel, Monica Bellucci
Universal Focus Pictures; Directed by Christophe Gans
Rated R; 142 minutes; 2001; French with English subtitles

Set in 18th Century France, this French thriller is based on a true story, and follows the legend of the Beast of the Gevaudan, a being that is attacking women and children. The Chevalier de Fronsac and his native American friend Mani are sent by the King to the Gevaudan province to investigate the killings by the mysterious beast. The attacks have been happening for months and no one has been able to even get a look at the beast, let alone try to devise a plan to stop it. The Chevalier finds that he will not only have to deal with the Beast, but also ignorance, bigotry and conspiracy of the members of the village.

Wednesday, January 13 at noon & Thursday, January 14 at 7pm

_The Horseman on the Roof_
Juliette Binoche, Olivier Martinez, Isabelle Carre
Miramax Films; Directed by Jean-Paul Rappeneau
Rated R; 135 minutes; 1996; French with English subtitles

A courageous man embarks on a treacherous journey across the south of France during a devastating cholera epidemic and meets the love of his life (Juliette Binoche) in this harrowing tale set against a breathtaking landscape in 1930s Provence.

Wednesday, January 20 at noon & Thursday, January 21 at 7pm

_8 Women_
Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, Emmanuelle Beart, Fanny Ardant
Focus Features; Directed by Francois Ozon
Rated R; 108 Minutes; 2002; French with English subtitles

In the 1950’s the patriarch of a dysfunctional family Marcel is found stabbed to death in his room. There are eight women in his life who are all very probable suspects as there is a snowstorm and no one else is in the house. All of the characters - his wife Gaby, his daugthers Suzon and Catherine, his mother-in-law Mamy, his sister-in-law Augustine, his sister Pierette, the cook Chanel and the maid Louise – are shown to have a legitimate motive.

Wednesday, January 27 at noon & Thursday, January 28 at 7pm

_With a Friend Like Harry_
Laurent Lucas, Sergi Lopez, Mathilde Seigner
Miramax Films; Directed by Dominik Moll
Rated R; 117 minutes; 2000; French with English subtitles

The story centers on Michel, a repressed family man who goes on vacation with his wife and three daughters. Chaos ensues when Michel runs into Harry, a childhood classmate who joins them as they head to their remote summer home in the countryside. This unusual film is a nicely balanced mix of dark comedy, French thriller and surreal drama. Michael is as disheveled and haggard and Harry is sleek and confident but it soon becomes apparent that Harry solves his problems through any means necessary.

February

Wednesday, February 3 at noon & February 4 at 7pm

_Trucker_
Michelle Monaghan, Nathan Fillion, Benjamin Bratt
Monterey Media; Directed by James Mottern
Rated R; 90 minutes; 2009

Diane Ford is a vivacious and successful independent truck driver who leads a carefree life of long-haul trucking until the evening her estranged 11-year-old son Peter shows up at her door. Peter doesn't want to be with his mother but his dad is sick so he doesn't have any choice. Burdened with this new responsibility, Diane steps reluctantly into her past and looks sidelong at a future that is not as simple or straightforward as she had once believed.

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

_Paper Heart_
Charlyne Yi, Michael Cera, Jake Johnson
Overture Films; Directed by Nicholas Jasenovac
Rated PG-13; 89 minutes; 2009

Charlyne embarks on a quest across America to make a documentary about the one subject she doesn’t fully understand, love. She meets a boy after her own heart and he becomes the object of her affection. Weaving together reality and fantasy, the film combines elements of documentary and traditional storytelling to bring a fresh perspective to the modern romance.

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

_Angels and Demons_
Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor, Stellan Skarsgard
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Ron Howard
Rated PG-13; 140 minutes; 2009

Symbolist Robert Langdon finds himself on an adventure following clues all around the Vatican joined by murdered physicist Leonardo Vetra’s daughter Vittoria. Langdon must solve the murder to unravel a plot by an ancient group, the Illuminati, to blow up the Vatican during a papal conclave.

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

_The Cove_
Documentary Feature
Lionsgate; Directed by Louis Psihoyos
Rated PG-13; 92 minutes; 2009

This film begins in Taiji, Japan, where former dolphin trainer Ric O’Barry has come to set things right. In the 1960s, it was O’Barry who captured and trained the dolphins that played the title character in the television show “Flipper.” He has now discovered a terrifying secret in a secluded cove where thousands of dolphins are hunted for meat and underhanded dealing to the entertainment industry.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all our Friends. It should be a great year for the library. We are making great progress with the building plans, working together as a team to come up with an outstanding new library with all the modern tools. We had a field trip with the library staff to review “best practices” at the Crandall Library in Glens Falls, an outstanding new library.

