

# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

Sept/Oct 2011

Vol. XLVII, No. 1

Note: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listings for days and times.

### NOON PROGRAMS BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- Sept. 12**     **Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America** by Eugene Robinson; reviewed by Marge Karowe, social activist, lawyer. "Robinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for the Washington Post, marshals persuasive evidence that the African-American population has splintered into four distinct and increasingly disconnected entities."
- Sept. 19**     **The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement** by David Brooks; reviewed by Bill Buell. Brooks "explores the unconscious mind and how it shapes the way we eat, love, live, vacation, and relate to other people."
- Sept. 26**     **I Don't Sound Like Nobody: Remaking Music in 1950's America** by Dr. Alvin Zak; reviewed by the author, song writer and professor of music, SUNY Albany. "For aficionados of American popular music, this is an engrossing work of scholarship full of fresh insights."
- Oct. 3**        **Let's Take the Long Way Home** by Gail Caldwell; reviewed by Kileen Stone, college and high school English teacher and UCALL presenter. "This is a beautiful story of the best things about best friends: shared rituals and private jokes, long walks and longer talks, confessions and discoveries."
- Oct. 17**     **Idea Man: A Memoir by the Co-founder of Microsoft** by Paul Allen; reviewed by Fred Eddy, Friends of SCPL board member. "While much has been written about Microsoft's early years, Allen has never before told the story from his point of view."
- Oct. 24**     **The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris** by David McCullough; reviewed by Frank Taormina, member of the Historical Society, UCALL presenter, former Niskayuna Schools Superintendent. "An epic of ideas, as well as an exhilarating book of spells . . . This is history to be savored."
- Oct. 31**     **In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin** by Erik Larson; reviewed by Joan Ham, UCALL presenter, retired social worker, pianist. "A vivid portrait of Berlin during the first years of Hitler's reign, brought to life through the stories of two people: William E. Dodd, and his daughter, Martha. "
- Nov. 7**      **Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth** by Frederick Kempe; reviewed by Philip Adams, UCALL Curriculum, past Friends Board member, retired G.E. Power Systems. "A masterly look at key events of the twentieth century, with powerful applications to these early years of the twenty- first."

### ON THE ROAD AGAIN



Travel with the Friends to the Republic of Ireland in September, 2012! Highlights of the 11 night tour will include The Ring of Kerry, The Dingle Peninsula, the lovely region of Connemara, and the Lakes of Killarney. Complete details, along with pricing, can be found at <http://whitneybookcorner.org/> or by contacting John Goldsmith at (518) 406-5459.

**John planned the spectacularly successful literary trip to England this past spring and news of the wonderful adventure has spread far and wide. If there is sufficient interest, it is likely the trip would be offered again. Sound good to you? Please email us at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com) or contact John Goldsmith at the above number and let us know if you'd be interested in this fantastic tour.**

A spring, 2012 literary trip is planned to the Emily Dickinson and Eric Carle Museums in Amherst, Ma. Details will be provided in the next newsletter.

# REELS

A Free Series of Recent Thought-Provoking Films  
Shown in the McChesney Room at the Central Library  
99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, New York

## September

Wednesday, September 7 at noon & Thursday,  
September 8 at 7pm

### ***A Clockwork Orange***

Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee Directed by Stanley Kubrick Rated R; 137 minutes; 1971  
Stanley Kubrick, creator of *DR. STRANGELOVE* and *2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY*, reconfirmed his technical mastery in this merciless vision of the near future based on Anthony Burgess' chilling novel. A sadistic murderer is caught and "rehabilitated" in a grisly government experiment in this mind-shattering drama.

Wednesday, September 14 at noon & Thursday,  
September 15 at 7pm

### ***Fahrenheit 451***

Julie Christie, Oskar Werner Universal Pictures;  
Directed by Francois Truffaut Not Rated; 113 minutes; 1966  
Acclaimed as a modern classic in the vein of *Brave New World* and *1984*, this outstanding novel by Ray Bradbury is brought to the screen with all its vividness and imagination intact. Set in a future electronic age, all books are banned and fireman must keep fires burning at 451 degrees—the temperature at which paper burns. Julie Christie plays dual roles—one as wife of fireman Oskar Werner and the other as a book-loving schoolteacher.

Wednesday, September 21 at noon & Thursday,  
September 22 at 7pm

### ***Slaughterhouse Five***

Michael Sacks, Ron Leibman Universal Pictures; 1972  
Directed by George Roy Hill Rated R; 120 minutes;  
The first screen adaptation of a Kurt Vonnegut novel, SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE performs the remarkable task of faithfully capturing the popular novelist's complex vision and manic black humor. Billy Pilgrim (Michael Sacks), a buck-toothed Everyman, living in middle class America, becomes unstuck in time. In a dazzling cascade of time and space shuttles, Billy travels to the Planet Tralfamador where he lives his future with a glamorous movie star, and bounces through past events of his life.

Wednesday, September 28 at noon & Thursday,  
September 29 at 7pm

### ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***

Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher, Christopher Lloyd, Danny DeVito, Brad Dourif, Saul Zaentz  
MGM/UA; Directed by Milos Forman  
Rated R; 134 minutes; 1975  
A remarkable adaptation of Ken Kesey's classic novel about the triumph of the human spirit in an insane asylum in the '60s. Free-spirited Randall Patrick McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) commits himself to a mental hospital and attempts to wake up the other patients to the idea that the difference between sanity and insanity is just society's attempt to stifle individualism.

## October

Wednesday, October 5 at noon & Thursday,  
October 6 at 7pm

### ***The Tempest***

Alfred Molina, Helen Mirren, Russell Brand  
Walt Disney Studios; Directed by Julie Taymor  
Rated PG-13; 110 minutes; 2011  
In Shakespeare's fantastical thriller the magician Prospero orchestrates spirits, monsters, a grief-stricken king, a wise old councillor, two treacherous brothers and a storm at sea into a fantastical conspiracy bringing banishment, sorcery and shipwreck into the lives of two hapless lovers to stir and seal their fate.

Wednesday, October 12 at noon & Thursday,  
October 13 at 7pm

### ***The Conspirator***

Robin Wright, James McAvoy, Tom Wilkinson  
Lionsgate; Directed by Robert Redford  
Rated PG-13; 122 minutes; 2011  
In the wake of Abraham Lincoln's assassination, seven men and one woman are arrested and charged with conspiring to kill the President, Vice President, and Secretary of State. Against the ominous backdrop of post-Civil War Washington, newly-minted lawyer, Frederick Aiken, reluctantly agrees to defend the lone female defendant before a military tribunal.

Wednesday, October 19 at noon & Thursday,  
October 20 at 7pm

### ***Jane Eyre***

Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender, Jamie Bell  
Focus Features; Directed by Cary Fukunaga  
Rated PG-13; 121 minutes; 2011  
In this romantic drama based on Charlotte Brontë's classic novel, Jane Eyre flees Thornfield House, where she works as a governess for wealthy Edward Rochester. As she reflects upon the people and emotions that have defined her, it is clear that the isolated and imposing residence – and Mr. Rochester's coldness – have sorely tested the young woman's resilience, forged years earlier when she was orphaned. She must now act decisively to secure her own future and come to terms with the past that haunts her.

Wednesday, October 26 at noon & Thursday,  
October 27 at 7pm

### ***Everything Must Go***

Will Farrell, Rebecca Hall, Laura Dern  
Lionsgate, Directed by Dan Rush  
Rated R; 100 minutes; 2010  
Nick Halsey is having the worst day anyone could possibly have. He loses his job, his sobriety and his wife, finding all of his possessions on the front lawn of his old house with the locks changed. As he starts to live on his lawn, Nick's AA sponsor steps in and suggests a yard sale as a way to make some money, let go and move on with his life.

**Friends of the Library - Member Benefits  
Presents an Off- Broadway Opportunity**

# Memphis

at Proctors Theater!

Are you a Friend of the Library? Are you interested in taking advantage of our group ticket purchase for the April 18<sup>th</sup> production of Memphis? Details and an order form can be found online at <http://www.whitneybookcorner.org> or at the Whitney Book Corner.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have kept our promise and the library has remained open during the construction period but the library workers have endured some minor hardships that go with working around construction. Tell them THANK YOU when you next visit the library!!!

The Friends volunteers have been working hard as well during the summer and will be ready for our book sale on Oct 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Whitney Book Corner has been very busy as well during this period.

John Goldsmith, who ran our very successful trip to England in May, 2011 has proposed a great trip to Ireland in the fall of 2012. Please support him.  
-Bill Leitch

## UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS SAVE THESE DATES!

Banned Book Week event, Sunday, September 25th, at 2:00 pm, in the McChesney Room. Register to read from your favorite banned book by calling 388-4511.

Tom Ryan, author of *Following Atticus: Forty-eight Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship*, will speak in the McChesney Room, Saturday, October 15th, at 2:00 pm. Register to meet Tom and Atticus by calling 388-4511.

A playwriting workshop series entitled *Ten by Ten's* will be held on Saturday mornings, from 10:00 am to noon on October 15, October 22 and October 29 in the McChesney Room. Registration is required by calling 388-4511.

Pulitzer prize-winning author William Kennedy, whose new book entitled *Chango's Beads and Two-tone Shoes* will be released in late September, will speak in the McChesney Room Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 2:00 pm. Doors open at 1:30.

## BOOK SALES

We took in over \$20,000 at the spring book sale! Thank you to everyone involved. Most important are all the people who donate so many books in good condition for the sale (and the store). Hats off to the people of Schenectady County! Over 200 people are involved in the sale. The Friends who act as cashiers and organizers deserve a special thanks for their warm and helpful attitude when they are dealing with the buying public.

