



SCPL
Friends
2016
Annual Report

President's Report

The Friends are proud to have celebrated our 50th anniversary year in 2016 as an active, strong organization powered by the energy of hundreds of volunteers. We continue much as our foundations were laid, but have added so much more. Many dedicated people put in many hours to keep all of our activities going.

Much of the Friends' time and energy are devoted to sorting and selling books and media donated by the public and discarded by the library all year round, led by Fred Eddy, Robin Eddy, Charlene Roman, and Bob Symons. Our sales of books serve 2 missions: one of course is to raise money, and the second is to get books into the hands of people at affordable prices. We are blessed by an amazingly literate and generous population, and the library provides space for our activities.

The Friends provided or funded programming for the public through the year: Monday noon programs (Books Sandwiched In and Table Talks), were coordinated by Gene Rowland. Special features included series on Revitalizing Schenectady and Introduction to Opera. Beat the Snow concerts on Sunday afternoons, coordinated by Janice Walz, offered a variety of music to appreciative audiences. We provided funds for children's and adult programs, such as vacation and summer reading programs, prizes, supplies etc. Our anniversary committee brought more special events to the community last year.

In 2016, we funded a major audio-visual upgrade for the McChesney meeting room, thanks to a bequest from Mary James, and provided funding towards the Phyllis Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center.

We continue to fund the Museum pass program, staff development, equipment for the library, and library materials.

Gail Denisoff and Sue Crawford have taken over the Friends trips to literary sites with enthusiasm and competence, and in 2016 we entered into a relationship with Collette tours for longer trips (the first to be in July 2017).

Our board and committees do a wonderful job. We will miss board members Sandy Marshall, Joan Molloy, Rita Moore, and Dottie Potochnik, whose terms are ending, and thank them for their service. In August, we welcomed to the board Shaheen Hasan, a former Junior Friend, now coordinator of Junior Friends, as well as Charlene Roman, bookstore manager, online and book sale volunteer. Nancy Virkler as treasurer is indispensable and indefatigable, and Chris Witkowski has taken the newsletter light years beyond my editorship two decades ago, and she raises our public profile in multiple ways. I am grateful to past president John Karl for his help and guidance.

We are saddened by the recent passing of Linda Witkowski, who contributed so much to programs over many years.

We are fortunate to be working in partnership with Library Director Karen Bradley and the library staff, and Carmel Patrick and the Library Board.

Valerie Catlin



50th Anniversary Celebration

What a wonderful year it was – celebrating the achievements and ongoing efforts of the dedicated members of the Friends. The Mission of the Friends is to assist and support our library system in fulfilling its role as an essential institution dedicated to meeting the literacy, technology, and cultural needs of all members of our community. The various activities throughout the year all reflect that mission.

Highlights of the year include:

- Publication of our anniversary booklet spanning the 50 years of programs, service, and activities of the Friends. Booklet included both B&W archived photos and color images capturing the people, place, and events that shaped the Friends over the years.
- Annual dinner at River Stone Manor attended by local and state dignitaries. Over 125 guests attended the event.
- Membership promotion and information tables at the Bornt Branch Library opening, and the popular Comic Con program.
- Media appearances to inform the public about the Friends and promote special programs. These included appearances on both the Santabarbara and Ann Parillo shows and radio interview.
- Zucchini Brothers family show with ice cream social (sponsored by Stewart's).
- John Simon music program in partnership with The Egg Performing Arts Center.
- Nationally recognized author Tracy Kidder guest appearance and book signing.
- Festival of Trees at the Schenectady County Historical Society.

Rita Moore, Committee Chair

Book Sorting and Sales

During 2016 we held two large book sales, in the spring and fall, and one smaller mid-winter sale in the McChesney Room. These book sale events, together with the Whitney Book Store, and our Online Sales are our three main sources of earned revenue.

Throughout the entire year, members of the Friends accept donated books from the community and discards from the library and work behind the scenes every week to sort and store them. Books first go through a primary sorting to dispose of low-quality books and separate good books into the primary categories of fiction, non-fiction, bookstore quality, children or young adults, and mass market paperbacks. The fiction team sorts their books by genre and author. Non-fiction books are scanned for possible sale on Amazon (see Online Sales) and then the non-fiction team sorts them into categories according to subject matter. Mass-market paperbacks are also sorted into genres by another team. Finally all of the boxes of sorted books are stored on shelves by the inventory team, or transported to the bookstore. Books that are of unsuitable quality are stored separately and sold to a recycling company.