Welcome to Nancy Virkler, the newest member of the Friends Board who will be our new treasurer. Nancy has many years experience in banking in the Capital District and should be able to help us quickly fill the big void left after Junice Wusterbarth, our long time treasurer, steps down.

Junice joined the Friends in 1982; she was treasurer from 1986-1988, president from 1988-1990, and then became treasurer once again in 1990 until the present. She has done an outstanding job and is a very conscientious and hard worker. We will miss her!!!! –Bill Leitch

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

2009 was a great year for the Whitney Book Corner. The number of customers and amount of revenue have increased tremendously. People are getting more and more familiar with our store in downtown Schenectady.

I have to thank all my staff for making this possible – Publicity Chair, Chris Witkowski, as well as the book sorters, media sorters and those who transport the books from the library. Also, the volunteers who work at the store under the direction of Ellie Rowland have been very dependable, working the cash register, welcoming customers and stocking the shelves.

We can always use more volunteers. If you like people and want to be around books, you might consider contacting Gail Karl (393-7590) or Ellie Rowland (370-1958).

-Gail Karl

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The following are new members to the Friends of the Library: Fred & Robin Eddy, Silvia Hauser, Seymour & Agnes Faust, Mary Sommers, Albert & Catherine Paulson, Patricia Stearns, Gerri Pinkerton, Gedia Demaria and Hans & Sara Erickson. Welcome!

Thank you to the following for working on the November/December newsletter: Rudy Dehn, Hazel Davis, Bill Leitch, Anne Yunick and Bill and Mary Beaulieu.

BEAT THE SNOW!!!!

WINTER CONCERT SERIES

The Music Committee of the Friends of the Library has compiled an outstanding and varied set of programs for every Sunday at 2:30 in the McChesney Room of the main branch. Be sure to join us!

Jan. 3     Holiday Wind Down (French Horn, Voice, Piano)
Jan. 10    Our Stories (K. Dudding & M. Murphy, Storytellers)
Jan. 17    Yesteryear (Music, Stories, Poetry & more)
Jan. 24    Royals & Rivals (D. Rocco, Soprano and M. Clement, Piano)
Jan. 31    Brass is Essential (Signature Brass Quintet)
Feb. 7     Music for Fun (French Horn and more)
Feb. 14    Two by Two (Norm Frederick: Sax and Piano)
Feb. 21    Four by Four (Adirondack Saxophone Quartet)
Feb. 28    Purim Celebration Klezmer Style (D. Lambert Ensemble)
Mar. 7     Old Fashioned Sing -Along (R. Croteau & C.Patrick)
Mar. 14    Women on the Go (Etude Club)
Mar. 21    Voices of Spring (Schenectady Light Opera Company)
Mar. 28    Time to Reseed (Fairview Avenue Bluegrass Band)

ONE COUNTY/ONE BOOK

Schenectady County Public Library’s winning title for the 2010 One County, One Book program is “Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet” by Jamie Ford. A volunteer meeting for those interested in helping to plan programs for the upcoming spring series of events is slated for Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010 from 4-5 p.m. in the McChesney Room.

BOOK SALES

The fiction and non-fiction book sales are back, just in time to chase away the winter doldrums. The fiction sale is set for Jan. 23-25; non-fiction sale will be Feb. 20-22. Hours are: Sat. – 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun.-1 p.m.-5 p.m., Mon. – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

FICTION BOOK SALE

January 23-25, 2010
All Fiction
$1.00

Books on tape and VHS available.
Priced as marked.

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

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

The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

Non Fiction Book Sale

February 20-22, 2010
All Non Fiction
$1.00

Books on tape and VHS available.
Priced as marked.

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

Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton Street • Schenectady, NY 12305 • 388-4500 • www.scpil.org
NOON PROGRAMS-March-April 2010

ONE COUNTY/ONE BOOK KICK OFF
March 1 Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet To open this year’s One County/One Book program, Wonja Brucker, Assistant Director of the Schenectady County Public Library, will review the novel by Jamie Ford. “This first novel explores the age-old conflicts between father and son, the beauty and sadness of what happened to Japanese Americans in the Seattle area during World War II, and the depths and longing of deep-heart love.”

SCIENCE SERIES PROGRAMS
Walter Grattridge, Coordinator
March 8 Life Under Antarctica’s Semi-permanent Frozen Ocean: Possible Key to Ecosystems and Climates of the Past and Future
Molly Miller, PhD, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., & Samuel Bowser, PhD, Wadsworth Center, Albany, N.Y.
March 15 Inborn or Learned? A Biologist Looks at Some Human Behaviors
Helen Ghiradella, PhD, Professor, Biology Dept., SUNY-Albany
March 22 Ice Jams
John Quinlan, Meteorologist, NOAA, Albany
March 29 A Chemist Ponders the Origin of Life
John F. Brown, GE Global Research Center (ret.), Niskayuna, N.Y.