We thank GE Power University and Global Research Center for their help with setup and clean up, the library staff for their assistance and patience in tolerating the disruption caused by the sale, Sandy Andersen for her graphics work, Betty Jean Lent and Bob Schumaker for the ongoing help with book sorting and set up at the sale and Randy Lucia for providing security.

Next big sale is Oct. 1 & 2- don't miss it!  
-Ellie Rowland & Virginia Thompson

## GIFTS RECEIVED

A big thank you goes to Phil and Jo Adams, Ellie and Gene Rowland and David and Patricia Gosda for their generous contributions towards the library expansion project. A gift in tribute to Kathy Van Flue was received from Ceil Mack.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Friends newsletter can be viewed online by visiting [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org) or [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org). Let us know if you're going to be away during the winter months and we will suspend mailing the newsletter. One click online and you can stay informed!

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

This past spring and summer the Whitney Book Corner has undergone a face lift. Fresh paint was added to the inside and outside walls, windows were washed, rugs were shampooed, and the classification book signs were updated. This couldn't have been accomplished without the following people: Phil Adams, Sandy Andersen, Rich Holt, John Karl, George Kirker, Sally Magid, and Claudia and Keith Rolfe. Thank you!

Also this summer the Library held special programs for adults, young adults, and children. We rewarded the participants with a coupon for one free book at the Whitney Book Corner. The WBC continues to attract people that still like to have a book in their hands!  
- Gail Karl



## FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP AT WORK!

Ever wonder what the Friends of the Library do with your membership fee? The programs described in this newsletter and many others are provided by funds from your membership and the hard work of the many Friends volunteers. Future newsletters will highlight the vast number of programs that your membership makes possible. Read on to see what we've sponsored this summer:

- Teen Writing Boot Camp – held for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and facilitated by local author Jack Rightmyer, attended by 28 students in grades 6-12. From one teen participant: "While other people are excited about that Ryan Gosling guy, I just had the best day of my life because I met the man who wrote Jigsaw Jones! And he signed my copy of Bystander!"
- Quality programs that brought large crowds of children, teens and families into each of our libraries. Some of the highlights included a live owl show called Silent Wings; a pop-art experience with artist Michael Albert, Dance Around the World with Jennifer Stanley, the World of Magic with Jim Snack, Real Wildlife with Mr. Robinson and Fused Glass Mosaic making with the Studio for Art and Craft. For two solid months of summer there was at least one event (and often several) at one or more of our library locations.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Friends welcome the following new members:  
Arinka Abad, Jean Barnoski, Len & Erica Berger,  
Irv Dean, Beverly Elander, Phyllis Boyd, Jim  
Burns, Rachel Cameron, Rosalie Claughsey,  
Charles Fairmon, Bob Farrell, Carol Fischer,  
Virginia Forster, Jeannette Gerlaugh, Lynne  
Gilgore, John & Laura Goode, Dottie Halligan,  
Betsy Henry, Cathy & Bob Hoffman, Andy  
Shapiro, Bob & Sara Knowler, Shirley Levey,  
Patty Mack, Patricia Mahoney, Thomas Mangano,  
Kathryn McCary, Brigio Meyer, Carmel Patrick,  
Miranda Rand, Susannah Risley, Ralph Rudolph,

Graham Sciocchetti, Rachelle Standage, Liz Utzig,  
Mary Ann Van Alstyne, Nicholas Walsh and Mary  
Ann Warner. We are thrilled to have you as  
members!

Have you renewed your membership for this fiscal  
year? We usually send out a reminder letter in  
October, but it would decrease our mailing  
expenses if you renew now by using the form  
below. Are you unsure of your membership  
status? Just drop us an e-mail at  
[friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com) and we'll check.

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### Renewal Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

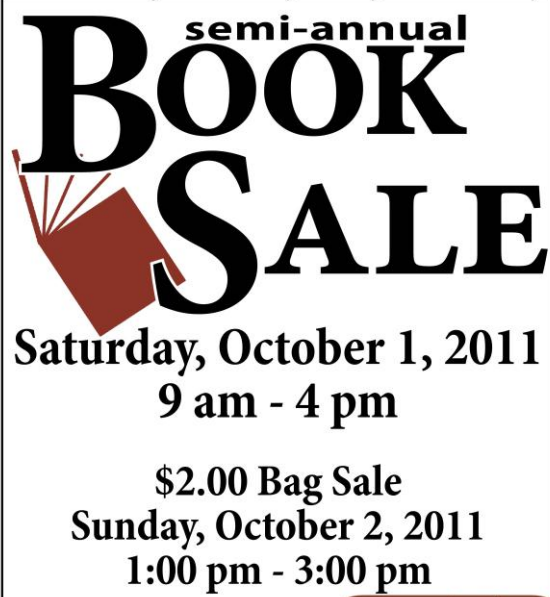
Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: Circle one: Individual (\$10) Family (\$15) Contributing (\$25)  
Supporting (\$35) Business (\$50) Patron (\$100) Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Friends of SCPL, c/o Membership Chairman,  
99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY.12305

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*The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library*



**semi-annual**  
**BOOK SALE**  
Saturday, October 1, 2011  
9 am - 4 pm  
\$2.00 Bag Sale  
Sunday, October 2, 2011  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Most books  
\$1.00

Children's Books  
25¢ & 50¢

Paperbacks  
3/\$1.00

Romance  
(trade or hardcover)  
2/\$1.00

Records...DVDs...CDs...VHS...Audiobooks

For year-round deals on quality used books, visit the Whitney Book Corner  
on the corner of Clinton & Union Streets. [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org)

Schenectady County Public Library \* 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305 \* 388.4500 \* [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)



# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

# NEWSLETTER

November/December 2011

Vol. XLVII, No. 2

Note: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listings for days and times.

## NOON PROGRAMS

### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- Nov. 7**      **Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth** by Frederick Kempe; reviewed by Philip Adams, UCALL Curriculum, past Friends Board member, retired G.E. Power Systems. "A masterly look at key events of the twentieth century, with powerful applications to these early years of the twenty- first."

### SPECIAL FEATURES Gioia Ottaviano, Coordinator

#### THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE OF THE ULYSSES S. GRANT COTTAGE Mt. McGregor, Wilton, N.Y.

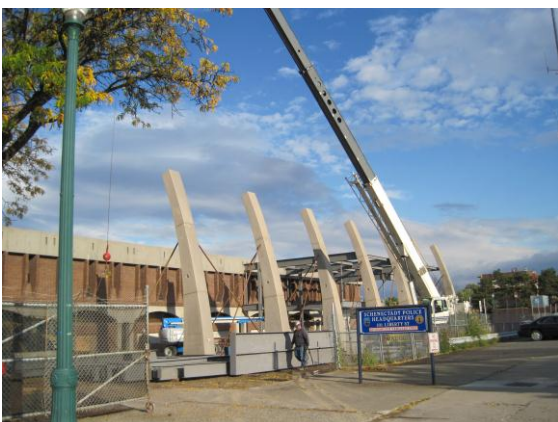
- Nov. 14**      **The Grant Cottage: A Virtual Tour-** presented by David Hubbard, site manager.
- Nov. 21**      **Oliver Clarke, the First Caretaker of the Grant Cottage (and Civil War Veteran)** – portrayed by Steve Trimm, Tour Guide.

## TABLE TALKS

### A SERIES OF TALKS FOCUSING ON DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND THE CAPITAL DISTRICT John Karl, Coordinator

- Nov. 28**      **Jeff Clark**, Executive Director of the Schenectady Habitat for Humanity, will speak about the process of providing homes for residents of the Schenectady community.
- Dec. 5**      **Jim Cesare**, board member of the ALCO Historical and Technical Society and project manager for the new ALCO Museum on Maxon Road, will describe the new museum and give a preview of what it will include.
- Dec. 12**      **Jim Salengo**, Executive Director of the Schenectady Downtown Improvement Corporation, will provide an update on the developments in the downtown area and plans for more to come.
- Dec. 19**      **Marcia White**, President and Executive Director of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, will remind us of the history of SPAC and plans for the future.

## LIBRARY EXPANSION PROGRESS



Delivery and installation of seven 34 foot tall precast arched concrete columns, weighing 38,000 pounds each, began on October 7. The picture to the right was taken on October 15 – a lot was accomplished in one week! Over the summer much interior construction has taken place, including ongoing renovations to the public restrooms, main lobby and library entrance. Although it has produced much noise and commotion, the library staff and patrons have been amazingly patient during this time of disruption. Construction is on schedule with an estimated completion date of early spring, 2012.

# REELS

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## November

Wednesday, November 2 at noon & Thursday,  
November 3 at 7pm

### ***The Lincoln Lawyer***

Matthew McConaughey, John Leguizamo, Marisa Tomei Lionsgate; Directed by Brad Furman  
Rated R; 119 minutes; 2011

In this gripping thriller a slick, charismatic Los Angeles criminal defense attorney Michael "Mick" Haller operates out of the back of his Lincoln Continental sedan. Having spent most of his career defending petty, garden-variety criminals, Mick unexpectedly lands the case of a lifetime, defending a rich Beverly Hills playboy, who is accused of attempted murder.

Wednesday, November 9 at noon & Thursday,  
November 10 at 7pm

### ***Meek's Cutoff***

Michelle Williams, Bruce Greenwood, Will Patton Oscilloscope Pictures; Directed by Kelly Reichardt; Rated PG; 104 minutes; 2011

The year is 1845, the earliest days of the Oregon Trail, and a wagon train of three families has hired mountain man Stephen Meek to guide them over the Cascade Mountains. When a Native American wanderer crosses their path, the emigrants are torn between their trust in a guide who has proven himself unreliable and a man who has always been seen as a natural born enemy.

