

News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

May/June 2024 | Volume LIX No. 5



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A Second Look Celebrates 5-Year Anniversary

A Second Look, a bookstore that started as a six-month experiment, celebrated 5 years in business this winter.

Early in 2018, Madelyn Thorne told me that Via Port Rotterdam was looking for some non-profits to fill their storefronts. Jamie Williams-Peterson, a Friend who worked at a store in the mall, and I met with Terri, the mall manager. She showed us an empty men's clothing store. It wasn't ideal, but the price was right, so we figured we could find used bookcases and make the space work.

In September, I brought the idea to the board of directors, who had some reservations. At the October meeting, the board agreed to a 6-month trial if we could staff the store.

Robin Eddy and I met with Terri to look for a more suitable place. Terri suggested that we look at the former GNC store that had been vacated a week earlier. It was ideal, with shelves already lining the walls and a location close to an outside entrance.



We signed a six-month lease for January 1, 2019, and set about cleaning, setting shelves, and transporting books. We had a soft opening on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, and our Grand Opening on February 19.

Like all retailers, A Second Look had to close for COVID restrictions in 2020. Fortunately, we weathered the closure, the store reopened, and we eventually expanded to being open seven days a week.

Today, A Second Look is busy and successful, attracting shoppers to the mall. School vacation weeks are especially busy.

We held a 5-Year Anniversary Celebration the week of February 26 with giveaways, raffles, and special sales. Our mall neighbors at Via Aquarium donated admission passes.

Thank you to all who support our stores, and congratulations to an amazing five years for A Second Look.

— Charlene Roman



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Vice President

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Maria Norelli
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Norrine Thompson
Renee Turvey
Janice Walz
Diane Wilkinson

Contact Us

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www.friendsofscpl.org

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The artwork on display at the Whitney Book Corner is a must-see. We have two new decorators at A Second Look who have welcomed spring with their bright, cheerful decorations.

We have elected new board members and said goodbye to board members Joan Molloy, Emily Hough, and Sharon Zalewski. Their contributions to this organization have been immeasurable and

we thank them for all they have done.

We have a new program within our Community Outreach committee: a scholarship for one senior from eight schools in Schenectady County. Scholarships will be given for the first time this month.

The annual volunteer appreciation picnic is back, June 7 at Central Park. Sign up sheets will be in the stores or upstairs in the sorting area.

The committee for Harry Potter Day, which will be held October 26, is hard at work in planning the events. Please contact me if you want to help with planning and/or working the day of the event.

— Charlene Roman

SAVE THE DATE: FRIENDS PICNIC

The Friends will be hosting a picnic June 7 at Central Park. Watch your email for more information.

Volunteers are needed to organize the event. Contact Vicki Hoshko at vshsox@yahoo.com if you would like to assist.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for new activities and to meet new people? Volunteer with us! The Friends are looking for volunteers to fill several roles, from the Outreach Committee to Hospitality & Events to Concert Series planning and more. Our committees are fun group activities that provide an opportunity for social engagement while supporting an excellent organization.

Visit <https://friendsofscpl.org/volunteer/> for more information.

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.

REGISTRATION FOR 2025 FRIENDS TRIPS NOW OPEN

Registration for Friends trips in 2025 is now open. Both trips are very popular and we encourage you to register as soon as possible as space is limited.

Rome and the Amalfi Coast

Join us March 21-30, 2025, to take in the best of southern Italy. Uncover Classic Rome's myriad of treasures and embark on an in-depth guided visit of the spectacular Colosseum. Explore the breathtaking scenery of Italy's coastline, from the dramatic beauty of the Amalfi Coast to the charms of seaside Sorrento. Optional tour extension to Florence.

Christmas on the Danube

Join us November 29-December 7, 2025, on a boat cruise along the Danube to explore charming Christmas markets and see Europe dressed in its holiday best. Discover Würzburg, an ancient Franconian wine town. Explore Nuremberg, home to one of the oldest and largest Christmas markets in the world. Optional tour extension to Prague.

Complete itinerary information, recordings of the presentations, and registration links are available via the Friends website at <https://friendsofscpl.org/travel-with-us/>.

Please contact us at scplfriendstrips@gmail.com if you have any questions. We hope you can join us!

— Gail and Sue



SPRING BOOK SALE MAY 4 AND 5

And you thought spring was a few weeks ago when it was 60 degrees for a few days! Then there was a foot of snow!!!