SPRING SPECIAL –BOLD ENDEAVORS II
Gioia Ottaviano, Coordinator
April 5 New York State Architecture – The State Capitol
James Jamieson, A.I.A., will talk about the history and architecture of the Capitol, its controversy in the late 19th century, the great fire of 1911, the disrespect and fall from grace following WWII and its current renaissance of restoration. Mr. Jamieson is the Capitol Architect for the State of New York.
April 12 The Greatest Construction Show on Earth
Claire Puccia Parham, author of “St. Lawrence Seaway & Power Project – An Oral History of the Greatest Construction Show on Earth” will speak. A lecturer at Siena College, Dr. Parham specializes in modern American and world history.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN
Linda Witkowski, Coordinator
April 19 John James Audubon: The Making of an American by Richard Rhodes; reviewed by Dr. Carl George, Professor Emeritus, Biology, Union College. “Rhodes succeeds in shedding light on how Audubon perfected his ability to capture in his depictions of birds so much life and emotion that they transcend traditional wildlife painting.”
April 26 My River Chronicles: Rediscovering America on the Hudson by Jessica DuLong; reviewed by John Rowen, freelance book reviewer and former member of the Friends of the Albany County Public Library. “In a world where we are growing increasingly disconnected from anything real, what a delight to enter the engine room with Jessica DuLong, a real person doing a real thing in a real place.”
March

One County/One Book Presentations

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

Snow Falling on Cedars
Ethian Hawke, James Cromwell, Richard Jenkins, Directed by Scott Hicks
Rated PG-13; 126 minutes; A daring cinematic translation of David Guterson's best-selling novel about a trial that occurs in the midst of deep anti-Japanese sentiments following World War II. Set in 1954 on an island in the Pacific Northwest, this haunting tale of love undone by societal pressures and familial customs is an elegiac, multi-layered exploration of truth, justice and vagaries of the human heart. In a directorial tour-de-force, Hicks employs an unconventional narrative that casts a powerful, hypnotic spell on the viewer.

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

Round Midnight
Dexter Gordon, Francois Cluzet
Directed by Bertrand Tavernier Rated R; 130 minutes; Bertrand Tavernier’s glowing tribute to the golden age of be-bop, featuring jazz great Dexter Gordon as an expatriate Black American jazz saxophonist who becomes the very embodiment of the music itself and its era. Filled with the stirring sounds of jazz, the film features exciting performances by many of the sound's best artists. This is considered to be the best jazz film ever made.

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

Bird
Forest Whitaker, Diane Venora, Michael Zeilniker
Directed by Clint Eastwood Rated R; 160 min. A critically acclaimed biographical film that gives remarkable insight into the turbulent life of jazz saxophonist Charlie "Yardbird" Parker (Forest Whitaker), from his be-bop jazz to his drug problem and legal difficulties and the stabilizing influence of Chan (Diane Venora), a woman totally dedicated to him.

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

Children of the Camps
Documentary 57 minutes; 1999
This award winning documentary captures the experiences of six Americans of Japanese ancestry who were confined as innocent children to internment camps by the U.S. government during World War II. The film vividly portrays their personal journey to heal the deep wounds they suffered from this experience.

Wednesday, March 31 at noon & Thursday, April 1 at 7pm

From A Silk Cocoon
Documentary 57 minutes; 2005
The discovery of a small metal box leads to the uncovering of a family story, shrouded in silence for more than 60 years. Woven through their censored letters, diary entries, and haiku poetry, is the true story of a young Japanese American couple whose shattered dreams and forsaken loyalties lead them to renounce their American citizenship while held in separate prison camps during World War II. They struggle to prove their innocence and fight deportation during a time of wartime hysteria and racial profiling.

April

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

Julie and Julia
Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Stanley Tucci
Rated PG-13; 123 minutes; 2009
A woman verging on thirty and frustrated in a temp secretary job takes on a yearlong culinary quest: cook all 524 recipes in Julia Child’s "Mastering the Art of French Cooking." She chronicles her trials and tribulations in a blog that catches on with the food crowd. This film follows both women who, while separated by time and space, discover that with the right combination of passion, fearlessness and butter, anything is possible.

