

News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

March/April 2024 | Volume LIX No. 4



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Outreach Programs off to a Strong Start in 2024

The Friends' outreach efforts continue to grow with new programs as we push into 2024.

On our "Building Libraries through Outreach" program, we are working to organize and align support for Schenectady County nursing homes. The Friends and SCPL board of trustees worked together in early 2023 with Brookdale Senior Living Community in Niskayuna to provide newer books to the residents' onsite library, much to their delight and appreciation.

We continue to work with Bridges of Schenectady, a transitional housing program for alcoholism and drug dependency. In addition to providing books for their new onsite library, we are currently conducting a coat drive at both Whitney Book Corner and A Second Look: in exchange for donating a new or gently used coat, donors can choose a book at no cost.

The committee also worked with

Ellis Medicine recently on their patient "comfort cart." Ellis' volunteer service was very appreciative of the Friends' donation of books to lend to patients during their stay on the nursing floors.



Patient "comfort cart" at Ellis Medicine

The Friends Scholarship Fund has been established starting with this academic school year. The Friends will award scholarships of \$1,000 to one student at each of the eight high schools in Schenectady County to attend an accredited two-year or four-year college or university. Student candidates must demonstrate strong academic commitment and effort, a commitment to service or volunteerism, leadership, a passion for reading, and have an interest in a library or teaching career. Students will be selected by each high school.

The Friends are seeking volunteers for the Outreach Committee. If you are interested, visit our website for more information and contact details.



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Contact Us

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The Community Outreach Committee has been busy working with rehab centers, retirement homes, assisted living centers, and hospitals throughout the county to replenish and/or to start a small library in the facility or on a cart. The Scholarship sub-committee is working on offering a scholarship to 6 county high school seniors.

At the end of the month, our 6-month trial store, A Second Look, will be celebrating its fifth anniversary at ViaPort/Rotterdam. This store has turned out to be a very successful endeavor for the Friends.

We are planning on bringing back Harry Potter Day. It will be on October 26th at ViaPort. Stay tuned for more info ...

— Charlene Roman

SPRING BOOK SALE

It's never too early to plan for the next book sale! The Spring book sale is scheduled for May 4 and 5 at the Central Library. Visit our web site or watch your email for more information and volunteer sign up!

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Save time and renew your membership or make a donation directly from our website! We can now accept payments via credit or debit card on the Friends website — no more stamps, no more check writing (though we will continue to accept checks). You can also update your contact information and choose to receive notices via email.

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!

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 or visit the Membership area of the Friends website at www.friendsofscpl.org.

2025 FRIENDS TRIPS PLANNING UNDERWAY

We will hold interest meetings March 25 at the Niskayuna Branch library for two trips with Collette in 2025:

- 2:00 pm — March 2025 trip to Rome and the Amalfi Coast
- 3:00 pm — Early December 2025 Christmas Market cruise on the Danube

Join us for one or both meetings. A link to the recorded meeting will be available after March 25 if you can't attend. More information will be coming by email.

We are working on our next spring day trip — stay tuned for more information.

— Gail and Sue



BOOK SALE RAISES MORE THAN \$8,000

The sun came out for the first time in two weeks! It came out just for our book sale!

Then the volunteers came out, and the tables came out, the carts full of books came out, and LOTS of people came out! More people than we anticipated, too! We had people waiting in lines! The lines lasted over an hour on Saturday. Less time on Sunday, but still lines of people.

We made of \$8,600.00.

That's a very successful sale — nice also in that the Winter sale is much smaller than our Spring and Fall sales. So, there is much less work involved for our team. Still a lot of work, but we all don't need chiropractic help after this sale.

And on Monday morning, after the weekend sale, we are back at it, preparing for the May sale.