But a sure sign of spring is our book sale! And this sale promises to be a great one. The team has been working very hard to get all the books ready. We sold so many books at our record-breaking winter sale that we were a little worried that we might not have enough books in inventory to have a great spring sale. The community has been very generous, and we have plenty of books. Their giving inspires us.

This will be a sale without Debbie Truelove, who passed away a few weeks ago. She was such a great help in so many ways, not the least of which was her making us all laugh. We all miss her.

Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bag sale will be held Sunday, \$3 per bag; we will supply the bag.

Come and join us as a volunteer. It's a lot of work, but we really do have a good time. Visit our web site or watch your email to sign up!



Membership News

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Benefactor — \$200+

- Shirley & Ken DeBono
- George & Joan Gould
- Megan Levine

Patron — \$50+

- Cheryl Cufari
- Peter Delocis
- Joan Elliott
- Bob & Lisa Esperti
- Blanche Fischer
- Katie Guynup
- Susanne & Gene Kimura

- Sharon Mozzi
- Susan & Michael O'Brien
- Carol & Robert Reid
- Haley Viccaro
- Barbara Viver
- Liz & Brian Yanoff

Supporting — \$35+

- Gloria Blum
- Diane Goldsmith
- Jane Kessler
- Nancy Stopera

DONATIONS & GIFTS

Recurring Monthly Donation

- Katy Peace

Other Donations

- Richard & Susan Fifield

NEW BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN AT ANNUAL DINNER

The nominating committee is pleased to announce three new members to the board of directors:



Mary Rosen

Mary retired in 2022 from Community Hospice. Her career as a social worker included working with older adults in multiple settings, including home health care and assisted living. Mary joined the Friends as a volunteer in 2023. She volunteers at A Second Look and is a member of the Community Outreach Committee. She lives in Scotia with her husband, Jerry; they have two grown daughters. Mary has loved going to the library since childhood and continues to be an avid reader.



Norrine Thompson

Norrine joined the Friends in 2016 immediately after retiring from her position as assistant supervisor of the microbiology lab at Albany Medical Center. Sitting still during retirement was not on the agenda. Guided by the wise advice from Ellie Rowland, she began working at the Whitney Book Corner. She was recruited to take over the membership committee soon after and has continued to perform that task as membership chair.

Norrine also performs sorting tasks each week at the Central Library and also works at Whitney Book Corner and A Second Look. Recently, she has taken on duties at ASL as assistant manager. Norrine also enjoys knitting and reading. Many new authors' works have been discovered because of her work in the bookstores and activities in websites such as Goodreads.com. Other spare time activities include babysitting her three grandboys.

Renee Turvey

Renee joined the Friends in 2020. She volunteers at Whitney Book Corner and the book sales.

Outgoing Board Members

Also, The Friends would like to thank the outgoing members — Emily Hough, Joan Molloy, and Sharon Zalewski — for their time and talents.

— Vicki Hoshko

ART & BOOKS NIGHT AT WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The Whitney Book Corner was transformed into a glittering art gallery on a recent Friday evening as we hosted the Oakroom Artists' Art and Books event. The stunning abstracts by local artist Barb Lennox were on display. Light refreshments were served and several Friends members were on hand to help make the evening a success.

Steve Kowalski of Oakroom Artists has been curating changing exhibits at the store since last fall and when he suggested having a public opening, manager Charlene Roman welcomed the suggestion. The partnership has been a positive experience, bringing in new people to our store and adding lovely décor to our walls.

— Chris Witkowski



OAKROOM ARTISTS DISPLAY AT WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

A new art exhibit, in partnership with Oakroom Artists, is on display at Whitney Book Corner. The exhibit features a selection of a mix of mono-type silk screens and collage by Steve Kowalski, who also curates the displays at the store. All pieces are available for purchase.

"Working in the figurative is a combination of life before me, (the model) melding with the amazing visual influences of my life, captured canvas, paper or sculpture. I think as a society, we take ourselves too seriously. High pressures and in some cases the absolute drive for perfection determines the focus. I don't want my art to convey that. I want it somewhat naive and playful," Steve 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. Learn more at <https://oakroomartists.wordpress.com/>



BOOKS ON TAP

Great food, great drink, even better company! Join an awesome group of people in this book club Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 pm at Manhattan Exchange to discuss "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by V.E. Schwab. Making a Faustian bargain to live forever but never be remembered, a woman from early eighteenth-century France endures unacknowledged centuries before meeting a man who remembers her name.