Wednesday, April 14 at noon & Thursday, April 21 at 7pm

The Hurt Locker
Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Guy Pearce;
Directed by Kathryn Bigelow Rated R; 131 minutes; 2009 .This film is an intense portrayal of elite soldiers who have one of the most dangerous jobs in the world: disarming bombs in the heat of combat. When a new sergeant takes over a highly trained bomb disposal team, he surprises his two subordinates by recklessly plunging them into a deadly game of urban combat. As the men struggle to control their wild new leader, the city explodes into chaos and James' true character reveals itself in a way that will change each man forever.

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

The Informant
Matt Damon, Melanie Lynskey, Scott Bakula
Warner Bros.; Rated R; 108 minutes; 2009
Based on a true story, a high-ranking executive, Mark Whitacre, at Archer Daniels Midland joins forces with the FBI to bring down both his company and the entire food industry. He uncovers a large price-fixing scam and decides to become an informant but ends up doing more jail time than his corrupt bosses.

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

A Serious Man
Michael Stuhlbarg, Richard Kind, Aaron Wolf
Focus Features; Directed by Joel Coen and Ethan Coen Rated R; 105 minutes; 2009
This dark comedy centers on Larry Gopnik, a Jewish college professor in the Midwest during the 1960s. He watches his life unravel as his wife prepares to leave him for his pompous colleague, his deadbeat brother won't get off the couch, his son is having problems at school and his daughter is stealing money from his wallet in order to save up for a nose job.
The annual meeting of the Friends of the SCPL is scheduled for Monday, April 19 at Schenectady County Community College (see registration form). Our speaker will be Christine McDonald, Director of the new Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls. She will show slides and discuss the experiences they encountered while building a new library.

We will be electing new board members and saying goodbye to some of our hard-working members whose terms are expiring, including Bill Beaulieu, Membership Chair, and Junice Wuisterbarth, Treasurer.

We are continuing to meet with the County Legislature on a monthly basis to discuss the plans for an upgraded main library in Schenectady. We’re optimistic that we will agree on a plan to start construction soon. –Bill Leitch

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The WBC is doing well, averaging over a thousand customers per month. From March 6-21, we will have the ever-popular paperback sale; garden books will be on sale from April 3-18 for $1.00. Let’s get ready for spring! Watch for our mini sales toward the end of each month.

Some people wonder if the WBS is a private used book store. On the contrary! We need to inform the public that we are members of the Friends of SCPL and that we sell the discarded books, videos, DVDs and records that the library and the public donate to us. The donations are sorted upstairs in the library and brought to the store by hard working and dedicated volunteers. If you have a suggestion that will help get this message out to the public, other than on the posters, flyers have a suggestion that will help get this message.

We’re optimistic that we will agree on a plan to start construction soon. –Bill Leitch

BOOK SALES

The fiction sale, held January 23 – 25, sold approximately 2,300 books, with science fiction and large print categories sold at the Whitney Book Corner. It was a happy break from the winter routine for patrons and volunteers alike.

Special thanks to Leah and Bill Leonard, and Judy Dillenbeck, who worked four days organizing all the books and to Nancy Virkler and Valerie Catlin who took care of the finances. We had thirty wonderful volunteers serving as cashiers and organizers during the three day sale.

The Friends greatly appreciate the wonderful cooperation we receive from the library staff. We say thank you to Bob Schumaker, who moved the tax forms temporarily and set up the tables Friday morning, to Sandy Anderson, who did all the graphics and printing, and to Randy Lucas, who provided security. Without their help, the sale couldn’t happen.

Many hard working people helped with the set up and the take down of the sale – we thank them! The books that weren’t sold will be added to the big sale on May 1 & 2.

TENTH ANNUAL POETRY GALA

It’s not too early to start thinking about the Poetry Gala to be held on April 11, 2010 in the McChesney Room. Come to recite; come to hear; come to a lovely afternoon in April. Light refreshments will be available at 2 p.m., with readings to follow from 2:30-4 p.m. If you would like to read or recite a favorite poem, call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904.

EVER WONDER….

Just what the Friends of the Library do?

• In November, 2009, 150 seventh and eighth grade Schenectady City School District girls were able to attend an event entitled The First Annual Girls’ Day Out: Breaking Barriers/Building Relations thanks to a generous contribution from the Friends.

• During vacation week in February the Children’s Room presented Captain Jack’s Magic Show, courtesy of the Friends. And in April the Friends will fund the Schenectady Theater for Children’s performance scheduled during spring break.

• The free computer literacy classes offered to the public are completely paid for by the Friends.

Our contributions matter!

HELP WANTED

Volunteers are needed to provide one-on-one computer literacy tutoring at the main branch. Those seeking help may need tips on using a mouse or accessing a web site; most have taken introductory classes on these topics. If interested in this opportunity contact Mary Ann Warner at 388-4573 or mwarner@sals.edu

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Winter Concert Series continues through March on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the McChesney Room of the main branch.