— Lisa Esperti



Membership News

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Benefactor — \$200+

- Ken Larsen
- Lisa Reynold & Bart Zabin

Patron — \$50+

- Rochelle & Sheldon Abelson
- Mary Jane Beaulieu
- Diane Bengtson-Kilbourn & Scott Kilbourn
- Barbara Beverly
- Diane Chin
- Arthur & Margaret Coats
- Audrey Chouffi
- Nancy Curran
- Mary Ellen & Mark Cusano
- Michele DeAngelus & James Rothrock
- Gail Denisoff
- Brian & Toni Doherty
- Donna Esposito
- Jamie Gearon
- Fran Gross
- Lawson Harris
- Ted Heisler
- Judy & Larry Hoff
- Lois Isles
- Ronald & Donna Lagasse

- David Lilienfeld
- William McColl
- Patricia Mackenzie
- Sharon & Charles Maneri
- Patricia & Richard Margas
- David Morrow
- Joy Nyman
- Pamela Page
- Sara Park
- Linda Post
- Beverly Provost
- Jackie Robotti
- Alice Rudnick
- Lawrence Schmidt
- Gillian Scott
- Claudia & Peter Sisario
- Dale Steenburgh
- Karoline & Dori Trela
- Peter & Diana Weinberg
- Marcine Wielt
- Sandra & Harry Willis
- Bryant Wood

Supporting — \$35+

- Jan Altschuller
- Betty Carol Barlyn
- David & Anne Gray

- Howard Hart
- Joe & Jane Hendrick
- Bill & Christine Lee
- Joseph Leonardo
- Sally & Alvin Magid
- Maryanne Malecki
- Marianne Murphy
- Bob & Kathy Van Flue
- Schenectady County Legislator Holly Vellano
- Kate & John Vrtiak

DONATIONS & GIFTS

Recurring Monthly Donation

- Anthony Carota III
- Katy Peace

Other Donations

- Joseph Hackett
- Carol & Charles Kahn
- Charles & Debra McCambridge
- Cheryl Bunk O'Heir
- Give Lively, LLC
- Hubbard Foundation
- The Open Door Bookstore

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 current display features art by Barb Lennox (right), who's main area of interest is abstracts. She found that not focusing on the recognizable gave her great freedom.

"My paintings are built on a series of layers, colors, and marks along with an exploration, a search, a digging for clues, a making of mistakes, of changing course, of leaving behind and a discovery of something new. It's a practice of distillation and finding what is essential, potent and meaningful, and letting go of what is not. It's a series of questions and responses," Barb said.

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/>



JUNIOR FRIENDS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The Junior Friends have been busy! Several volunteers assisted with culling the stock at both bookstores as well as with the February book sale.

Junior Friend Intern Jesse Angrist has been hard at work again, this time partnering with the Central Library to create a homework/reading assistance program called the Peer Partnership Support program. In conjunction with Niskayuna High School's National Honor Society, students are available twice per week to provide 45 minutes of reading support along with help with daily assignments in writing, math, science and social studies.



This service is free and available to Schenectady County students in grades K-3. Registration is required; visit the Events page at www.scpl.org for available dates and registration.

The program was piloted in January, but proved to be such a success that it will be offered on an ongoing basis. We thank Jesse once again for his hard work!

The Junior Friends look forward to partnering with the Friends and SCPL on many more projects this year!

GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM RETURNS

We are excited to announce the return of the Great Decisions program, a weekly discussion group about U.S. foreign policy and trade issues. The nationwide program is based on material provided by the Foreign Policy Association.

Each session will consist of a short video providing information about the topic and a one-hour interactive discussion segment. To register for or ask questions about the program, contact Peter Sheridan at psheridan3@nycap.rr.com. Visit <https://friendsofscpl.org/great-decisions-program/> for more information about the discussion topics.

Books for the program (entirely optional) are available for \$32.00 at Whitney Book Corner. Please make checks payable to Friends of SCPL.

Meetings are held from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in the McChesney Room at the Central Library.

- March 5 Midwest Realignment
- March 12 Climate Technology & Competition
- March 19 Science Across Borders
- March 26 U.S.–China Trade Rivalry
- April 2 NATO's Future
- April 9 Understanding Indonesia
- April 16 High Seas Treaty
- April 23 Pandemic Preparedness



March/April Programs & Events

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

“BEAT THE SNOW” CONCERT SERIES THROUGH APRIL 28

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.

