

# News of the **Friends** of Schenectady County Public Library

January/February 2024 | Volume LIX No. 3



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## Friends Lend Ongoing Support to Schenectady STARS Program

Much of the City of Schenectady is a book desert and school district literacy scores reflect the local literacy crisis. Tackling that crisis, STARS (Schenectady Takes Action for Reading Success) was formed in 2017. As of the end of 2023, STARS has placed more than 16,000 new, diverse, and developmentally appropriate books into the hands of young children and families across the city and improved access to early literacy support.

STARS is spearheaded by Schenectady County Public Library and partners with many local non-profit, educational, health, and government agencies to address this critical need.

Since 2022, the Friends of SCPL has donated \$8,000 to STARS through the annual children's supply fund. That donation, coupled with book donations, has enabled STARS to distribute the significant number of books. Furthermore, the STARS steering committee is able to leverage Friends' donated funds to receive additional grant support. In 2023, STARS received funding from major donors including 1st National Bank of Scotia, MVP, and The Schenectady Foundation. Current STARS initiatives include Books for Babies at Bellevue, where every newborn receives a new baby

book and literacy tips for parents. STARS free book shelves are located at the local WIC office, SiCM food pantry, Office of Children & Family Services waiting room, and Parson's Early Learning Center. In November 2023, Park Place Pediatrics became a STARS distribution partner bringing the total number of STARS free book locations to seven. Growing the number of STARS shelves at pediatricians' offices and parent education are priority initiatives in 2024. STARS continually receives donations through its website [www.schenectadystars.org](http://www.schenectadystars.org).





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### Contact Us

[friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com)  
[www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org)

### Follow Us



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I hope everyone had a safe and very happy holiday. The stores looked beautiful, all decorated for the season.

Our community outreach program has been very busy (see story below) and Junior Friends have been very productive under Maria Norelli's guidance. There is a permanent Junior at A Second Look, Paarth, who has

been there over three years. Jesse and Amelie have been working at the Whitney Book Corner and hopefully will stay until they leave for college. If you know of any young person who might be interested in this excellent opportunity, please reach out to Maria or visit the Friends website for more information.

We are still interested in offering the community more adult programming but we need someone to organize it. Please consider doing this very worthwhile program. Information about volunteer opportunities is available on the Friends website.

— Charlene Roman

## DONATIONS UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that donations have resumed and can be dropped off at the loading dock at the Central Library, Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please place donations on the metal carts.

As a reminder, donations are accepted at the Central Library ONLY and are not accepted at library branches or the book stores.

Thank you again for your patience and cooperation during the closure!



## NEWSLETTER IN YOUR INBOX

Sign up to receive our newsletter by email! Reading all the news from the Friends of the Library can be just one click away. To change your delivery preference, send an email to [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com) or visit the Membership area of the Friends website at [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org).

## JUNIOR FRIENDS BOOK DRIVE AT NISKAYUNA HIGH SCHOOL

Jesse Angrist and Amelie Knox, seniors at Niskayuna High School and members of the Junior Friends of Schenectady County Public Library, recently orchestrated a book drive at their school, seeking donations of children's and young adult titles. Using social media and print promotional material, the effort ran for two weeks. They collected 130 books, far exceeding their expectations. Books will be sold at A Second Look and Whitney Book Corner.

Jesse (below, left) is participating in a senior year internship program at Niskayuna High School, for which he wanted to work with the Friends because of his interest in library science and linguistics.

Amelie (below, right) is developing social media accounts for the Junior Friends, an important initiative to expand the program's interest to students and increase membership.

Junior Friends membership is open to students ages 13 to 18. This is a great way to get the required volunteer hours needed for many school groups or organizations and a chance to connect with other teens. Junior Friends volunteers will help with library and bookstore special events, book sales, and work in our two bookstore locations.



## FRIENDS OUTREACH PROGRAM SUPPORTS BRIDGES OF SCHENECTADY

Genevieve Coonradt and Michael Dean, students in the master's degree in social welfare program at the University at Albany, are interning with Bridges of Schenectady. Schenectady Bridges is an on-going, multi-sector initiative to help individuals, families and communities build bridges out of poverty to more sustainable lives.