Mar. 7 Old Fashioned Sing -Along
Mar. 14 Women on the Go (Etude Club)
Mar. 21 Voices of Spring (Schenectady Light Opera Company)
Mar. 28 Time to Reseed (Fairview Avenue Bluegrass Band)

On Sunday, April 18, at 2:30 in the McChesney Room the students and faculty of the Music Department of SCCC will give a recital featuring a piano duet including Brahms Hungarian Dances and the Liebeslieder Waltzes for four hands, as well as the SCCC Vocal Chamber Ensemble with soloists performing opera duets and arias. Refreshments will follow the program.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The friends are members of the Friends of the Library and the SCPL and that we sell the discarded books, videos, DVDs and records that the library and the public donate to us. The donations are sorted upstairs in the library and brought to the store by hard working and dedicated volunteers. If you have a suggestion that will help get this message out to the public, other than on the posters, flyers have a suggestion that will help get this message.

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

LITERARY DESTINATIONS

On Saturday, May 8, 2010, the Friends of the Schenectady County Library will sponsor their next literary bus trip to Tarrytown, New York to visit Kykuit, home of John D. Rockefeller and Sunnyside, Washington Irving’s home. Lunch will be at Castle on the Hudson, one of 200 Historic Hotels of America. The trip includes guided tours of the homes and a three course lunch at the Castle.

The bus will leave promptly at 6:30 a.m. from the library’s parking lot and return by 7:30 p.m. The trip costs $90 for members, $100 for non-members and includes the bus, admission fees and tours, lunch and all taxes and gratuities. Registration will begin on Friday, February 26 and end April 2. Registration forms will be available in the main library, branches and on the library’s website. The previous trip was sold out quickly so get your checks and registration forms into the main library as soon as possible.

Information on the two homes can be found at www.hudsonvalley.org; restaurant information can be found at www.castleonthehudson.com Contact Lisa Holt at lahnisky@yahoo.com for additional information.

DISTRIBUTION TEAM

We thank the following people for their help with the distribution of the last newsletter: Lois and Bill Isles, John Karl, Mary Liz and Bill Leitch, Bill Beaulieu, Rudy Dehn, Kathy August and Anne Yunich.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Friends would like to welcome the following new members: David and Carol Furman, Margaret and Harvey Schadler, Judi Maloney and Kathie Lutz.

ONE COUNTY/ONE BOOK

Programs & Events

A number of events and programs are being developed in conjunction with the OCOB featured book, Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet. For a complete listing check www.onecountyonebook.org/events Call 388-4511 if you have any questions or need registration forms.

Eat lunch with Jamie Ford Would you like a chance to eat lunch with the author? Read and discuss Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet with a group then register your group for a chance to win lunch with him on Saturday, March 27 at noon. Deadline to enter: Saturday, March 20. Check the library web site for ways you may participate.

Art & Poetry Contest for Grades 2-8 Children in grades 2-8 are invited to write a haiku in the traditional manner of form and content, and illustrate it with any medium they choose. There will be a Winners’ Reception on Friday, April 16 as part of Art Night Schenectady Deadline: Friday, March 19. Registration forms can be found at the library or on the web site.

Meet the Author On March 27 at 2p.m, in the Begley Auditorium, Schenectady County Community College, Jamie Ford will speak. A reception, with jazz music provided by the Al Haugen Quartet, and book signing will follow his program. Books may be pre-ordered with a 20% discount by contacting the Open Door Bookstore. They will also be selling books at full price the day of the program.

Town & Gown: Japanese Internment Program On Tuesday, April 6 at 7p.m, in the McChesney Room, Central Library, Dr. Andrew Morris from Union College will present a program on Japanese Internment during WWII. Tea will be provided by our OCOB partner, Divinitea.

Book Discussion and Dinner at Mari’s Japanese Restaurant Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m., facilitated by Rich Holt. Cost: $20 per person due at registration. Register at the Reference Desk, Central Library.

Art & Poetry Contest Winners’ Reception On Friday, April 16 from 6:30-7:30p.m, in the McChesney Room, Central Library, the winning pieces from the Art & Poetry Contest will be displayed as part of Art Night Schenectady. Music will be provided by Japanese jazz pianist, Yuko Kishimoto. Prizes and certificates will be awarded at 7p.m. All are welcome to attend.
Friends of Schenectady County Public Library – 44th Annual Dinner Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2010, 5:00 p.m., Van Curler Room
Schenectady County Community College (SCCC)
178 Washington Avenue, Schenectady

Evening’s Schedule:  5:00 p.m. – Social Hour
  5:45 p.m. – Musical Interlude
  6:00 p.m. – Dinner

Speaker: Christine McDonald, Director Crandall Library (serving Glens Falls, N.Y.)