We'd like to thank these volunteers, most of whom work every week for 2 to 3 hours and sometimes more, to sort, box and stack the donated books. The effort and time they put in each week make our three book sales a success.

Joy Apperson	Gail Karl	Dottie Potochnick
Sylvia Curley	John Karl	Alice Reed
Judy Dillenbeck	Janet Kiddle	Bobbi Richardson
Fred Eddy	Susie Leon	Claudia Rolfe
Robin Eddy	Rich Leon	Charlene Roman
Lisa Esperti	Fred Marx	Ellie Rowland
Donna Fairlee	Peggy Mele	Pat Stearns
Bev Glover	Rick Mele	Bob Symons
Shaheen Hassan	Joan Molloy	Nancy Virkler
Donna Hennel	Geri Mulligan	Linda Ward
George Hilt	Donna Nappi	

We also thank Bill Fairlee and Keith Rolfe, who bring the cart loaded with boxes of books over to the Whitney Book Corner every week through all kinds of weather.

Each book sale is organized and monitored by members of the Book Sale Committee with help from experienced volunteers. Before each book sale, Robin Eddy uses her database of volunteers to ask for help. Response from the community has been very positive, and we are able to fill more than 325 job-slots (setup, organizer, cashier and cleanup) for each of the major sales. Most of the volunteers are members of the Friends of SCPL, but we have also gotten volunteers from community-based groups such as Union College Students, local high schools, and supervised inmates from the county jail.

Finally, we want to thank the hundreds of unnamed people who volunteered during the book sales, as well as the community members who donate their used books generously and the customers who shop at our sales.

The Book Sale Committee: Bob Symons, Charlene Roman, Fred & Robin Eddy

Friends Trips

The trip committee has had a good 2016. We had two successful day trips: Boston to visit the JFK Library and Edward Kennedy Center for the Senate in April and the Cooperstown museums and boat ride in October. Both trips brought in new Friends members and each made a small profit.

The trip to the Canadian Rockies with Colette Tours is coming up in July. This trip also has a waiting list at this time.

Gail Denisoff and Sue Crawford

Junior Friends

This has been an exciting year for the Junior Friends. We have gained some great new members, started to lay the groundwork for expansion, and have participated in many fun events such as Comic Con and Harry Potter. Recently we have been working on promotional material and gathering contacts for National Honor Societies in local schools. We have also decided to stick to a social media based method of advertisement, using Twitter and Tumblr in addition to Facebook, which will be further developed once we are done setting up a good design with Doug Bixler. We are looking forward to the upcoming events such as the summer Comic Con and the bigger Harry Potter Event in October where we will be selling wands as a fundraiser due to popularity from last year.

Shaheen Hasan

Membership

1. 1212 memberships which include:
 - a. 66 complimentary memberships
 - b. 16 Junior Memberships
 - c. 89 new memberships
2. 32 arrears >2 years, 49 from 2015 not included in the current count.
3. 137 Matching Funds from industry (GE).

Distribution of contributions by category for current memberships: Year ending 2016

	Individual	Family	Contributing	Supporting	Patron	Benefactor	Total
General	236	93	175	88	221	26	839

4. Total members which include 2 member designations is 839.
5. As of 12/31/2016, there have been 600 renewals documented.

Norrine Thompson

Music

The Beat the Snow Concert Series for 2016 was the second year for new chairperson, Janice Walz. The series had run many years under Ron and Chris Patrick. The series invites local performers to entertain our audiences for an hour each Sunday from the beginning of January through March. As in any year, there were sudden changes and a mix of returning artists and new performers. We began the series with a well-known and very popular group, Route Fifty 5, as part of our 50th Anniversary celebration.

The number of attendees varied for the concerts depending on the weather and performers. The audiences enjoyed the musicians and several of the musicians stated that it was a pleasure to have an audience that actually listened to them-as many of them perform in clubs like The Stockade Inn, etc.

Performers included: Route Fifty 5, Carla Metz, Terri Robyn and Mary Ann Kosek, Musicians of Maalwyck, Mostly Jazz with Bill Harrison, Michael Clement with Rosanne Hargraves and also with Bien Baez, SLOC, Malcolm Kogut and Janice Walz with a Sing-along, and the Etude Club. As I was able to attend most concerts, I could tell there was real appreciation for this series.

Janice Walz

Newsletter/Publicity

The Friends newsletter saw two major changes in 2016: electronic distribution, via email, to all members requesting a digital copy and the color publication of print copies. Hard copies of the newsletter were made available at all Friends public events, the Whitney Book Corner and the library branches.