With support from task supervisor William Rivas and field instructor William Best, Genevieve and Michael were focusing on revitalizing the old chapel within Bridges Schenectady. Within the chapel is a loft that they are actively converting into a small library and quiet reading area. The ultimate goal is to create a usable space for residents.

The Friends provided dozens of books to support this exceptional project.



# Membership News

## NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

### Benefactor — \$200+

- Sanjay Correa
- Carol Hyde

### Patron — \$50+

- Barbara Armstrong & Robert Coppola
- Naomi Bristol
- Phyllis Budka
- Gedia Demaria
- John & Carol Ferlazzo
- Mary Fitzgerald
- Anita Paul & David Gerhan
- Paula Granger
- Claudia & Stan Jakubowski
- Diane & John Jazeboski
- Roberta & Brian Kelly
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- Nick Mazza
- Jane McCloskey & Charles Carson
- Samantha Miller-Herrera
- Joy Nyman
- Tina Marie Parisi
- Carmel & Bill Patrick
- Lynn Purcell
- Anthony & Charlene Roman
- Paul & Christine Santilli
- Harriet & Boris Severenko
- Norrine & Ted Thompson
- Kaela Wallman
- Irene & Robert Wickham

### Supporting — \$35+

- Janet Olin Altschuller
- Bill & Christine Lee
- Paul & Deborah O'Brien

- Emily O'Grady
- Patricia Policastro
- Kathryn Rose
- Alexandra & Stephen Schmidt
- Christopher Trow

## DONATIONS & GIFTS

### Niskayuna Library Landscape Fund

- E. Anne Yunick

### Recurring Monthly Donation

- Anthony Carota III

### Other Donations

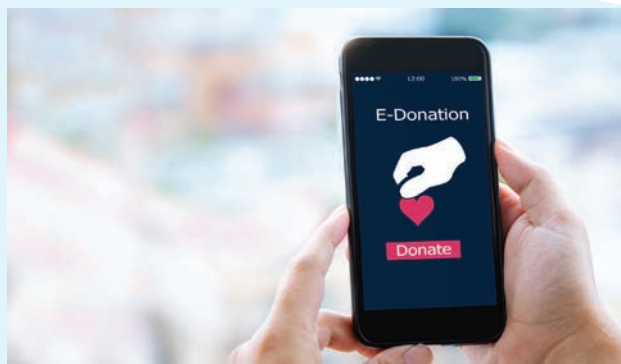
- Janice Walz

## ONLINE MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Great news! You now have the option to join, renew, and/or donate right from our website. This will enable you to pay via credit or debit card; set up recurring annual renewals and/or donations; and confirm your contact information and communication preferences.

Visit the Support section of our website to take advantage of our new online membership and donation forms.

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of SCPL. We look forward to embracing these exciting changes with all of you!



## OAKROOM ARTISTS DISPLAY AT WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The Whitney Book Corner has partnered with Oakroom Artists to display a revolving set of works by member artists. All pieces are available for sale.

The Oakroom Artists is the only membership-by-invitation artists association in the Albany area. Membership is limited to 24 artists in order to allow each artist the opportunity of a solo exhibit every two years. Solo exhibits are held at their Home Gallery at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, located on Wendell Avenue. Group shows are also organized at area colleges and museums.

Learn more about the artists at <https://oakroomartists.wordpress.com/>



# FRIENDS DAY TRIP TO VERMONT

The Friends enjoyed a beautiful day trip to Vermont in October. We started at the home and gardens at Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's only surviving child.

From Hildene we traveled to the Bennington Museum, famous for its outstanding collection of Grandma Moses paintings.

Finally, we enjoyed a tour of Old Bennington with a step-on guide. Highlights included the Old First Congregational Church and its graveyard, which contains the grave of poet Robert Frost; the Bennington Battle Monument and observation deck; and a stop at one of Vermont's iconic covered bridges.

We are researching ideas for a spring day trip. Watch your email or visit the Friends website for updates. We hope to travel with you soon!