About the Sit-Down Dinner in the Van Curler Room: The culinary arts students at SCCC prepare each dish. Both the culinary arts and hotel and restaurant management students provide the dining room service.

The Menu:

* Baby mixed green salad with cherry tomatoes and fresh mozzarella cheese, served with balsamic vinaigrette

Choice of Entrees:
- Sautéed boneless chicken breast served with a Dijon white wine sauce
- Broiled salmon with crabmeat and asparagus
- Stuffed grilled portabella mushroom

Chef’s choice of seasonal spring vegetable
Fresh rolls and butter
Mixed berry shortcake
Coffee or tea

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

**Officers:**  President: Bill Leitch; 1st Vice President: Gene Rowland; 2nd Vice President: Debbie McCambridge; Secretary: Mary Beth Barbagelata; Treasurer: Nancy Virkler

**Directors:** For an initial three year term: Robert B. Coppola, Virginia Golden, William Ward, Karen Watkins
For a second three year term: Simon Weinstein

Further information concerning the candidates will be presented at the meeting.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:
- From the east via Route 5, State Street, turn left at Washington Avenue in front of the College. Turn right into main parking lot.
- 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.
- From south and east: Take I-90, New York Thruway, to Exit 25, “Schenectady.” Take I-890 West to Exit 4C- “To Route 5, Scotia.” At the traffic light, turn left on to State Street. Route 5 West (Western Gateway Bridge) for 1/10 mile. Take the “Schenectady County Community College” exit ramp on the right. At stop sign (Columbus Drive), turn right; at the next stop sign, turn left into main parking lot.
- From the north (via the Northway, I-87): Take I-87 South to the New York State Thruway, I-90 West. Take Thruway to Exit 25, “Schenectady.” Take I-890 West to Exit 4C – “To Route 5, Scotia.” At the traffic light at end of ramp, turn left on to State Street, Route 5 West (Western Gateway Bridge) for 1/10 mile. Take the “Schenectady County Community College/Gateway Landing” exit ramp on the right. At stop sign (Columbus Drive), turn right; at the next stop sign, turn left into main parking lot.

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation
Monday, April 19, 2009 @ 5:00 p.m.  Van Curler Dining Room

Number attending_________________________

Amount Enclosed_________________@ $20.00/person

Attendee names (Please print)  Circle one choice of entree

____________________________________ Chicken  Salmon  Vegetarian
____________________________________ Chicken  Salmon  Vegetarian

Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail by April 5 to:

Simon Weinstein
4036 Windsor Drive
Niskayuna, NY 12309
COMING SOON – SAVE THE DATES!

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

BOOK SALE

most books $1.00
paperbacks 3/$1.00

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

Large selection of records

SUNDAY, May 1, 2010
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

* $ 2.00 Bag Sale*
Sunday, May 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.
May/June 2010                                                                                      Vol. XLV, No. 5

Note: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listings for days and times.

NOON PROGRAMS

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN
Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

May 3  The Ballad of Dorothy Wordsworth: A Life by Frances Wilson; reviewed by Dr. Peter Heinegg, professor of English, Union College. “This sensitive and elegantly written life of Dorothy Wordsworth, sister of the poet William Wordsworth, centers on four small notebooks, her so-called Grasmere Journals.”


May 17 People’s History of the United States: 1492 to Present by Howard Zinn; reviewed by Joan Ham, UCALL course coordinator and lecturer, retired social worker. “Zinn infuses the often-submerged voices of blacks, women, American Indians, war resisters, and poor laborers of all nationalities into this thorough narrative that spans American history from Christopher Columbus’s arrival to an afterword on the Clinton presidency.”

May 24 Behind the Scenes in the Lincoln Whitehouse: Memoirs of an African-American Seamstress by Elizabeth Keckley; reviewed by Dr. Elaine Handley, Professor of Literature and Writing, Empire State College. “Keckley’s narrative is riveting as she recounts life in the White House during the Lincoln administration in meticulous detail. The book is a remarkable firsthand narrative of both African-American and Civil War history, sure to engage equally the history buff, lovers of literature, and those who don’t mind a bit of good, old-fashioned gossip.”

Every Member Add a Member

By now we have all received notice to renew our membership in the Friends of the Library. Your contribution has enabled the Schenectady Library, with all of its branches, to remain a true gem for the residents of the county. Your dues and contributions, revenues from book sales and the bookstore, at which many of you volunteer, have paid for almost all the adult and children’s programs provided by the library. Every year the Friends budget over $100,000 to help keep our library collections up to par as well as to provide funds for programs and materials. When the computer literacy program was threatened with cancellation due to a lack of funds, the Friends provided the resources needed to continue this valuable program. Many of our patrons rely on the library’s computers to find work and our contributions ensured uninterrupted service. Over the past 5 years, as staffing has been reduced by 18% and circulation and library use has increased by over 13%, the network of Friends members has been busy recruiting volunteers to take up the slack.