Wednesday, November 16 at noon & Thursday,  
November 17 at 7pm

### ***A Better Life***

Demian Bichir, Jose Julian, Dolores Heredia Summit Entertainment; Directed by Chris Weitz  
Rated PG-13; 97 minutes; 2011

Carlos Galindo always dreamed of a better life for his family when he crossed the border into the U.S. Worried that his son, Luis, will soon be lost to him forever, Carlos takes what little money he has and invests it all into his own gardening business. However an expected turn of events takes Luis and Carlos on a journey where they discover that family is the most important thing.

Wednesday, November 23 at noon

### ***Life in a Day***

Documentary Feature  
National Geographic Entertainment;  
Directed by Kevin Macdonald and Natalia Andreadis  
Rated PG-13; 95 minutes; 2011

This film is a user-generated feature-length documentary, shot on a single day - July 24, 2010 - that enlisted the global community to capture a moment of their lives on camera. The world responded by submitting more than 80,000 videos, representing over 4,500 hours of deeply personal, powerful

Wednesday, November 30 at noon & Thursday,  
December 1 at 7pm

### ***Page One: Inside the New York Times***

Documentary Feature  
Magnolia Pictures;  
Directed by Andrew Rossi  
Rated R; 96 minutes; 2011

This documentary deftly gains unprecedented access to The New York Times newsroom and the inner workings of the Media Desk. With the Internet surpassing print as our main news source and newspapers all over the country going bankrupt, *PAGE ONE* chronicles the transformation of the media industry at its time of greatest turmoil. Writers like Brian Stelter, Tim Arango and the salty but brilliant David Carr track print journalism's metamorphosis even as their own paper struggles to stay vital and solvent.

## December

Wednesday, December 7 at noon & Thursday,  
December 8 at 7pm

### ***Devil's Double***

Dominic Cooper, Ludivine Sagnier, Raad Rawi Lionsgate; Directed by Lee Tamahori  
Rated R; 108 minutes; 2011

Based on actual events, this film recounts the remarkable tale of Latif Yahia, an Iraqi army lieutenant who was summoned to Saddam Hussein's palace in 1987 and ordered to become the fday, or body double, of his notorious eldest son, Uday. Many of his countrymen might have considered this a great honor, but it was merely the beginning of a hellish nightmare for Latif. Under the constant threat of harm to his family, he had no choice but to play the role of silent witness while his nefarious captor indulged in countless brutal and depraved fantasies with no regard for human life.

Wednesday, December 14 at noon & Thursday,  
December 15 at 7pm

### ***Atlas Shrugged: Part 1***

Taylor Schilling, Grant Bowler, Edi Gathegi Rocky Mountain Pictures;  
Directed by Paul Johansson

Rated PG-13; 97 minutes; 2011 Dagny Taggart runs the largest remaining railroad company in America, with intelligence, courage and integrity, despite the systematic disappearance of her best and most competent workers. She is drawn to industrialist Henry Rearden, whose super-strength metal alloy, Rearden Metal, holds the promise that innovation can overcome the slide into anarchy. The two discover the design of a revolutionary motor based on static electricity - in an abandoned engine factory - more proof to the sinister theory that the "men of the mind" are "on strike" and vanishing from society.

Wednesday, December 21 at noon & Thursday,  
December 22 at 7pm

### ***The Debt***

Ciaran Hinds, Helen Mirren, Sam Worthington Focus Features; Directed by John Madden  
Rated R; 113 minutes; 2010

In 1965, three young Israeli Mossad agents went on a secret mission to capture or kill a notorious Nazi war criminal. Now, thirty years later, a man claiming to be the Nazi has surfaced in Ukraine and one of the former agents must go back undercover to seek out the truth.

Wednesday, December 28 at noon & Thursday,  
December 29 at 7pm

### ***Cave of Forgotten Dreams***

Documentary Feature  
IFC Films; Directed by Werner Herzog  
Not Rated; 90 minutes; 2011

This film is a breathtaking new documentary from the incomparable Werner Herzog which follows an exclusive expedition into the nearly inaccessible Chauvet Cave in France, home to the most ancient visual art known to have been created by man. This unforgettable cinematic experience provides a unique glimpse of pristine artwork dating back to human hands over 30,000 years ago -- almost twice as old as any previous discovery.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Goldsmith, who ran our very successful trip to England in May, 2011 has proposed a great trip to Ireland in the fall of 2012. Please support him. Details can be found at the Whitney Book Corner web site [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org)

Thanks to Ellie Rowland, Virginia Thompson and their many, many hard working volunteers, the October 1-2 Friends Book Sale was an outstanding success, even with a few showers and the threat of rain.

I want to thank the volunteers who do a great job of maintaining the beautiful gardens around our libraries.  
-Bill Leitch

## BOOK SALES

Neither rain nor cold winds kept the people away from the fall book sale. Approximately \$20,300 was taken in over the two days, the most ever!! This is certainly a huge community event which benefits the Schenectady County Public Library.

Over 150 volunteers from the Friends of the Library worked at the sale. The real heroes were the cashiers who sat for several hours in the cold on Saturday. Our hats are off to you!

A special thanks goes to the people who sort and store the books weekly and to the wonderful library staff who make the sale possible. Organizations we wish to thank: Dunkin' Donuts & Price Chopper for refreshments, paper products and bags; General Electric Power University, Bridge Center, and students from Union College and Duanesburg High School. And we thank all the people of Schenectady County who donate a huge amount of books.

Non-profit agencies and their clients can choose as many books as needed free of cost at 2:30 pm on the days of the sale. If you know of an agency or school that would qualify for this opportunity please call Barbara Grasier at 372-8402.

Something new: a mini-sale for Halloween. On October 29 and 30, during library hours, over 2,000 mysteries and a few horror, fantasy, action and suspense books will be on sale in the library hall. Buy one for \$1.00 and get another one free. No limit. We hope to see you all there.

- Ellie Rowland & Virginia Thompson

## GIFTS RECEIVED

A gift was received in memory of Pearl and Roland Lichtenstein from Susan and Walter Lichtenstein.

The late Phyllis Bornt left a generous bequest to SCPL for improvements to the branches. The library's Board of Trustees is considering how best to honor her intentions. Phyllis is remembered fondly by many Friends, having volunteered for the Friends for many years as well as serving on the Board of Directors.

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Look for the following specials for the rest of 2011: November -holiday books, ½ price; VHS videos, \$.25; and exercise videos, free. December specials will be new children's books, priced as marked. Think of holiday gifts for family and friends. Gift certificates are available.

We're planning for our store's 10th anniversary in May 2012. If anyone is interested in joining our committee or has suggestions for the grand celebration, please contact Gail Karl at 393-7590.

-Gail Karl

## MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

Music at Noon, a presentation by the Etude Club, will be given on Friday, November 4 at 12:00 in the McChesney Room.

## LIBRARY EVENTS

Saturday, November 5th, at 2:00 pm, Pulitzer Prize winning author **William Kennedy** will be in the McChesney Room of the Central Library to discuss his new book *Chango's Beads and Two-Tone Shoes*. Doors open at 1:30 pm. If you would like to register for the event to receive an email or phone reminder, please call the Reference Desk at 388-4511.

Sunday, November 20th, at 2:00 pm, the **9th Annual Community of Writers** program will be held in the McChesney Room. The following community writers will be reading from their works: Virginia Bach Folger, Sara Foss, Carol Graser, D. Alexander Holiday, Marilyn Rothstein (M.E. Kemp), Bob Sharkey, Steve Hellyard Swartz (Poet Laureate of Schenectady County), Barbara Louise Ungar, and David Weiss. Alan Catlin will be the moderator.

Tuesday, November 29th, at 7:00 pm, in the McChesney Room, there will be a discussion of **Dr. David Dosa's** book, *Making Rounds with Oscar*, entitled "The Pet Connection." We invite caregivers, pet lovers and all others interested in quality of life from beginning to end to join us for this discussion. The facilitators, from Community Hospice, will be Rev. Don Stake, Public Relations Specialist, and Patricia Spreitzer, RN, Community Outreach Liaison. Register for the discussion by calling 388-4511.



A five week Stamp Collecting Club for Kids at the main branch, using stamps from around the world, was made possible by the Friends.

Four fully loaded Nooks, purchased by the Friends, are available for loan through the registration desk of the main branch. Each Nook has over 15 books on it and can be checked out for two weeks with your library card. Find out what the digital craze is all about!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Friends welcome the following new members: Jeanne Black, Dora and Lewis Hargett, Elizabeth Engler, Martin Finn, Russell Fricke, Jeni Friedland, Rosalie Harrington, Anthony Jasenski, Susan Leach, Sandra and John Marshall, Anne O'Brien, Kay Pasternak, Marcia Steiner, Ellen Strauss, Antonia Walsh and Barbara and Ernest Walton. Thank you for joining us!

### JOIN US AT PROCTORS THEATER

Discount tickets for the April 18<sup>th</sup> production of *Memphis* at Proctors Theater are still available. Details and an order form can be found online at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org) or at the Whitney Book Corner. Don't miss this Tony award-winning show!

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Friends of the Library have their own email address. If you have any questions regarding programs at the library, membership or just want to make a suggestion, contact us at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com). Also, this newsletter can be viewed online at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org) or [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN



November 30 is the cutoff date for registration for the September, 2012 trip to Ireland. Highlights of the 11 night tour will include The Ring of Kerry, The Dingle Peninsula, the lovely region of Connemara, and the Lakes of Killarney. Complete

details, along with pricing, can be found at <http://whitneybookcorner.org/> or by contacting John Goldsmith at (518) 406-5459 or [musicman1853@aol.com](mailto:musicman1853@aol.com)

Anyone interested in a literary trip to England, which John has offered to run again depending on level of interest, should contact him at the above number. Don't miss these fantastic opportunities to visit the United Kingdom under John's wonderful guidance!

