

News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

September/October 2022 | Volume LVIII No. 1



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Whitney Book Corner Holds Grand Opening Celebration

The Whitney Book Corner celebrated its grand opening at 105 Clinton St. on May 10.

After a soft opening the weekend prior, dozens of volunteers, librarians, local politicians, and community supporters gathered at the corner of Liberty and Clinton Streets. People chatted inside and outside of the store until noon, when everyone was ushered outside. Several people gave speeches regarding the grand opening.

Gary McCarthy, the mayor of Schenectady spoke. He declared May 10, 2022, to be “The Whitney Book Corner Day,” which was acknowledged with enthusiastic applause.

Ray Gillen, a vibrant supporter of Whitney Book Corner and the Schenectady County Metroplex Chairman, also said a few words. He praised the dedication of the small group of volunteers tasked with finding The Whitney its new home. “This is one of the smartest, most dedicated groups I have worked with,” he stated.

Charlene Roman, president of the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library, praised the



Charlene Roman and Robin Eddy cut the ribbon at Whitney Book Corner's Grand Opening celebration in May.

hard work and commitment from volunteers and organizers. Afterwards, a ribbon was cut in a ceremony organized by the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation.

Overall, it was a beautiful day to celebrate the grand opening.



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Contact Us

friendslibrary12305@gmail.com
www.friendsofscpl.org

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I hope everyone had a great summer enjoying family and friends.

Events

Fall is here and that means time for our big fall book sale. Donations have been heavy and we have lots of great books. Comic Con returned in July and it was again a great success. Harry Potter is back in October.

While all these great events are coming back, we did discontinue our very popular Monday Noon Programs. There is still time to get

them going again if someone wants to step up and coordinate them. Contact me if you would like to.

Bookstores

Both the Whitney and A Second Look are doing well. Having the Greenmarket outside the door at the Whitney has generated traffic. The mall seems to be having more programs and people are finding our store. A couple (I think they might have owned a store) came from New Jersey after finding us on the web and spent over \$1000 at A Second Look.

— Charlene Roman

FALL BOOK SALE OCTOBER 1 & 2

Mark your calendars for the fall book sale, October 1 and 2!

Saturday, Oct 1: 10 am – 4 pm

Sunday, Oct 2: 12 pm – 3 pm

Children's, coffee table, audio books, and DVDs are included. Also, our extremely popular \$3 bag sale will be Sunday.



We are seeking volunteers to work during the sale. If you can volunteer to help for a few hours, we'd love to have you. We really have a great time — we're a fun group!

To volunteer, send an email with the subject line "Book Sale Volunteer" to Robin Eddy, rjeddy321@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER IN YOUR INBOX

Did you know that you can receive this newsletter via e-mail? Reading all the news about the Friends of the Library can be just one click away. To change your delivery preference, send an email to friendslibrary12305@gmail.com.

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSONS NEEDED

Monday Noon Programs

The Monday Noon Programs are currently on hold. The Friends are seeking a volunteer to chair the Noon Programs Committee. The chairperson's primary responsibility is to coordinate weekly discussions, which range from book reviews to science and history talks.

The committee of six volunteers schedules speakers for the discussions; the coordinator ensures each week is covered, sets up the meeting room, coordinates with library staff, and disseminates information for publicity purposes. Two people could co-chair the position. Membership in the Friends is required.

Interested? Questions? Contact Charlene Roman, Friends President, at scplfriendspres@gmail.com.

Great Decisions Program

The Great Decisions program has conducted weekly discussion groups about U.S. foreign policy and trade issues during February and March. The group will not be meeting in 2023 unless a new leader is found: Fred Eddy, who has lead the group for more than 10 years, has retired.

If you are interested in leading the group, please contact Fred at FredEddy7@gmail.com. The nationwide program is based on material obtained from the Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org).



WE COULD ALL USE A LAUGH RIGHT NOW — AND WE HAVE A BOOK FOR YOU!

The book donations for the last month have been overwhelming! The book sorting job has been a huge one. We keep winning the battle to keep up with the donations every week so we don't fall behind — which could really be disastrous. In spite of all the hard work, we really do manage to have a good time and laugh when we find a funny book title. Some of the latest finds include:

- Paint Your House with Powdered Milk
- Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun
- Flushed: How the Plumber Saved Civilization
- The Trick is to Keep Breathing
- Trumpty Dumpty Wanted a Crown
- What Einstein Told His Barber
- The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less
- Don't Pee on My Leg and Tell Me It's Raining (written by Judge Judy)
- An Atlas of Countries that Don't Exist
- Faking It: How to Seem Like a Better Person Without Actually Improving Yourself



- Are those Kids Yours?
 - Speaking with the Dead in Early America
 - Painting Pets on Rocks
 - I'd Listen to My Parents if They'd Just Shut Up
- And my favorite:
- Crafting with Cat Hair

— Lisa E

FOTL RECOGNIZED FOR DONATIONS TO SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

On April 26, the Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation held its 2022 Education Celebration. The Celebration “is a festive event designed to recognize the outstanding achievements of the students and staff of the Schenectady School District, honor our most generous benefactors, and raise awareness of the important and meaningful mission of the Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation.”