The Friends need your help. More members will enable us to maintain our excellent programs. Talk to your neighbors; invite them to join the Friends. Basic individual membership is only ten dollars. Best bargain in the county. Higher contributions are always welcome ($50.00 will get them a nice thank you note). Those with GE connections or other matching opportunities can build our resources with a contribution of $25.00 or more. So, be a Friend and help us add to our membership. For more information about how to become a member, call 393-7590 or email jkarl1@nycap.rr.com.
MAY

Wednesday, May 5 at noon & Thursday, May 6 at 7pm

**Sherlock Holmes**

Robert Downey, Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams
Rated PG-13; 128 minutes; 2009

In a dynamic new portrayal of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s most famous characters, Holmes and Watson are sent on their latest challenge. Revealing fighting skills as lethal as his legendary intellect, Holmes will battle as never before to bring down a new nemesis and unravel a deadly plot that could destroy the country.

Wednesday, May 12 at noon & Thursday, May 13 at 7pm

**Red Cliff**

Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Takeshi Kaneshiro
Magnet Releasing; Rated R; 131 minutes; 2009

English subtitles

This epic historical drama is based on a legendary 208 A.D. battle that heralded the end of the Han Dynasty. The film opens as power hungry Prime Minister-turned-General Cao Cao seeks permission to organize a mission designed to crush the two troublesome warlords who stand in his way. Movie follows a heroic campaign – unrivaled in history – that changes the face of China forever.

Wednesday, May 19 at noon & Thursday, May 20 at 7pm

**Pirate Radio**

Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bill Nighy, Rhys Ifans
Rated R; 135 minutes; 2009

Celebrated filmmaker Richard Curtis brings audiences his most personal comedy to date. Writing and directing the story of a band of rogue deejays who captivated British radio listeners in the ‘60s, playing the music that defined a generation and standing up to a government that, incomprehensibly, preferred jazz, Curtis welcomes us aboard The Boat That Rocked.

Wednesday, May 26 at noon & Thursday, May 27 at 7pm

**Maybe God Is Ill**

Documentary Feature
Not Rated; 88 minutes; 2010

Italian with English subtitles

Award winning writer, Walter Veltroni takes us on a stirring, unforgettable journey across the vast continent of Africa to witness controversial stories of tragedy, turmoil and hope.

JUNE

Wednesday, June 2 at noon & Thursday, June 3 at 7pm

**Treeless Mountain**

Hee-yeon Kim, Kim Mi Jung, Jung Gil Ja
Not Rated; 89 minutes; 2008

Korean with English subtitles

What is the nature of childhood resilience? Sisters Jin and Bin, ages 6 and 3, live with their mother. Jin likes school and does well. One day, their mother leaves the girls with their father’s sister, a woman they do not know, to seek a reconciliation with their father. The girls scrub and clean for their aunt, a tipsper who’s often cranky and complaining. The girls earn a few coins for their work but they miss their mother and wait every day for her return.

Wednesday, June 9 at noon & Thursday, June 10 at 7pm

**The Messenger**

Ben Foster, Woody Harrelson, Samantha Morton
Rated R; 112 minutes; 2009

This powerful and tender story is about a returned war hero making his first steps toward a normal life. Will Montgomery is assigned to the Army’s Casualty Notification service where he has to bear the bad news to the loved ones of fallen soldiers. When he finds himself drawn to Olivia, to whom he has just delivered the news of her husband’s death, Will’s emotional detachment begins to dissolve and the film reveals itself as a surprising, humorous and very human portrait of grief and survival.

Wednesday, June 16 at noon & Thursday, June 17 at 7pm

**The Road**

Viggo Mortensen, Charlize Theron, Guy Pearce
Rated R; 108 minutes; 2009

Based on the best selling novel, this film is the story of a man and his young son traveling through a desperate, post-apocalyptic world. Walking through a burned and desolate America, they travel to the coast to try to find a new life. Armed with only a pistol to defend themselves, they must fight their way through the lawless bands that stalk the road.

Wednesday, June 23 at noon & Thursday, June 24 at 7pm

**Young Victoria**

Emily Blunt, Miranda Richardson, Jim Broadbent
Rated PG; 105 minutes; 2009

This dramatization covers the turbulent first years of Queen Victoria’s rule and her enduring romance with Prince Albert. At the age of 17, Victoria was already the object of a royal power struggle as she was in line for the throne and everyone is vying to win her favor.