The 50th anniversary of the Friends saw a major increase in publicity, with our activities and organization being promoted on radio, in the newspapers and on a billboard overlooking Erie Boulevard in Schenectady.

Tracy Kidder's visit in November, 2016 was advertised extensively on social media, including the NYS Writers Institute and WAMC websites. As a result of reaching out to the Times Union, reporter Joe Stalvey conducted a phone interview with Kidder and his subsequent article helped to promote this event to areas outside of the immediate Schenectady area.

Publicity efforts are also ongoing for the Whitney Book Corner, with paid ads for the monthly sales appearing regularly in local media outlets. While websites for the Friends and the Whitney are continually updated, postings on Facebook are the main way the public is kept informed. The Friends Facebook page has 720 "likes", the Whitney 432. Be sure to like us on Facebook!

Christine Witkowski

Online Book Sales

Online Books now has eighteen volunteers, including two Juniors, who moved on to regular Friends when they turned 18. On Saturdays, we always have a large group of Junior Friends at online, researching, hauling books upstairs, scanning and taking photos. They are a hard working and dedicated group that give up their Saturday mornings to volunteer.

We hope to increase our Ebay sales with the return of our volunteer from an extended absence. Online has been given 4.9 stars out of 5 for the last 12 months. In the coming year, with the addition of a third computer, we hope to increase sales and productivity .

Emily Aucompaugh	Robin Eddy	Charlene Roman
Melissa Aucompaugh	Joe Giordano	Dick Shave
Lois Bezio	Shaheen Hassan	Mary Trivilino
Michel Bouton	Cheryl Nechamen	Mary Ann VanAlstyne
Valerie Catlin	Jocelyn Pranis	Fiona Walsh
Fred Eddy	Miranda Rand	Sandy Willis

Shawn Marie Schultz

Whitney Book Corner

2016 was a very busy and productive year for the Whitney, increasing our sales 15% from 2015 and putting lots of great books back into the community and helped promote reading to children.

- We started the year with a two week clearance sale, which increased sales at what is usually a slow time of year.
- For Valentine's Day, the Whitney and Romance novels were a feature shown on Time-Warner Cable News.
- We participated in the Electric City Comic Con in July. The Whitney had two tables in vendor alley and we sold over \$800.00 worth of books and merchandise and increased our sales at the store to \$6000.00 for the month.
- The library's summer reading program awarded kids a free book coupon for reading a certain number of books over the summer. By October, we had already received over 150 coupons back.
- In order to participate in the Friends 50th anniversary, we featured each decade the Friends had been in existence. Starting in April with the 60's and ending in September there were books, trivia and memorabilia from each decade on display.
- Since the book store is right between the Greek fest and Italian fest, we put all Greek and Italian books on sale. The increased foot traffic always makes that weekend busy.
- The Harry Potter event was a great success with the classes at the library very well attended. It is going to become an annual event every October.
- In December, we teamed up with the library and had a Dr. Seuss movie, crafts and costumed characters.

Charlene Roman

12:21 PM
03/27/17
Cash Basis

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

	<u>Dec 31, 16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking Accounts	34,660.51
Money Market Accounts	343,180.68
Total Checking/Savings	<u>377,841.19</u>
Total Current Assets	377,841.19
Other Assets	
AAA - Travel Card Online Sales	933.90
AAA Travel Card - Friends Noon	58.57
AAA Travel for Staff Expenses	621.21
Bulk Postage Permit Account	95.19
Pay Pal from Ebay sales	693.29
Postage Due Acct	42.09
Total Other Assets	<u>2,444.25</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>380,285.44</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Sales Tax Payable NYS	303.53
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>303.53</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>303.53</u>
Total Liabilities	303.53
Equity	
Book Sales Fund	222,454.41
Gilbert Endowmnt Fnd Restrict	1,000.00
Great Decisions	-40.14
Love-Jatulis Charitable Gift	1,000.00
Mary James Fund	8,534.93
Music Fund	11,289.54
Niskayuna Landscape Fund	448.07
Operating Funds	7,120.91
Whitney Book Corner	235,305.96
Woodlawn Fund	1,304.53
Net Income	-108,436.30
Total Equity	<u>379,981.91</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>380,285.44</u>