— Gail & Sue



# January/February Programs & Events

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

## AUTHOR VISIT: KIM VAN ALKEMADE

**Thursday, Jan 11, 6:00 pm**  
**McChesney Room**  
**Central Library**

In collaboration with Open Door Bookstore, SCPL presents New York Times best-selling author of *Orphan #8*, Kim van Alkemade. She will read from her latest book, *Counting Lost Stars*, a gripping and poignant historical saga in which an unmarried college student who has given up her baby for adoption helps a Holocaust survivor search for his lost mother. The book was inspired in part by her father's experiences in Nazi-occupied Holland.



Complimentary refreshments will be served and books available for purchase for an author signing after the presentation.

## “BEAT THE SNOW” CONCERT SERIES ANNOUNCED

**Sundays, 2:00 pm**  
**McChesney Room**  
**Central Library**

Time to Beat the Snow for another year. This year our musical series has several new acts. Come and join your friends and neighbors and listen to what our area has to offer in all types of music.

- Jan 7 Musicats Duo  
*Swing, Jazz, Funk*
- Jan 14 Forgettable Four Quartet  
*Barbershop*
- Jan 21 MC<sup>2</sup> with guest Laura Melnicoff, Cellist
- Jan 28 Olé: Songs from Spain, Latin America & the Caribbean
- Feb 11 Donald “Soul Man” Hyman  
“Sounds of Love & Romance”
- Feb 18 “Night Song” with Rosanne Hargrave & Michael Clement
- Feb 26 A Touch of Woodwinds Quartet



# January/February Programs & Events

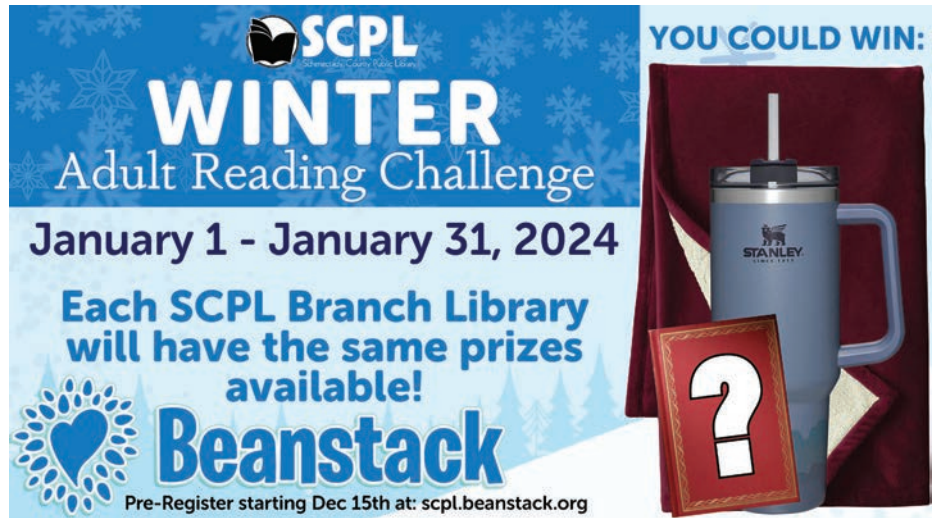
Register for these programs and more on the Events & Class Registration page at [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)

## 2024 ADULT WINTER READING CHALLENGE

We challenge you to read at least five books with a collective goal of 500 books during the month of January. Track your reading by logging each book read throughout the month in the Beanstack app.

Participants are eligible to win one of nine prize baskets that includes a 40 oz. Stanley tumbler, a cozy throw blanket, a good book, and other goodies.

Help us reach our goal of 500! Visit [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org) for more information.