Wednesday, June 30 at noon & Thursday, July 1 at 7pm

**Happy Tears**

Demi Moore, Parker Posey, Rip Torn
Lionsgate; Directed by Mitchell Lichtenstein
Rated R; 95 minutes; 2010

Jayne and Laura are about to take on the first man they just might not be able to handle: their seventy-something-year-old father Joe. Dutiful daughters returning to the house they grew up in, Jayne and Laura are forced to take a closer look at their own not-so-perfect lives while dodging childhood memories.
Phyllis Bornt, former SCPL librarian and long time member of the Friends, died in early March. At the time of her retirement in 1995 Phyllis was coordinator of the Branches. She became a member of the Friends Board of Directors in 1995 and served as president from 1999 to 2001; she served two additional three-year terms on the Board from 2004 to 2010.

Phyllis volunteered every Wednesday to sort books for the Friends book sales. She chaired the History and Archives Committees, a perfect job for the woman who, in the words of a fellow Friend, “was so knowledgeable about the history of the library and the people who were instrumental in its development and progress.” She will be sorely missed.

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Five new Board members were elected at the Annual Meeting on April 19th. We welcome Bob Coppola, Ginny Golden, Bill Ward, Karen Watkins and John Karl, all of whom have great credentials and will help the Friends continue our success in support of the library. They will replace the following departing Board members: Junice Wusterbarth, our long time treasurer, Bill Beaulieu, our hard working membership chairman, Joan Ham, our music coordinator and Frank Taormina, who worked on publicity and many other special projects. We will miss all the departing Board members and would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Bill Leitch

**WHITNEY BOOK CORNER**

New lettering identifying the WBC’s affiliation with the Friends of the Library has been placed on the store windows; we are grateful for this suggestion! Our income and patronage has grown significantly over the past several years. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to make our wonderful store a success. We are welcoming the employees who are moving downtown to the new Golub headquarters with a bookmark and a coupon. Watch for monthly book and video sales. Schenectady seems to have discovered the WBC!

-Gail Karl

**GIFTS**

The Friends gratefully acknowledge donations from Mrs. Joan Gould in memory of Alfred Brothers and from Alice Reed in memory of Phyllis Bornt.

**BOOK SALES**

The February non-fiction sale was a huge success, netting $3,451. A huge thank you goes to all those volunteers who make the sales possible, especially to the library staff who not only help with setting up tables but who work on a daily basis to bring the donated books from the loading dock to the sorting area on the second floor.

The huge spring sale is May 1 from 9-4, followed by the $2 Bag Sale on Sunday. Please tell everyone you know about this event; word of mouth is our best publicity. Volunteers are needed to help with set up at 7 a.m. on Saturday, noon on Sunday, and clean up on both days. Let’s hope for warm weather!

-Ellie Rowland

**HELP WANTED**

Are you good with computers? Do you relish the challenge of teaching? Volunteers are needed to provide one-on-one computer literacy tutoring at the main branch and/or to assist with the on-going introductory computer classes given at the library. If interested contact Christine Witkowski at 377-5643 or cwitkows@nycap.rr.com. This is a rewarding and enjoyable volunteer opportunity!

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

We welcome the following new members: Jim & Kate Foster, Cheryl Cufari, Carl George, Holly Vellano, Kim Mastrianni, Naomi Ricci, Karen Corliss, Chris Matthews, Joanne Golden, Margaret Levinne, Linda Post, Hutchin Bibbetts, Chythia Treisch, Samantha Wheatley, Mary T. Williams, Harold & Pamela Williams and Shachi Chandra.

**DISTRIBUTION TEAM**

These hardy souls braved the nasty weather in February to bring us the newsletter: Mary Beth Barbagelata, Bill Leitch, Mary Jane and Bill Beaulieu, Anne Yunick and Rudy Dehn. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**VOLUNTEER PICNIC**

All those who volunteer through the Friends or the Library itself are invited to the annual library volunteer's picnic, June 11 from 5PM until dusk at the River Road Park in Niskayuna. Non-volunteer guests are welcome for $10.00. Call the library at 388-4545 to let them know you are coming.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

The Friends of SCPL are sponsoring a bus trip on Saturday, October 2, 2010 to the 9th annual Brattleboro Literary Festival. Participants will be on their own for lunch and to attend events which are held throughout the town. Details and registration information will be available in our next newsletter. Check [www.brattleboroliteraryfestival.org](http://www.brattleboroliteraryfestival.org) for information on the festival.
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

SATURDAY,
May 1, 2010
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

*$2.00 Bag Sale*
Sunday, May 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.