Details for the spring, 2012 literary trip to the Emily Dickinson and Eric Carle Museums in Amherst, Ma. will be provided in the next newsletter.

**NEW THIS YEAR!**  
**MYSTERIES ON SALE**  
**HALLOWEEN WEEKEND -OCT. 29-30**  
**MAIN BRANCH DURING LIBRARY HOURS**  
**\$1.00 - BUY ONE/GET ONE FREE**  
**NO LIMIT**





# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

# NEWSLETTER

January/February 2012

Vol. XLVII, No. 3

Note: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listings for days and times.

## NOON PROGRAMS

### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- Jan. 9**      **Harnessed: How Language and Music Mimicked Nature and Transformed Ape to Man** by Mark Changizi; reviewed by Dr. Sherri Lyons, Empire State College professor and science writer. "...Changizi's proposals are impressively specific...describes many oddball facts about language and music."
- Jan. 23**      **Emma Goldman: Revolution as a Way of Life** by Vivian Gornick; reviewed by Esther Willison, staffer and reviewer at the Open Door Bookstore, and member of the International Women's Writing Guild. "Gornick's portrayal of Goldman captures Goldman's psychological makeup in a profound, empathetic, and eloquent way."
- Jan. 30**      **The Shakespeare Thefts: In Search of the First Folios** by Eric Rasmussen; reviewed by Robert Dickson, local businessman. "An enjoyable literary detective story . . . Shakespeare himself would have enjoyed each of the tales recorded in this diverting book."
- Feb. 6**      **The Swerve: How the World Became Modern** by Stephen Greenblatt; reviewed by Bertrand Fay, adjunct faculty and lecturer at Russell Sage and Union College, performance artist , UCALL presenter. "More wonderfully illuminating Renaissance history from a master scholar and historian."
- Feb. 13**      **Title To Be Announced**; reviewed by Roy Williams, retired Niskayuna School science teacher.
- Feb. 27**      **The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared** by Alice Ozma; reviewer TBA

## GREAT DECISIONS

**The Great Decisions** discussion series, held on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the McChesney Room, is free of charge and sponsored by the national, non-partisan **Foreign Policy Association** ([www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)). Its purpose is to encourage free and open discussion of major foreign policy issues. A discussion guide that gives participants a comprehensive balanced view of each of the topics is helpful, but not mandatory. A copy may be ordered by contacting Frank Feiner (377-9448) [FFEINER@nycap.rr.com](mailto:FFEINER@nycap.rr.com) or Jeannie Minch (399-9567). Series topics are:

February 7 - Middle East Realignment  
February 14 – Promoting Democracy  
February 21 – Mexico  
February 28 – Cyber Security

March 6 – Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq  
March 13 – State of the Oceans  
March 20 – Indonesia  
March 27 – Energy Geopolitics

## JOIN US AT PROCTORS THEATER

# Memphis

Friends of the Library members only - discount tickets for the April 18<sup>th</sup> production of *Memphis* at Proctors Theater are still available. Details and an order form can be found online at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org) or at the Whitney Book Corner. Don't miss this Tony award-winning show!

## COMING JANUARY 9 eBOOKS AVAILABLE FROM SCPL

Did you receive a Kindle or Nook for the holidays? Anxious to start borrowing digital books from the library? On Saturday, January 21st at 10am in the McChesney Room learn how to download library OverDrive eBooks to your device. Seating limited; call to register 388-4511.

# REELS

A Free Series of Recent Thought-Provoking Films  
Shown in the McChesney Room at the Central Library  
99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, New York

## JANUARY

Wednesday, January 4 at noon & Thursday,  
January 5 at 7pm

### ***The Future***

Miranda July, Hamish Linklate, David Warshofsky  
Rated R; 91 minutes; 2011

When Sophie and Jason decide to adopt a stray cat, their perspective on life changes radically. Literally altering the course of time and space and testing their faith in each other and themselves.

Wednesday, January 11 at noon & Thursday,  
January 12 at 7pm

### ***The Last Circus***

Carlos Areces, Antonio De La Torre, Carolina Bang  
Magnolia Pictures; Directed by Alex De La Iglesia  
Not Rated; 101 minutes; 2011; Spanish with English subtitles

1937, Spain is in the midst of the brutal Spanish Civil War. A "Happy" circus clown is interrupted mid-performance and forcibly recruited by a militia. Fast forward to 1973, the tail end of the Franco regime. Javier, the son of the clown, dreams of following in his father's career footsteps, but has seen too much tragedy in his life - he's simply not funny and is only equipped to play the role of the Sad Clown. He finds work in a circus where he befriends an outlandish cast of characters.

Wednesday, January 18 at noon & Thursday,  
January 19 at 7pm

### ***Margin Call***

Kevin Spacey, Zachary Quinto, Stanley Tucci  
Lionsgate; Directed by J.C. Chandor  
Rated R; 109 minutes; 2011

This thriller revolves around the key people at an investment bank over a 24-hour period during the early stages of the 2008 financial crisis.

Wednesday, January 25 at noon & Thursday,  
January 26 at 7pm

### ***Sarah's Key***

Kristin Scott Thomas, Melusine Mayance, Niels Arestrup

The Weinstein Company;

Directed by Gilles Paquet - Brenner

Rated PG-13; 111 minutes; 2011

Julia Jarmond, an American journalist, is commissioned to write an article about the notorious Vel d'Hiv round up, which took place in Paris, in 1942. She stumbles upon a family secret, which will link her forever to the destiny of a young Jewish girl, Sarah. Julia learns that the apartment she and her husband Bertrand plan to move into was acquired by Bertrand's family when its Jewish occupants were dispossessed and deported 60 years before. She resolves to find out what happened to the former occupants. The more Julia discovers the more she uncovers about Bertrand's family, about France and, finally, herself.



## FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 1 at noon & Thursday,  
February 2 at 7pm

### ***The Trip***

Steve Coogan, Rob Brydon

Not Rated; 111 minutes; 2011

When Steve Coogan is asked by The Observer to tour the country's finest restaurants, he envisions it as the perfect getaway with his beautiful girlfriend. But when she backs out on him, he has no one to accompany him but his best friend and source of eternal aggravation, Rob Brydon.

Wednesday, February 8 at noon & Thursday,  
February 9 at 7pm

### ***Toast***

Freddie Highmore, Helena Bonham Carter, Ken Stott, Victoria Hamilton

Image Entertainment; Directed by S.J. Clarkson

Not Rated; 96 minutes; 2011

A delicious love letter to the tastes and smells that a young boy associates with his journey into adulthood.

Wednesday, February 15 at noon & Thursday,  
February 16 at 7pm

### ***Beginners***

Ewan McGregor, Christopher Plummer, Melanie Laurent Focus Features; Directed by Mike Mills

Rated R; 105 minutes; 2011

This film imaginatively explores the hilarity, confusion, and surprises of love through the evolving consciousness of Oliver. Oliver meets the irreverent and unpredictable Anna only months after his father Hal has passed away. This new love floods Oliver with memories of his father who – following 44 years of marriage – came out of the closet at age 75 to live a full, energized, and wonderfully tumultuous gay life. The upheavals of Hal's new honesty brought father and son closer than they'd ever been able to be.

Wednesday, February 22 at noon & Thursday,  
February 23 at 7pm

### ***Buck***

Documentary Feature IFC Films; Directed by Cindy Meehl Rated PG; 88 minutes; 2011

BUCK, a richly textured and visually stunning film, follows Brannaman from his abusive childhood to his phenomenally successful approach to horses. A real-life "horse-whisperer", he eschews the violence of his upbringing and teaches people to communicate with their horses through leadership and sensitivity, not punishment. Buck possesses near magical abilities as he dramatically transforms horses – and people – with his understanding, compassion and respect.

Wednesday, February 29 at noon & Thursday,  
March 1 at 7pm

### ***Ides of March***

George Clooney, Paul Giamatti, Philip Seymour Hoffman

Columbia Pictures; Directed by George Clooney

Rated R; 101 minutes; 2011

This film takes place during the frantic last days before a heavily contested Ohio presidential primary, when an up-and-coming campaign press secretary finds himself involved in a political scandal that threatens to upend his candidate's shot at the presidency. Based on the play by Beau Willimon.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone!! We are very excited about our new library addition which will be completed in April. The Friends of SCPL are hoping to help make it a state of the art facility. Have any great ideas for the use of technology in the new wing? Email us at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com) and we will ask the Library Board of Trustees to consider them.

We salute Linda Witkowski, who is retiring in May from her 14 year stretch as coordinator of the Books Sandwiched In program. She has done a fantastic job in presenting more than 200 programs (19 weeks a year) and will be missed by all.  
-Bill Leitch

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The Whitney Book Corner, along with other local businesses and organizations, helped Franklin D. Roosevelt Elementary School in Schenectady fulfill their "wish list" during the holiday season. The sponsor was Brown's Cleaning Service. The WBC contributed coupons for free books.

Plans are being made for the 10th Anniversary of the WBC which will be celebrated in early May, 2012. We are hoping to honor 32 volunteers who have been with us since the opening of the store.

New Saturday hours - we are now open from 10:30 am to 3 pm.  
-Gail Karl

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Consider for a moment what your membership in the Friends means.

It means that you are part of one of the largest, most active, most enthusiastic library support systems in the state. It means that your membership contribution each year provides all of the programs, both adult and children's, at the library and its branches.

It means that you help provide free computer training, free passes to many cultural events, One County/One Book events, guest authors and many other essential services to library patrons.

It means that you benefit from discounts to literary trips, Proctors shows and the annual Friends dinner meeting. It means that you are very important to one of the most necessary agencies in Schenectady County.

It means that if you don't belong to the Friends, you should, and that if you are a member, keep it up. The library needs you. Tell your family and friends to join you to make the friends even better.