**SCPL**  
Schenectady County Public Library

# WINTER

## Adult Reading Challenge

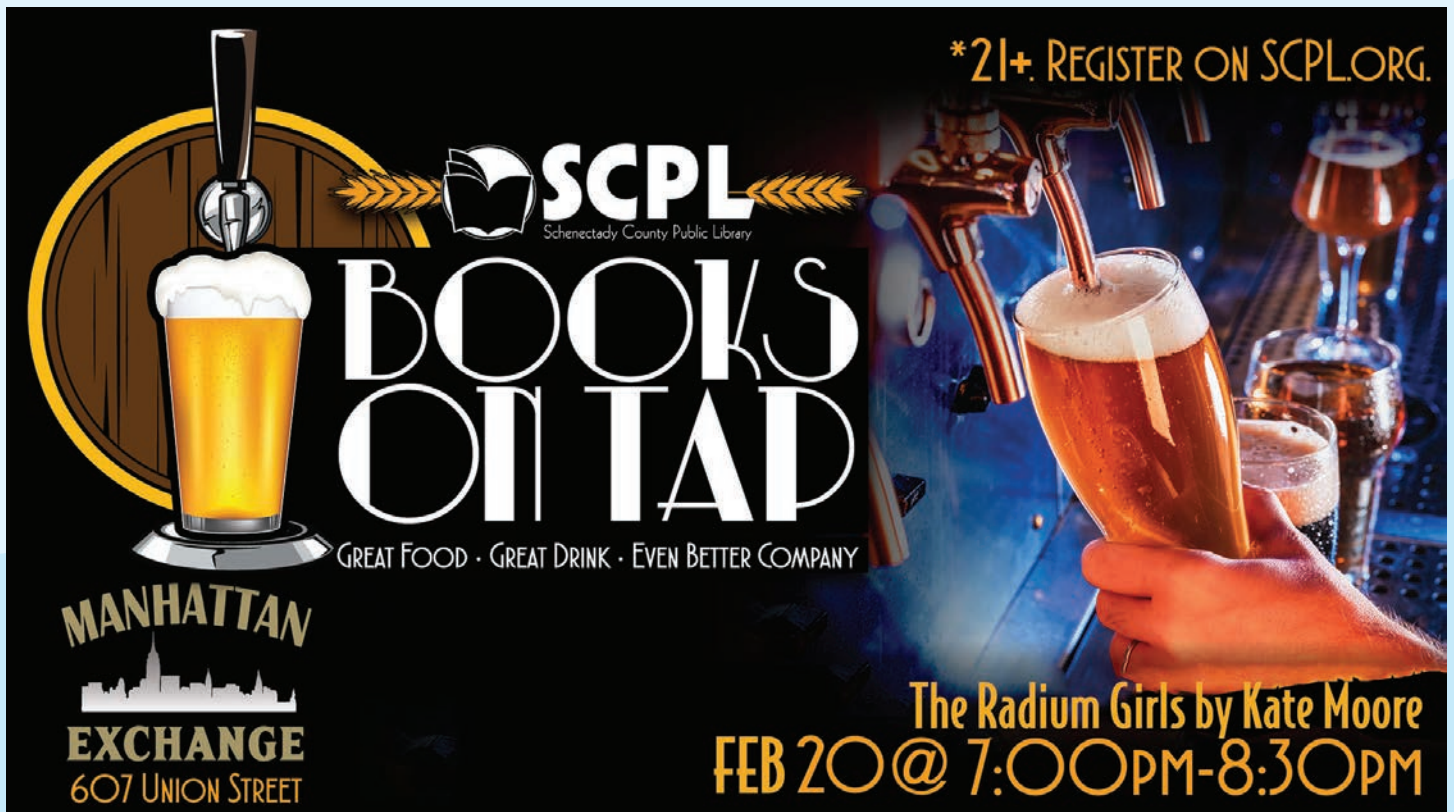

January 1 - January 31, 2024

Each SCPL Branch Library will have the same prizes available!

# Beanstack

Pre-Register starting Dec 15th at: [scpl.beanstack.org](http://scpl.beanstack.org)

**YOU COULD WIN:**



**SCPL**  
Schenectady County Public Library

# BOOKS ON TAP

GREAT FOOD · GREAT DRINK · EVEN BETTER COMPANY

**MANHATTAN EXCHANGE**  
607 UNION STREET

**\*21+. REGISTER ON SCPL.ORG.**

**The Radium Girls by Kate Moore**  
**FEB 20 @ 7:00PM-8:30PM**

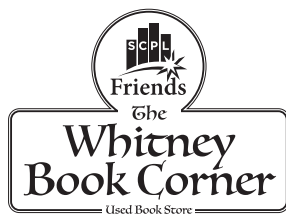


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