Registration required, ages 21+. Register on the Events page at www.scpl.org beginning May 7.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS FINDING SUCCESS THIS SPRING

The Friends' outreach expansions continue to make headway as spring approaches its bloom.

Friends Scholarship Award

The eight Schenectady County schools are in the process of selecting their recipients for the Friends Scholarship Award; the first scholarship will be awarded May 22 to a Duaneburg Public School student. On June 7, a student at Scotia-Glenville will receive their award. The Friends are reaching out to the schools' principals to provide presenters with information about the Fund's goals and to gauge interest in a Friends presence among the ceremony attendees.

Bridges of Schenectady

Several seasonal programs are wrapping up after successful runs. The Friends of the Library and Bridges of Schenectady concluded their coat drive after providing numerous coats to people in need, following a sizable turnout of donors, who each received a book in return for their donation.

Internships

The Friends also congratulate their Junior Friends intern, who fulfilled all internship duties and responsibilities with excellence.

After completing an internal audit of preparedness, the Friends of the Library have determined that moving forward with the Big Picture Internship at this moment would not provide the intern and the library with a mutually enriching experience. The Friends will work toward developing a set of policies and procedures for accepting interns to be better prepared for similar projects in the future.

Building Libraries through Outreach

The Building Libraries through Outreach program has continued to reach local nursing homes, hospitals, and other organizations. Ellis Medicine's "Comfort Cart," a mobile book cart providing books to patients and their visitors, has been marked a "booming success." After its donations reached over a dozen patients and families, the book cart has been replenished with a second load of paperbacks. Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital has also welcomed two loads of books for their library. This month, volunteers are reaching out both remotely and through on-site visits to establish contact with several other local organizations.

Behind the scenes, Friends volunteers are working diligently to source and transport books for our various bookstores and donation sites, create inroads with other local literacy programs, and develop a design for a promotional Friends of the Library bookmark to include with book donations. With all of this and the upcoming book sale on May 4 and 5, this coming month is shaping up to be a big one for the Friends of the Library. If you would like to get involved with any of these efforts, please visit our website for contact details and further information about the Friends of the Library Outreach Committee.

— Maggie French



WINTER



Bring a Coat, Get a Book!

Friends of SCPL is collecting coats in support of Bridges of Schenectady, a transitional housing program for alcoholism and drug dependency. Donate a new or gently used coat & get a free book!

COAT DRIVE



May/June Programs & Events

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

CONQUER THE CLUTTER: TIPS FOR HOME ORGANIZATION

Wednesday, May 8, 10:30 am
Glenville Branch

Join professional organizer and owner of Mess to Bliss Home Improvement, Liz Halvorsen, for expert advice, tips and tricks to revamp your space, take the stress out of decluttering, and develop healthy habits for staying organized at home!

Adults 18+. Registration required.



PLANT SWAP

Saturday, May 11, 1:00 pm
Glenville Branch

Do you want to trade for something new, adopt a new little plant friend, or do you have plants to give away? Come with at least one plant per person to our first plant swap. Drop in between 1:00 and 2:30 pm, look at the other plants people bring, and trade with participants. Bring your own bags and containers to carry your new plants home.

All ages. No registration required.



HISTORY & GENEALOGY SERIES WITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Join Schenectady County Historical Society librarian Marietta Carr for one-hour talks:

Thursday, May 30, 5:30 pm
Scotia Branch

Preserving Family Photographs and Documents

Do you have old family photographs, letters, diaries, or other precious items that you would like to preserve? Learn how to properly preserve your family's important documents and photos. It will also provide tips on how to store, display, label, and handle these materials. Preserving these materials will assist family members, now or in the future, to retrace and reconstruct your family history.

Thursday, June 6, 5:30 pm
Scotia Branch

Finding Your Schenectady County Ancestor

Genealogy research in New York State can often be frustrating and time consuming. This overview of genealogical resources in Schenectady County will guide you toward local resources and repositories to help you research your ancestors from Schenectady County.

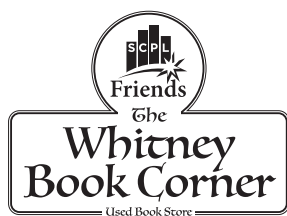


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