12:22 PM
03/27/17
Cash Basis

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

January through December 2016

	Jan - Dec 16	Budget	Jan - Dec 16	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Author Book Sale	261.50	200.00	261.50	200.00	200.00
BookSale Income	43,685.23	42,000.00	43,685.23	42,000.00	42,000.00
Contributions	25,988.35	22,000.00	25,988.35	22,000.00	22,000.00
Friends trips	274.60	0.00	274.60	0.00	0.00
GE Match	4,105.00	6,500.00	4,105.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
Gifts/Memorial Contributions	1,730.00	500.00	1,730.00	500.00	500.00
Interest	305.45	200.00	305.45	200.00	200.00
On line sales	44,123.16	45,000.00	44,123.16	45,000.00	45,000.00
Tee Shirt Sales	41.84		41.84		
Total Income	120,515.13	116,400.00	120,515.13	116,400.00	116,400.00
Gross Profit	120,515.13	116,400.00	120,515.13	116,400.00	116,400.00
Expense					
Accounting Review	1,000.00	825.00	1,000.00	825.00	825.00
Annual Dinner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BookSale Expenses	1,653.18	2,500.00	1,653.18	2,500.00	2,500.00
Bornt Branch Support	79,949.73		79,949.73		
Capital Expenses	4,794.83		4,794.83		
Equipment	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Friends 50th Anniversary	23,756.02	30,000.00	23,756.02	30,000.00	30,000.00
Friends Noon Programs	707.53	1,000.00	707.53	1,000.00	1,000.00
Great Books Program	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
Library Week	408.62	250.00	408.62	250.00	250.00
Membership	673.86	700.00	673.86	700.00	700.00
Memorials/Gifts Expense	51.79		51.79		
Music	522.73	750.00	522.73	750.00	750.00
Museum Pass Program	2,607.07	2,500.00	2,607.07	2,500.00	2,500.00
Newsletter	4,604.03	5,000.00	4,604.03	5,000.00	5,000.00
Online Book Sales	8,119.31	9,000.00	8,119.31	9,000.00	9,000.00
Other	2,429.25	2,000.00	2,429.25	2,000.00	2,000.00
Piano	325.00	350.00	325.00	350.00	350.00
Poetry Gala	196.77	150.00	196.77	150.00	150.00
Postage	843.35	1,250.00	843.35	1,250.00	1,250.00
Program Supplies, Adult	12,730.63	7,500.00	12,730.63	7,500.00	7,500.00
Program Supplies, Children-YA	7,075.45	7,500.00	7,075.45	7,500.00	7,500.00
Program Support Spec Circ Items	18,380.91	15,000.00	18,380.91	15,000.00	15,000.00
Programs, Adults	27,565.08	25,000.00	27,565.08	25,000.00	25,000.00
Programs, Children-YA	20,811.00	25,000.00	20,811.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Publicity	3,848.75	4,500.00	3,848.75	4,500.00	4,500.00
Staff Development	4,795.83	7,500.00	4,795.83	7,500.00	7,500.00
Stationery	230.11	1,000.00	230.11	1,000.00	1,000.00
Technology Support	-17.01	200.00	-17.01	200.00	200.00
Volunteer Events	887.61	1,200.00	887.61	1,200.00	1,200.00
Total Expense	228,951.43	151,725.00	228,951.43	151,725.00	151,725.00
Net Ordinary Income	-108,436.30	-35,325.00	-108,436.30	-35,325.00	-35,325.00
Other Income/Expense					
Other Expense					
Due from SCPL	0.00		0.00		
Total Other Expense	0.00		0.00		
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income	-108,436.30	-35,325.00	-108,436.30	-35,325.00	-35,325.00

12:19 PM

03/27/17

Cash Basis

Whitney Book Corner
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
 January through December 2016

	Jan - Dec 16	Budget	Jan - Dec 16	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income					
Contributions	409.29	150.00	409.29	150.00	150.00
Merchandise Sales	53,075.16	45,000.00	53,075.16	45,000.00	45,000.00
Total Income	53,484.45	45,150.00	53,484.45	45,150.00	45,150.00
Expense					
Equipment	23.22	500.00	23.22	500.00	500.00
Insurance	512.90	550.00	512.90	550.00	550.00
Office Supplies	297.08	300.00	297.08	300.00	300.00
Other	320.63	500.00	320.63	500.00	500.00
Rent	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Services	150.00	500.00	150.00	500.00	500.00
Utilities					
Electricity	1,407.77	1,580.00	1,407.77	1,580.00	1,580.00
Phone	384.98	420.00	384.98	420.00	420.00
Total Utilities	1,792.75	2,000.00	1,792.75	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Expense	10,596.58	11,850.00	10,596.58	11,850.00	11,850.00
Net Income	42,887.87	33,300.00	42,887.87	33,300.00	33,300.00