A reminder – if you are eligible for a GE matching grant (\$25 or more) please call GE to confirm your contribution at 1-800-305-0669 or register online at [www.gefoundation.com](http://www.gefoundation.com).

Welcome to the following new members: Elaine and David Best, Katherine Brent, Jan and Linda Jackson, Lisa McHugh, Michelle Moran, Alice Padula, Cheryl Perog, Don and Melinda Perrin, Shirley Schleier, Dori Trela and Joan and Robert Townsend.

-John Karl & Rita Moore

## BEAT THE SNOW!!!! WINTER CONCERT SERIES



The Music Committee of the Friends of the Library has once again compiled an outstanding and varied set of programs for every Sunday at 2:30 in the McChesney Room of the main branch. Be sure to join us!

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Jan. 8    | Music by the Dino Cimino Trio: Jazz, Ballads, & Latin   |
| Jan. 15   | Cabaret Concert with Mark Tommasone guitar and voice  |
| Jan. 22** | Silver and Gold Brass: Michael Finch, Michael Dietlein, Shaun Bazylewicz, Gregory Clark, Jay Kibby<br><b>**STARTING AT 3:00</b> |
| Jan. 29   | Selected Short Stories: read by actor Joe Quandt  |
| Feb. 5    | Musicians of Ma'alwyck: Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Director and violin; Sten Isachsen, guitar                                   |
| Feb. 12   | Misty Jazz Project: Jazz, Blues and More: Linda Harrison, leader  |
| Feb. 19   | Deborah Rocco, soprano; Arthur DeLuke, baritone; Michael Clement, piano   |
| Feb. 26   | Octavos Vocal Ensemble: Curtis Funk, director; Elinor Farnum, piano   |
| March 4   | Schenectady Light Opera Company   |
| March 11  | Adirondack Saxophone Quartet with bass and drums!   |
| March 18  | The Etude Club  |
| March 25  | Fairview Avenue Bluegrass Band: Scott Hopkins and Elizabeth Hopkins, leaders  |

**\*\* THIS CONCERT ONLY WILL START AT 3:00**

## BOOK SALES

2011 was a banner year for the Friends. The spring sale broke the record with \$20,102, which was then broken in the fall with \$20,249! The mid-winter sales totaled \$5,131. Excess mysteries were sold at a Halloween sale and in December surplus VHS tapes were sold, both sales netting \$1,005. The grand total for 2011 was \$46,486.55. Hundreds of people worked on the sales and are to be congratulated. Every job was important and invaluable.

Looking to the future, the fiction sale will be January 28-30 and the non-fiction will be February 25-27. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

-Ellie Rowland & Virginia Thomspson

## UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Sunday, January 22nd, 1:15 - 2:45 pm - McChesney Room, "Poems & PAVANES". Students will read from their original poems set to the music of *Lycaeides*, a recorder consort featuring music performed on early instruments. Registration recommended by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511. **PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM PRECEDES THE BEAT THE SNOW FEATURE, WHICH WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW AT 3 PM.**

Saturday, February 25nd, at 2:00 pm - McChesney Room, SUNY Albany Lecturers Rob Edelman and Audrey Kupferberg will present "*An Afternoon for Movie Lovers*" which will include an overview of the Oscar race, the current film scene and a special book discussion of *Life Itself*, the memoir by Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic/historian Roger Ebert. Register by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511.

Volunteers are needed to work on an upcoming author program series featuring Alice Ozma's *The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared*. Contact Karen Bradley at [kbradley@mvls.info](mailto:kbradley@mvls.info) or call 388-4533 for further information.

## CONTACT US

If you have any questions regarding programs at the library, membership or just want to make a suggestion, contact us at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com). Also, newsletters can be viewed online at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org) or [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org).



## LITERARY TRIPS

On Saturday, June 9, 2012 the Friends of SCPL will sponsor a bus trip to Amherst, Massachusetts to visit the home of Emily Dickinson and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Lunch will be at the historic Lord Jeffery Inn built in 1926 on the Amherst Commons. The trip costs \$70 for Friends members and \$80 for non-members and includes the bus, gratuities, admission fees, tours and lunch. Registration will begin January 9. Complete details, along with registration forms can be found at all SCPL libraries, the Whitney Book Corner or online at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org).

The registration deadline for the September, 2012 trip to Ireland has been extended. Complete details, along with pricing, can be found at <http://www.whitneybookcorner.org> or by contacting John Goldsmith at (518) 406-5459 or [musicman1853@aol.com](mailto:musicman1853@aol.com)

THE FRIENDS OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### FICTION BOOK SALE

JANUARY 28-30, 2012



Fiction  
\$1

*Continuous restocking!*

SALE WILL BE HELD IN THE LOBBY AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY DURING LIBRARY HOURS.

LARGE PRINT BOOKS AT THE WHITNEY BOOK CORNER- \$1.00

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
99 Clinton Street • Schenectady, NY 12305 • 388-4500 • [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)

THE FRIENDS OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### NON FICTION BOOK SALE

FEBRUARY 25-27, 2012



Non Fiction  
\$1

*Continuous restocking!*

SALE WILL BE HELD IN THE LOBBY AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY DURING LIBRARY HOURS.

LARGE PRINT BOOKS AT THE WHITNEY BOOK CORNER- \$1.00

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# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

# NEWSLETTER

March/April 2012

Vol. XLVII, No. 4

Note: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listings for days and times.

## NOON PROGRAMS-March-April 2012

### SCIENCE SERIES

Walter Grattidge, Coordinator

- March 5**      **Maria Sybilla Merriam, First Female Scientist, Mother of Entomology**  
Phil Adams, Civil Engineer, GE (ret)
- March 12**      **Limits to Growth-Revisited**  
George Wise, Historian (ret), GE Global Research
- March 19**      **"Where Have All the (Alpine) Flowers Gone?"-Plants and Climate Change**  
Nancy Slack, Professor Biology and History of Science, Emeritus (ret) Sage  
Colleges, Albany, N.Y.
- March 26**      **Keeping Your Brain Young – Can Doing Crossword Puzzles, Ballroom Dancing and Eating Healthy Delay Dementia?**  
Francisco Gomez, MD Chief of Neurology, Ellis Medicine, Schenectady, N.Y.

### SPRING SPECIAL-EXTREME ADVENTURES

Gioia Ottaviano, Coordinator

- April 2**      **West to East:** Bicycling from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean with Bill Kornrumpf, retired G.E. Engineer and member of the Edison Tech Center Board of Directors.
- April 9**      **South to North:** Hiking the Appalachian Trail with Millie Gittinger, retired occupational therapist and member of the Trail Conservancy.

### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- April 16**      **Hot: Living Through the Next 50 Years on Earth** by Mark Hertsgaard; reviewed by Patricia Rush, former president of ECOS, Union College (ret). "A fresh take on climate change by a renowned journalist driven to protect his daughter, your kids, and the next generation who'll inherit the problem."
- April 23**      **The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined** by Steven Pinker; reviewed by George Wise, former head of Dudley Observatory, GE Global Research (ret). "Steven Pinker shows ...that violence has been diminishing for millennia and we may be living in the most peaceful time in our species' existence."
- April 30**      **Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer--and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class** by Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson; reviewed by Gene Rowland, Friends Board Member, retired project manager, GE. "A groundbreaking work that identifies the real culprit behind one of the great economic crimes of our time—the growing inequality of incomes between the vast majority of Americans and the richest of the rich."



CELEBRATE 10 YEARS  
WHITNEY BOOK CORNER  
OPEN HOUSE  
MAY 3 - 10 AM-7 PM  
600 UNION STREET  
REFRESHMENTS, COUPONS,  
DRAWING



# REELS

A Free Series of Recent Thought-Provoking Films  
Shown in the McChesney Room at the Central Library  
99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, New York

## March

Wednesday, March 7 at noon & Thursday,  
March 8 at 7pm

### ***The Way***

Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen, Yorick van  
Wagenigen; Directed by Emilio Estevez  
Rated PG-13; 123 minutes; 2011  
Tom is an American doctor who comes to St.  
Jean Pied de Port, France to collect the remains  
of his adult son, killed in the Pyrenees in a  
storm while walking the Camino de Santiago,  
also known as The Way of Saint James. Rather  
than return home, Tom decides to embark on  
the historical pilgrimage to honor his son's  
desire to finish the journey. On his journey,  
Tom meets other pilgrims from around the  
world, each with their own issues and looking  
for greater meaning in their lives.

Wednesday, March 14 at noon & Thursday,  
March 15 at 7pm

### ***A Summer in Genoa***

Colin Firth, Stefan, Hope Davis, Catherine  
Keener; Directed by Michael Winterbottom  
Rated R; 94 minutes; 2008  
In the wake of a family tragedy, an English ex-  
patriot living in the United States decides to  
relocate himself and his daughters to Italy,  
only to discover that grief has followed them  
overseas when the youngest girl proves unable  
to move past her acute emotional pain.

Wednesday, March 21 at noon & Thursday,  
March 22 at 7pm

### ***Anonymous***

Rhys Ifans, Vanessa Redgrave, Rafe Spall  
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Roland  
Emmerich Rated PG-13; 130 minutes; 2011  
Set in the political snake-pit of Elizabethan  
England, Anonymous speculates on an issue  
that has for centuries intrigued academics and  
brilliant minds ranging from Mark Twain and  
Charles Dickens to Henry James and Sigmund  
Freud, namely: who was the author of the  
plays credited to William Shakespeare?