Charlene Roman, as president of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library and manager of the book stores; and Lisa Esperti and Robin Eddy, as Book Sale Committee representatives, were invited to attend the event in recognition of our book donations given at the closing of the Whitney Book Corner on Union St. and at the end of our Spring Book Sale.

Top Right: Robin Eddy, Lisa Esperti, and Charlene Roman at the Schenectady City School District Educational Foundation’s 2022 Education Celebration

Bottom Right: Book donations to the City School District during the Spring Book Sale



UPCOMING FRIENDS TRIPS

October 26: Hyde Park Day Trip

Our day trip to Hyde Park will explore all things Roosevelt. We’ll start the day with a tour of Valkill, Eleanor Roosevelt’s retreat, then go to the grounds of the FDR home for a boxed lunch at Uncle Sam’s Canteen. Following lunch, we’ll visit the FDR Library and Museum on our own and end the day with a guided tour of FDR’s home, Springwood. More information and registration forms have been emailed to Friends members and are available on the Friends website at <https://friendsofscpl.org/literary-trips/>

February 2023: Southern Charm

Join us for a trip with Collette tours called “Southern Charm”: We will visit Charleston, Savannah, and Jekyll Island from February 26—March 4, 2023. We will have a presentation about this trip soon; in the meantime, more information and registration are available at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1121794>.

September 2023: Poland (Rescheduled)

Looking ahead to fall 2023, we are rescheduling our Poland trip with Collette (after two postponements) for Sept 15—26, 2023.

We hope to travel with you soon!

— Gail Denisoff & Sue Crawford



Membership News

NEW MEMBERS

Benefactor — \$200+

- Melissa Engler & Howard Halstead
- Megan Levine

Patron — \$50-\$199

- Shannon & David Bebb
- Tim Coakley
- Helen MacDonald
- Maureen Versaci

Supporting — \$35-\$49

- Eileen DeSarro
- Eileen Eldred
- Joan Elliott
- John Sowa
- Haley Viccaro

Contributing — \$25-\$34

- Christine Boyko & Donald Farquhar
- Rose Marie McLean
- Deborah Noyes
- Charlene Shahin
- Robert Sweet
- Mary Van Denburgh

Family — \$15-\$24

- Erin & Michael Apostal
- Peter Delocis
- Dr. Jeffrey Leitner
- Lynn Purcell
- Katherine Stephens & Drew Pearson

Individual — \$10-\$14

- Jane Brockaway
- Christine Dooley
- Gloria Ferri
- Shalise Hill
- Mark Mattis
- Cathryn McBride
- Cynthia Placek
- Lynn Vincent
- Carol Vitello
- Barbara Rothenberg
- Stephan Smerk & Jennifer Clarke

JUNIOR FRIENDS

- Meline Boretti
- Teagan Clark
- Madeline Farina
- Madeline Hartmann
- Yun Hwang
- Rylee Miles
- Abhiroop Sarkar

DONATIONS

Anonymous (2)

In Honor of Priti Irani

- Co-workers from NYS Dept of Health, in honor of her retirement

FOTL Volunteers at Work: Whitney Book Corner Move



Left: Vicki Hoshko, Norrine Thompson, and Robin Eddy shelve fiction books
Below: Maria Norelli tackles non-fiction books

Above: Chris Witkowski, Chris Rapella, Robin Eddy, Norrine Thompson, and Charlene Roman at the new Whitney Book Corner location



Right: Custom bookcases getting assembled



September/October Adult Programs & Events

Register for these programs and more on the [Events & Class Registration page at www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)

FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP

**Thursdays,
Sept 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:00 pm
Central Library, Program Room 1**

Join Janine De Tillio Cammarata, award-winning author of six novels, as she teaches her process for delving deep into the writing process for any fiction genre and age group. Techniques on developing characters, plotting, setting, planning/writing that first draft will be covered. These techniques can be adapted to a short story or novel. No experience is needed — just a desire to bring out the story that's already in you.

Registration required.