Elections

The Nominating Committee presents the following persons for Officers and Directors:

Officers: President: Valerie Catlin; 1st Vice President: Tricia Margas; 2nd Vice President: Shawn Schultz; Secretary: Madelyn Thorne; Treasurer: Nancy Virkler

Directors: For an initial three year term: Robin Eddy, Arlene Maranville, Geri Mulligan, Dick Shave, Norrine Thompson

Directors: Standing for a second three year term: Shawn Marie Schultz, Robert Symons, Madelyn Thorne

Robin Eddy: Robin is a retired educator having taught in the Burnt Hill-Ballston Lake School District for 31 years. She has volunteered at SICM's Food Pantry, Things of My Very Own, Keane School, the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Bethesda House and is an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). For the Friends, Robin is the coordinator of volunteers on the book sale committee. She also sorts donated books, scans and posts books for the online sales, is a substitute volunteer at the Whitney Book Corner and is the newly appointed associate manager at the Whitney.

Arlene Maranville: Arlene's professional background is in education, as a Latin teacher and high school administrator. She has held offices in the Junior League and AAUW and volunteered at Things of My Very Own, the Schenectady County Health Clinic and presently at Her Treasure Box, a business formed to support Eyes Wide Open, NENY Inc. She is a Whitney Book Corner clerk and helps at the book sales.

Geri Mulligan: Geri taught special education and high school social studies in the Troy School District for 30 years. After retiring she became a literacy volunteer, and tutors weekly at the main library in Schenectady. As a member of the Friends she helps sort books and volunteers at the Whitney Book Corner as a substitute clerk. She is a member of the Schenectady Branch of AAUW.

Dick Shave: Dick worked in technical sales and, later on, in education. He was the organizing chair of the Schenectady Greenmarket and serves on the boards of the Niskayuna Co-op and the League of Women Voters. He is the League's designee on the Citizen's Police Review Board, volunteers at Proctors as a member of the Theater Guild, and is a member of the Friends Online Book Sales committee.

Norrine Thompson: Norrine retired from Albany Medical College after a 31 year tenure in the Microbiology Department. She works at the Whitney Book Corner, chairs the Friends Membership Committee, volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House, tutors basic computer skills at the Schenectady Library and volunteers at her church as a Liturgical Minister.

Tricia Margas

Proposed Changes To The Bylaws Of The Friends

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: General management of The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library shall be vested in a Board of Directors of ~~not more than 25~~ and normally not fewer than 17 members, excepting ex officio members. All members of the Board of Directors shall be members of The Friends.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Section 1: The standing committees shall include Executive, Membership, Program, Public Relations, Finance, Gifts and Endowment, Nominating, Bookstore, Newsletter, Online Sales, Book Sales, and Archives and other standing or ad hoc committees as deemed necessary from time to time by the Board of Directors. The duties of the committees are described in the committee guidelines.

Section 6: The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the organization, Past President, and two other Directors elected annually by the Board of Directors.

[current Section 6 to be renumbered to Section 7.]

Whitney Book Corner
Volunteers Achieving Fifteen Years Service 2002-2017

**Amy Brule
Sally Clark
Renie Federighi
Gail Karl
John O'Grady
Gene Rowland**

**Wayne Brule
Robert Clark
George Gould
John Karl
Mary Pritchard
Vernon Scoville
Maureen Versaci**

**Patricia Buczkowski
Mildred Creasey
Maryann Hall
Emily O'Grady
Ellie Rowland
Virginia Thompson**

Volunteers Achieving Ten Years Service in 2017

Rickie Gageway

Patricia Rotunda

Christine Witkowski*

Volunteers Reaching New Reward Levels of Hours of Service

Pulitzer Prize 751-1,000 Hours

Renie Federighi*

Penn/Hemingway Award 500-750 Hours

**Roger Graiser
AnnMarie McLaughlin**

**Mary Ann Hall
Emily O'Grady
Toly Svolos**

**Lynn Lucas
John O'Grady**

Edgar Award 400-499 Hours

**Margaret Bauer
Ann Leversee
Charlene Roman***

**Wayne Brule
Claudia Rolfe
Nancy Sieper**

**Virginia Golden
Keith Rolfe
Lorraine Zabin**

Newberry Award 300-399 Hours

George Gould *

Julia Stone

*Hours only reflect time spent on regular shifts and substituting hours and
the many hours devoted to managerial duties.