Wednesday, March 28 at noon  
& Thursday, March 29 at 7pm

### ***The Last Lions***

Documentary  
National Geographic Entertainment;  
Directed by Dereck Joubert and Beverly Joubert  
Rated PG; 88 minutes; 2011  
A resilient lioness in Botswana's Okavango  
Delta embarks on an epic journey of survival in  
this nature documentary from National  
Geographic and award-winning filmmakers  
Dereck and Beverly Joubert. Narrated by  
Academy Award winner Jeremy Irons, *The Last  
Lions* follows Ma di Tau as she races to get her  
cubs to safety during a rampaging fire, and  
fends off ferocious lioness Silver Eye, the  
murderous matriarch of a rival pride. Crossing  
crocodile-infested waters on a quest to reach  
Duba Island, the fiercely protective mother  
discovers that in order for her family to  
survive, she must conquer a herd of buffalos  
with piercing horns.

## April

Wednesday, April 4 at noon & Thursday, April 5  
at 7pm

### ***Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy***

Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Tom Hardy  
Focus Features; Directed by Tomas Alfredson  
Rated R; 127 minutes; 2011  
Based on the classic novel of the same name,  
the international thriller is set at the height of  
the Cold War years of the mid-20th Century.  
George Smiley (Gary Oldman), a disgraced  
British spy, is rehired in secret by his  
government – which fears that the British  
Secret Intelligence Service, a.k.a. MI-6, has  
been compromised by a double agent working  
for the Soviets.

Wednesday, April 11 at noon & Thursday, April  
12 at 7pm

### ***Hugo***

Sacha Baron Cohen, Ben Kingsley, Asa  
Butterfield Directed by Martin Scorsese  
Rated PG; 127 minutes; 2011  
An orphaned boy secretly lives in the walls of a  
busy Paris train station and looks after the  
clocks. He gets caught up in a mystery  
adventure when he attempts to repair a  
mechanical man.

Wednesday, April 18 at noon & Thursday, April  
19 at 7pm

### ***Project Nim***

Documentary Feature  
HBO Films; Directed by James Marsh  
Rated PG-13; 93 minutes; 2011  
Nim is the chimpanzee who in the 1970s  
became the focus of a landmark experiment  
which aimed to show that an ape could learn to  
communicate with language if raised and  
nurtured like a human child. Following Nim's  
extraordinary journey through human society,  
and the enduring impact he makes on the  
people he meets along the way, the film is an  
unflinching and unsentimental biography of an  
animal we tried to make human.

Wednesday, April 25 at noon & Thursday, April 26 at 7pm

### ***Chasing Madoff***

Documentary Feature Cohen Media Group;  
Directed by Jeff Prosserman  
Not Rated; 91 minutes; 2011  
Chasing Madoff is the compelling story of Harry  
Markopolos and his team of investigator's ten-  
year struggle to expose the harrowing truth  
behind the infamous Madoff scandal.  
Throughout the decade long investigation,  
Markopolos pieced together a chain of white-  
collar predators consisting of bankers,  
lieutenants, and henchmen, all linked to the  
devastating Ponzi scheme. With risk and  
danger apparent, Markopolos and his loyal  
team relentlessly continued to pursue the  
frightening truth. Finding himself trapped in a  
web of epic deceit, the once unassuming  
Boston securities analyst turned vigilante  
investigator now feared for his life and the  
safety of his family, as he discovered no one  
would listen.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Great things are happening in 2012 at the Schenectady County Library. Our beautiful new building at the main library is nearing completion, the former children's librarian, Serena Butch, has been named assistant director, and many great programs have been scheduled.

The Friends of SCPL are donating funds, in addition to previous contributions, to supplement the budget and to help make the wing a state of the art facility. As you know most of these funds have come from our Book Sales and the Whitney Book Corner. Please continue to support us in these very successful efforts.

Our Annual Meeting for the Friends of the Library will be held at Schenectady County Community College on April 10. -Bill Leitch

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

The following programs will be held at 2:30 pm in the McChesney Room: April 22<sup>nd</sup> - music students from SCCC; April 29<sup>th</sup> - French Horns in Concert.

Four years ago, it seemed we could have nothing but snow. The "Beat the Snow" concert series started after that snowy winter to give people an option: complain about the snow OR go to the library for a good afternoon's entertainment! Each year, the snowfall has been less and less. As of this writing on January 30, 2012, there has been no real snow at all. The "Beat the Snow" series must be doing something right! No snow and lots of audience members! The remainder of the series is listed below. Do yourself a favor and try one! You will be delighted, and you will have Beat the Snow! -Ron Patrick and Joan Ham

March 4	Schenectady Light Opera Company
March 11	Adirondack Saxophone Quartet
March 18	The Etude Club
March 25	Fairview Avenue Bluegrass Band

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The WBC is participating in the "Return The Favor" program, which gives veterans a discount at local businesses. Our bookstore will be giving 50% off of any purchase.

The WBC 10<sup>TH</sup> anniversary is coming up. The anniversary committee is making plans for an open house on Thursday, May 3, 2012, 10 am-7 pm. Activities for this special day include a drawing for a refinished card catalog, distribution of coupons for a free book redeemable at the semi-annual book sale, refreshments and much more.

Be sure to look for our advertisement on the marquee on Erie Blvd! Bookmarks, pencils, and gift baskets will be available to customers throughout the anniversary year, compliments of Margaret Mazza, WBC volunteer.

Watch for the Whitney Book Corner segment airing April 11 on Ann Parrillo's "Schenectady Today", Channel 16. -Gail Karl

## BOOK SALES

The much anticipated sale of non-fiction books will be held February 25 – 27 in the hall of the main branch of the library. Self-help books will be at the Whitney Book Corner. A new winter hall sale has been added on March 24-25 - complete books on cassettes will be sold for \$.50 and CDs for \$2.00. The fiction sale, held January 28 – 30, sold approximately 1,985 books. These hall sales are a happy break from the winter routine for patrons and volunteers alike.

Special thanks to Leah and Bill Leonard, and Judy Dillenbeck, who worked four days organizing all the books and to Nancy Virkler and Valerie Catlin who took care of the finances. We had thirty wonderful volunteers, who served as cashiers and organizers during the three day sale.

The Friends greatly appreciate the wonderful cooperation we receive from all the library staff. We especially thank Bob Schumaker, who moved all the tax forms temporarily and put up posters and Carla, who put up the tables Friday morning, and to Sandy Andersen, who did all the graphics and printing. Without their help, the sale couldn't happen. Ten hard working, efficient people set up the sale from 3:00-4:00 Fri. afternoon. On Monday, a terrific crew of seven people took the remaining books upstairs.

Twenty-two people now work behind the scenes *weekly* sorting all the books from the library and the public. Again we thank the staff for constantly bringing books from the loading dock up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor sorting area. The store and book sales are the foundation of the Friends fund raising efforts.

-Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewal time will be coming up shortly for many of you. Keep an eye out for the mailing during March and April because there will be a slightly different form to return. As you plan your contribution level, remember that all contributions and all fundraised dollars, with a small amount for expenses, go toward the programs and materials for the library. Friends funds enhance the offerings at all ten library branches in the county. Your membership committee is also working on providing membership cards that will indicate the times of membership (e.g. June 1 to May 31). The card will also indicate additional benefits you receive as a member of the Friends.

If you received this newsletter in the mail, you are already a member of the Friends. Please share it with friends and family who are not members and urge them to join. For \$10 or more, they can join the hundreds of your neighbors in the county who think we have the best library system in the state.

The Friends welcome the following new members: Betty Carol Barlyn, Zandra Beardslee, Peggy Bell, Katherine Brent, Deanna Desira, L.D. Eis, Lorrian Gagne, Kathleen Greene, Margaret Mazza, Catherine Montalto, Alice Padula, Schenectady Retired Teachers, Kenneth Rochow, Joanne Seltzer and Dori Trela. -John Karl & Rita Moore

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Gifts in memory of Phyllis Bowne were received from Lorion Korkosz and Kelly Winkworth.

### MEMPHIS AT PROCTORS FINAL CALL

Memphis Tickets for FOL Members - Don't miss this opportunity to have a wonderful evening and save money as a Friend of the Library. All ticket orders must be postmarked no later than March 8, 2012. Details and order forms are available online at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org) and at the Whitney Book Corner.

### VOLUNTEERS CAN BE ANY AGE!

Anna Winters, a senior at Duanesburg High School, has volunteered twice a month on Saturdays at the Whitney Book Corner for well over a year now. She has been an excellent ambassador for the Friends with her welcoming, friendly and helpful interaction with the customers at the store. She is most helpful in finding books of interest for the many children who visit the store. When Anna won a GE sponsored essay award, instead of keeping the money she designated the \$500 prize to be used to purchase books for the Quaker St. branch library. Now that's what we call a volunteer extraordinaire! Thank you Anna!

### LITERARY TRIPS

The June 9, 2012 trip to Amherst, Massachusetts to visit the home of Emily Dickinson and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is nearly full, but we will maintain a waiting list. If interested please contact Lisa Holt at 370-1811 or [lahnisky@yahoo.com](mailto:lahnisky@yahoo.com). Complete details of the trip as well as a registration form can be found at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org).

There is still time to sign up for the September, 2012 trip to Ireland. Contact John Goldsmith at 406-5459 or [musicman1853@aol.com](mailto:musicman1853@aol.com) or find details at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org).

### POETRY GALA

It's not too early to start thinking about the Poetry Gala to be held on Sunday, April 15, 2012 in the McChesney Room. Come to recite; come to hear; come to a lovely afternoon in April. Light refreshments will be available at 2 p.m., with readings to follow from 2:30-4 p.m. If you would like to read or recite a favorite poem, call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904.

### CONTACT US

If you have any questions regarding programs at the library, membership or just want to make a suggestion, contact us at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com). Also, newsletters can be viewed online at [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org), or [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org).