A NIGHT OF JAZZ: ROBEN KOSEK JAZZ & BLUES

**Thursday, Sept 22, 6:00 pm
Central Library, McChesney Room**

Join us for a night of jazz with Roben Kosek Jazz & Blues. The group began in 2014 as a duo, with Terri Roben as vocalist and MaryAnn Kosek as jazz guitarist. In 2016, Brenda Fisher joined as bass player and vocalist. The trio plays music mostly from the 1920's to the 1960's, American Songbook, French Cafe songs, Brazilian hits from Antonio Carlos Jobim, and songs from more recent times. They have played in many venues and events around the Capital Region.

Registration required.

YOUNG MUSICIANS FORUM CONCERT

**Sunday, Sept 25, 2:00 pm
Central Library, McChesney Room**



Duo Pianists
JingCi Liu and Wenting Yu

Pianists JingCi Liu and Wenting Yu will make their second appearance in the Young Musicians Forum concert series. Their program will include solo works by Schumann, Chaminade and Debussy as well as piano four-hand arrangements including two movements from Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony.

THE HAUNTED HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND

Tuesday, Oct 11, 6:00 pm

Virtual Program

Join author and historian Christopher Daley in this virtual presentation where he melds historical fact with legend and myth to produce an interesting new look at events that really happened and the stories of haunting that followed, including: Mercy Brown, “The Vampire” of Exeter Rhode Island; the cursed Freetown State Forest in Massachusetts; the horrors of Lizzie Borden; and many more. Register for Zoom link.



HARRY POTTER EVENTS OCTOBER 13 & 15

TRIVIA NIGHT

Tuesday, Oct 13, 5:30 pm

Central Library

Ages 16+

Calling all wizards and witches (muggles, too)! Grab your favorite group of Potterheads and test your knowledge of the books and films. Enjoy homemade potions and play some tabletop Quidditch before Trivia begins. Register now for a chance to win awesome prizes.

Teams of up to four members may register and up to 15 teams may play. One team member must register each player in the team, including names and phone numbers. We will be using Crowd Purr ; you will need to bring one Wi-Fi ready device (smartphone or laptop) to scan the QR code to enter the game. Arrive at 5:30 for Quidditch and sign-in. Game play starts at 6:00. Registration required.

HARRY POTTER DAY

Saturday, Oct 15, 10:00 am

Central Library

Dear witches, wizards and muggles,

Hogwarts will return to SCPL for the fall session this year on October 15, 10 am – 3 pm. Diagon Alley with your favorite shops and some new ones, fantastic beasts, live owls and exciting classes are reappearing! Polish your wands, shake the dust out of your robes, and come back the magical world of Harry Potter.

Yours sincerely,
Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster
Minerva McGonagall, Gryffindor
Pomona Sprout Hufflepuff



BOOKS ON TAP

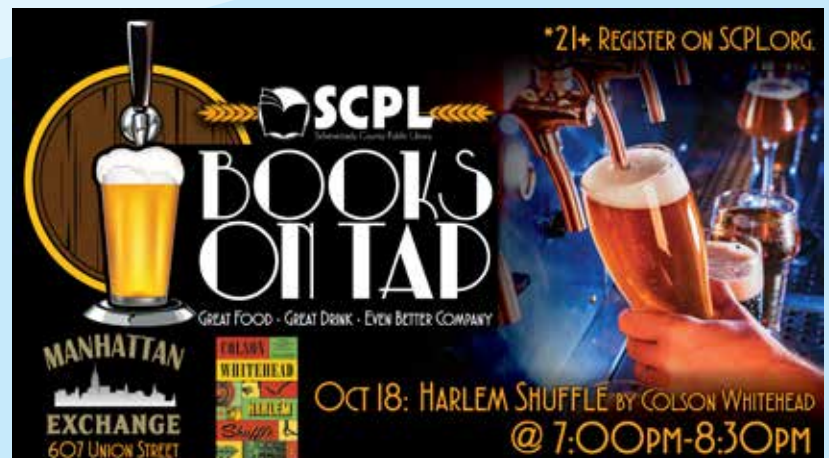
Tuesday, Oct 18, 7:00 pm

Manhattan Exchange

607 Union St

Great food, great drink, even better company. Join an awesome group of people to discuss Harlem Shuffle by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Colson Whitehead. Pick up your copy at Whitney Book Corner or A Second Look!

Registration required, ages 21+



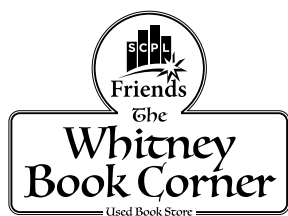


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