- Mar 3 Hannah Sohn
Cellist — ESYO alumna, Young Musicians Forum
- Mar 10 Act Two
Show tunes through the years
- Mar 17 Schenectady Light Opera Company
- Apr 7 Mark Tommasone
Guitar & vocal
- Apr 14 Musicians of Ma'alwyck
Classical
- Apr 21 Skidmore College Filene Competition Winners
Presented by Young Musicians Forum
- Apr 28 Michael Benedict Jazz Vibes



Musicians of Ma'alwyck

SLOW FLOW VINYASA YOGA WITH INNER BLISS

Wednesday, March 20
Glenville Branch

Soak up a little sweetness in this relaxing and rejuvenating yoga class. This class will focus on building strength and flexibility, improving balance and range of motion, dissolving tension, and creating a deep sense of well-being that will stay with you long after you leave the mat.



This is a mixed-levels class from beginners on up. Wear comfortable clothing and bring water and a yoga mat if you have one.

Adults 18+. Registration required.

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Register for these programs and more on the Events & Class Registration page at www.scpl.org

THE SCIENCE CHEF PRESENTS: SCIENCE OF SOLAR ECLIPSES

Monday, April 1, 2:00 pm
Glenville Branch

Get ready for the 2024 solar eclipse with The Science Chef! Chef Margaret will show off the awesome power of the sun and we'll learn just how eclipses happen. One pair of solar eclipse glasses will be available per registered family during this program.

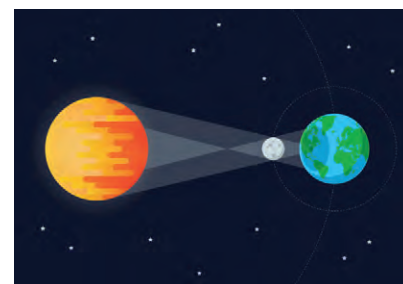
Grades 2–5 with their caregivers. Registration required.

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM PRESENTS: EXPLORING SOLAR ECLIPSES

Tuesday, April 2, 3:00 pm
Rotterdam Branch

Are you ready to witness a celestial event? Learn about solar eclipses with The Children's Museum of Saratoga. One pair of solar eclipse glasses will be available per registered family during this program.

Grades 3–5. Registration required.



THE DUDLEY OBSERVATORY PRESENTS: ECLIPSES!

Thursday, April 4, 3:00 pm
Quaker Street Branch

Join Dudley Observatory's astronomer, Dr. Mindy Townsend, to talk about the "hows and whys" of eclipses, learn information on the upcoming eclipse on April 8 and how to safely view eclipses. Make a viewing device so you're prepared to watch the eclipse next week!

Grades K–5. Registration required.

MISCI PRESENTS: MOON PHASES STARLAB PLANETARIUM SHOW

Friday, April 5, 12:30 pm,
2:00 pm, 3:30 pm
Central Library

MiSci's StarLab Portable Planetarium brings the planetarium experience to the library. See the stars in a portable dome as you have never experienced before! Learn about the phases of the moon and what the moon is doing as we view its changing face from Earth. The upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8 will also be explained.

Grades K–8 (caregivers welcome). Registration required for one of three show times. No late admittance.

SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY

Monday, April 8, 2:00 pm
Central Library
Niskayuna Branch
Mont Pleasant Branch
Rotterdam Branch

Come out to watch this once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event. Join us for moon pies, chalk art and DIY eclipse viewers as the moon passes between the earth and the sun. Check the library's online calendar for more details at each location. In case of inclement weather, this program will take place indoors with the viewing of the eclipse on TV. One pair of solar eclipse glasses will be available per family or group during this program, while supplies last. All ages.

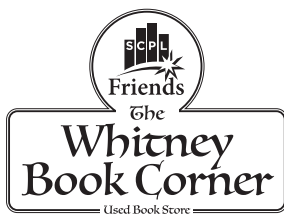


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