## LIBRARY EVENTS

A new **One County, One Book** program has been announced for 2012. Nominations for books will be taken from February 27 through April 15. Nomination forms will be located in all ten branch libraries and the Whitney Book Corner. Please take the opportunity to submit any fiction or non-fiction titles that you think would make a great community read. Community members interested in serving on the book selection committee for the next read may contact Karen Bradley at 388-4533 or [kbradley@mvls.info](mailto:kbradley@mvls.info)

**Sunday, March 18th at 3:00 pm:** David Pietrusza, local historian, and author of *1948: Harry Truman's Improbable Victory and the Year that Transformed America's Role in the World*, will hold a program at the George E. Franchere Educational Center at the Mabee Farm Historic Site, 1080 Main St. (5S), Rotterdam Junction. The library and the Schenectady County Historical Society are partnering on this program. A book sale and signing will be conducted by the Open Door Bookstore following the program; a 20% discount is available for those who place an order by calling the store no later than Tuesday, March 13th, at 346-2719. Register for the program by calling 388-4511.

**Saturday, March 31, 2012, at 10:30 am:** Alice Ozma, author of the bestselling book, *The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared*, will appear in the McChesney Room. Registration is recommended by calling 388-4511. Doors open at 10:00 am. A book sale and signing will be conducted by the Open Door Bookstore following the program and you may receive a 20% discount if you call the store no later than Tuesday, March 27th, at 346-2719. Attend the program and learn how to set up your own reading streak.

**Saturday, April 21st, 2012 at 10:00 am:** Ricki Lewis local author of *The Forever Fix: Gene Therapy and the Boy who Saved It*, will appear in the McChesney Room to kick off a three part series which will include a book discussion of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, and a program with genetic counselors on making a family tree. Two local families are featured in this book and you may have a chance to meet them. A book sale and signing will be conducted by the Open Door Bookstore following the program and you may receive a 20% discount if you call the store no later than Tuesday, April 17th, at 346-2719.





COMING SOON – SAVE THE DATES!



NEW THIS YEAR!  
IN THE LIBRARY LOBBY  
MARCH 24-25  
MINI SALE

COMPLETE BOOKS ON CASSETTE - \$.50  
CD-\$2.00



*The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library*

# semi-annual BOOK SALE



Saturday, May 5, 2012  
9 am - 4 pm

\$2.00 Bag Sale  
Sunday, May 6, 2012  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Most Books  
\$1.00

Children's Books  
25¢ & 50¢

Paperbacks  
3/\$1.00

Romance  
(trade & hardcover)  
2/\$1.00

Records...DVDs...CDs...VHS...Audiobooks

For year-round deals on quality used books, visit the Whitney Book Corner  
on the corner of Clinton & Union Streets. [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org)

Schenectady County Public Library \* 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305 \* 388.4500 \* [www.scpil.org](http://www.scpil.org)

**Friends of Schenectady County Public Library – 46th Annual Dinner Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 5:00 p.m., Van Curler Room**  
**Schenectady County Community College (SCCC)**  
**178 Washington Avenue, Schenectady**

**Evening’s Schedule:** 5:00 p.m. – Social Hour (wine, cheese and crackers)  
5:45 p.m. – Musical Interlude  
6:00 p.m. – Dinner

**Speakers:** *The How and Why of eBooks* presented by:  
Mary Ann Warner, Adult Services Coordinator, Schenectady County Public Library  
Serena Butch, Assistant Director, Schenectady County Public Library

**Concerning the Dinner in the Van Curler Room:** The culinary arts students at SCCC prepare each dish. Both the culinary arts and hotel and restaurant management students provide the dining room service.

**The Menu:**

*Baby mixed green salad with cherry tomatoes and fresh mozzarella cheese, served with balsamic vinaigrette*  
**Choice of Entrees:**

- *Sautéed boneless chicken breast served with a Dijon white wine sauce*
- *Broiled salmon with crabmeat and asparagus*
- *Stuffed grilled portabella mushroom*

*Chef’s choice of seasonal spring vegetable*  
*Fresh rolls and butter*  
*Mixed berry shortcake*  
*Coffee or tea*

**ELECTIONS** - the nominating committee will present the following persons for officers and directors:

**Officers:** President: Bill Leitch; 1st Vice President: Gene Rowland; 2nd Vice President: Fred Eddy; Secretary: Mary Beth Barbagelata; Treasurer: Nancy Virkler

**Directors:** For an initial three year term: Tricia Margas, Kathy August, Patti Rotunda

Further information concerning the candidates will be presented at the meeting.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

- From the **east** via Route 5, State Street, turn left at Washington Avenue in front of the College. Turn right into main parking lot.
- From the **west** (Scotia/Glenville), via Route 5, turn right at the "Schenectady County Community College" exit ramp off the Western Gateway Bridge. Turn left at stop sign into main parking lot.
- From **south** and **east**: Take I-90, New York Thruway, to Exit 25, "Schenectady." Take I-890 West to Exit 4C- "To Route 5, Scotia." At the traffic light, turn left on to State Street, Route 5 West (Western Gateway Bridge) for 1/10 mile. Take the "Schenectady County Community College" exit ramp on the right. At stop sign (Columbus Drive), turn right; at the next stop sign, turn left into main parking lot.
- From the **north** (via the Northway, I-87): Take I-87 South to the New York State Thruway, I-90 West. Take Thruway to Exit 25, “Schenectady.” Take I-890 West to Exit 4C – “To Route 5, Scotia.” At the traffic light at end of ramp, turn left on to State Street, Route 5 West (Western Gateway Bridge) for 1/10 mile. Take the “Schenectady County Community College/Gateway Landing” exit ramp on the right. At stop sign (Columbus Drive), turn right; at the next stop sign, turn left into main parking lot.

**Reservations Must Be Made By Monday, March 26 – Please Use Form Below**

**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library**  
**Tuesday, April 10, 2012 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation**  
**Van Curler Dining Room**

**Number attending**\_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed**\_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$20.00/person**

**Attendee names (Please print)**

**Circle one choice of entree**

_____	<b>Chicken</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Vegetarian</b>
_____	<b>Chicken</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Vegetarian</b>

**Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail by March 26 to:**  
**Simon Weinstein**  
**4036 Windsor Drive**  
**Niskayuna, NY 12309**

# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

# NEWSLETTER

May/June 2012

Vol. XLVII, No. 5

Note: the Monday series of talks is held at 12:00 noon in the McChesney Room of the Central Library on Clinton Street. You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available for a nominal fee. The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired. Noon programs are also broadcast on the Schenectady Public Access channel. See program listings for days and times.

## NOON PROGRAMS

### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- May 7**     **The Swerve: How the World Became Modern** by Stephen Greenblatt; reviewed by Bertrand Fay, adjunct faculty and lecturer at Russell Sage and Union College, performance artist, UCALL presenter. "More wonderfully illuminating Renaissance history from a master scholar and historian."
- May 14**     **Critical Children: The Use of Childhood in 10 Great Novels** by Richard Locke; reviewed by Dr. Patrice Kindl, multiple award-winning author of young adult fiction; lecturer, teacher of writing. "...traces the 130-year evolution of these iconic child characters, moving from Oliver Twist, David Copperfield, and Pip in *Great Expectations* to Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn; from Miles and Flora in *The Turn of the Screw* to Peter Pan and his modern American descendant, Holden Caulfield; and finally to Lolita and Alexander Portnoy."
- May 21**     **Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour** by Lynne Olson; reviewed by Dr. Thomas Kelly, Professor of History, Siena College, retired; Board of N.Y. State Military History Institute. "...reveals the behind-the-scenes story of how the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain, told from the perspective of three key American players in London: Edward R. Murrow, Averell Harriman, and John Gilbert Winant."

## THE BATON IS PASSED.....

Linda Witkowski has coordinated the Books Sandwiched In program at the Central Library for fourteen years. During that time she has organized and coordinated more than 240 book reviews. Linda has devoted countless hours to bringing us interesting and informative programs presented by knowledgeable reviewers. Her efforts have resulted in a faithful audience that looks forward to each Monday noon event. We want to recognize Linda for her dedication and to thank her for the innumerable hours she has devoted to the Friends of SCPL.

Beginning in September, a new team, including Jo Adams, Rich Holt, Patricia Rush, John Karl, Joan Ham and George Wise, will take over the Books Sandwiched In program. Others who will be helping out during the season are Susie Leon and Frank Taormina.

## LIBRARY PROGRAMS-SAVE THE DATES

- Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm- Book discussion of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, facilitated by Ricki Lewis. This will be followed up by a family health history event, likely in late July.
- Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, -NYSCA sponsored book discussion of *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese, facilitated by Martha Rozette.
- Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm-NYSCA book discussion of *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, facilitated by Nate Leslie.
- Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm- NYSCA book discussion of *Gold* by Chris Cleave, facilitated by Rosanne Melita.

Registration for discussions, all held in the McChesney Room, is recommended by calling 388-4511 beginning May 29 or by signing up at the Reference Desk of the Central Library. Questions? Contact Karen Bradley at 388-4533 or [kbradley@mvls.info](mailto:kbradley@mvls.info).

## EMILY DICKINSON PROGRAM

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring a special program in the McChesney Room on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. on "Emily Dickinson and her Poetry." The presenter is Linda Witkowski, who, in addition to coordinating the noon book reviews, organizes the library's annual Poetry Gala, is a member of Union Colleges Academy of Lifelong Learning steering committee and a retired English teacher from Niskayuna High School. Refreshments will be served. Register by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511.

# REELS

A Free Series of Recent Thought-Provoking Films  
Shown in the McChesney Room at the Central Library  
99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, New York

## May

Wednesday, May 2 at noon & Thursday, May 3 at 7pm

### ***The Help***

Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard  
DreamWorks Pictures; Directed by Tate Taylor  
Rated PG-13; 146 minutes; 2011

Set in Mississippi during the 1960s, Skeeter is a southern society girl who returns from college determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives -- and a small Mississippi town -- upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent southern families.

Wednesday, May 9 at noon & Thursday, May 10 at 7pm

### ***My Week With Marilyn***

Michelle Williams, Kenneth Branagh, Eddie Redmayne  
The Weinstein Company; Directed by Simon Curtis  
Rated R; 99 minutes; 2011  
In the early summer of 1956, 23 year-old Colin Clark worked as a lowly assistant on the set of "THE PRINCE AND THE SHOWGIRL" with Sir Laurence Olivier with Marilyn Monroe. 40 years later his diary account was published, but one week was missing. This film is the story of that week: an idyll in which he escorted a Monroe desperate to get away from her retinue of Hollywood hangers-on and the pressures of working.

Wednesday, May 16 at noon & Thursday, May 17 at 7pm

### ***The Iron Lady***

Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent, Richard E. Grant  
The Weinstein Company; Directed by Phyllida Lloyd  
Rated PG-13; 102 minutes; 2011

*The Iron Lady* tells the compelling story of Margaret Thatcher, a woman who smashed through the barriers of gender and class to be heard in a male-dominated world.

Wednesday, May 23 at noon & Thursday, May 24 at 7pm

### ***One Day***

Anne Hathaway, Jim Sturgess, Patricia Clarkson  
Focus Features; Directed by Lone Scherfig  
Rated PG-13; 108 minutes; 2011  
Adapted from the internationally praised and bestselling novel, this film charts an extraordinary relationship. After only one day together in 1989, Emma Morley and Dexter Mayhew cannot stop thinking about one another. Over the next twenty years, key moments of their relationship are revealed on the same day -- July 15th -- of each year.

Wednesday, May 30 at noon & Thursday, May 31 at 7pm

### ***Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close***

Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, John Goodman  
Warner Bros.; Directed by Stephen Daldry  
Rated PG-13; 129 minutes; 2012

A nine-year-old amateur inventor, jewelry designer, astrophysicist, tambourine player and pacifist, searches New York for the lock that matches a mysterious key left by his father when he was killed in the September 11 attacks.

## June

Wednesday, June 6 at noon & Thursday, June 7 at 7pm

### ***J. Edgar***

Leonardo DiCaprio, Armie Hammer, Naomi Watts  
Warner Bros.; Directed by Clint Eastwood  
Rated R; 137 minutes; 2011

As the face of law enforcement in America for almost 50 years, J. Edgar Hoover was feared and admired, reviled and revered. But behind closed doors, he held secrets that would have destroyed his image, his career and his life.

Wednesday, June 13 at noon & Thursday, June 14 at 7pm

### ***If a Tree Falls***

Documentary  
Oscilloscope Laboratories  
85 minutes; 2011

The remarkable story of the rise and fall of the Earth Liberation Front, a radical environmental group that the FBI calls America's 'number one domestic terrorist threat,' told through the transformation and radicalization of one of its members, Daniel McGowan.

Wednesday, June 20 at noon & Thursday, June 21 at 7pm

### ***Coriolanus***

Ralph Fiennes, Gerard Butler, Brian Cox  
The Weinstein Company; Directed by Ralph Fiennes  
Rated R; 122 minutes; 2012  
Martius 'Coriolanus', a revered and feared Roman General is at odds with the city of Rome and his fellow citizens. Pushed by his controlling and ambitious mother Volumnia to seek the exalted and powerful position of Consul, he is loath to ingratiate himself with the masses whose votes he needs in order to secure the office. When the public refuses to support him, Coriolanus's anger prompts a riot that culminates in his expulsion from Rome. The banished hero then allies himself with his sworn enemy Tullus Aufidius to take his revenge on the city.

Wednesday, June 27 at noon & Thursday, June 28 at 7pm

### ***War Horse***

Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, David Thewlis  
DreamWorks Pictures; Directed by Steven Spielberg  
Rated PG-13; 146 minutes; 2011  
Set against a sweeping canvas of rural England and Europe during the First World War, *War Horse* begins with the remarkable friendship between a horse named Joey and a young man called Albert, who tames and trains him. When they are forcefully parted, the film follows the extraordinary journey of the horse as he moves through the war, changing and inspiring the lives of all those he meets.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Annual Meeting for the Friends of the Library was held at Schenectady County Community College on April 10<sup>th</sup> with a record attendance of 119. We welcome four new Board members: Tricia Margas, Kathy August, Patti Rotunda and Rich Leon. We say goodbye to three members who have completed their six year term: Val Catlin, Sally Magid and Debbie McCambridge.

Please review our 2011 Annual report, available on our web site [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org)

–Bill Leitch

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Our 10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Open House will be on May 3. The first 100 customers will receive a coupon for a free book to be used at the Semi-Annual Book Sale at the main library on Saturday, May 5. At the Open House there will be remarks at 4 p.m. and a drawing for a four drawer cabinet at 7 p.m. Look for Jeff Wilkin's feature story on the WBC in the Gazette the week of April 30. As you drive down Erie Blvd. the week of April 30 be sure to notice the marquee!

Each month during this anniversary year you may enter a drawing to win a themed gift basket. Winner of the Romance basket was Sandra C.; Cindy K. won the Gardening Basket. Look on our website [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org) for upcoming specials.

When visiting the WBC, look for the new Patricia Whitney memorial plaque created by the architect, Werner Feibes. –Gail Karl

## BOOK SALES

The Friends were busy during the winter with successful hall sales. The January fiction sale made \$1,958, the February sale sold over 3,500 books, and the new Audio Book sale in March netted \$661. Our thanks to all those who worked so diligently.

We are looking forward to our huge semi-annual spring sale on May 5 from 9:00 to 4:00. The Bag Sale follows on Sunday, May 6 from 1:00 to 3:00. Y'all come!

–Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson



If you have experience in Excel spreadsheets, Lisa Holt, our trip coordinator, is looking for someone to assist her. Contact Lisa at [lahnisky@yahoo.com](mailto:lahnisky@yahoo.com) or 370-1811.

## GIFTS RECEIVED

The Friends are grateful for gifts received from The John C. and Susan K. Hubbard Foundation Inc., and NALC 358 Northeastern New York (National Association of Letter Carriers).

## DISTRIBUTION

Thank you to Kathy August, Bill and Lois Isles, Bill and Mary Liz Leitch, Anne Yunick, Rudy Dehn, and John Karl for help with the March newsletter mailing.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have entered the renewal period and you should be receiving a renewal form soon. Please fill out the information and return it to the address shown with a check payable to the Friends of SCPL.

Did you know the first Friends newsletter was published in September of 1966 and read by its 163 members? Today we have approximately 1,071 contributing members. How far we have come! Almost 200 new members have been added in just the past 15 months, an indication of how important Schenectady residents think their library is. If you know someone who is not a member but would join you in support of the library, suggest that they get a membership form at any branch or at the Whitney Book Corner. Membership applications may also be accessed online at [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org). Beginning with your renewal for the 2012-2013 period, a membership card will be sent to you indicating your membership number and the period of your renewal (e.g. June 2013). Benefits of membership will be explained with the receipt of the membership card.

Welcome to the following new members: Donna Benequisto, Anne Christman, Amy Davis, Loretta Gallagher, Karen Hess, Patricia Jones, Miriam Katz, Edward H. Miller, Marsha Mortimore, Catherine Paupst, Marsha Pompilio, Linda Tannatta, Tina Versaci, Midge Bonacquist, Dee Ann & John Coniglio, Anthony M. Gaddy, Sondra Grady, Marlene Paccico, Margaret Vrooman, Kate Vrtiak and Vera Weiss. –John Karl & Rita Moore

## VOLUNTEER PICNIC

If you are a volunteer through the Friends and/or the library itself, let us treat you to the annual library volunteers' picnic, June 8 from 5 pm until dusk at the River Road Park in Niskayuna. Non-volunteer guests are welcome for \$5. Signup sheets will be available at the library reference desk and the Whitney Book Corner.



- The Central library hosted a performance of "Androcles and the Lion" by the Schenectady Theater for Children during the April spring break. They performed for two shows, fully funded by the Friends.
- Two early literacy stations have been ordered for the new children's area, courtesy of the Friends.
- In response to a suggestion from Carol Raphael, the Friends purchased small "shopping" carts to assist patrons who may be in need of additional assistance as they maneuver through the library. Carol is temporarily living in the midwest and she was impressed by this service offered at her local library.

## THE FRIENDS ARE ON THE WEB

Visit our new site at [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org). Be sure to "like" us on Facebook and email us at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com) with questions, concerns and/or to receive our newsletter.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WHITNEY AND A BIG THANK YOU!



Ed Reilly realized the potential for the Friends to have a used book store on the corner of Union and Clinton when he saw the “For Rent” sign on the building. The bequest of Patricia Whitney, past book sales chairman, gave the Friends the courage to proceed. Ultimately, very little money was used due to all volunteer labor and donations. The people who renovated the space to turn a rundown antique store into the Whitney Book Corner were Phil Adams, Bern Allanson, George Gould and Fred Thompson. Wonja Brucker, assistant director of the

Schenectady County Public Library, found all the furniture, bins and shelving needed and borrowed it from the county to make the newly refurbished space into a book store. Ed Reilly created the first Whitney web site.

Management

Joyce Parry and George Gould managed the store for four years. Renie Federighi and Richard Holt served for two years. Gail Karl is in her fifth year as manager and will continue into the future. She is ably assisted by Christine Witkowski, who does publicity and Roberta Richardson, who periodically keeps the schedule and does many other odd jobs. Ellie Rowland does the scheduling of volunteer workers for a total of 18 shifts per week. Fred Thompson organized and shelved all the media for seven years. Now four people do that job - Bruce Northrup-records, Rich Holt-audio books, Nancy Virkler-movies, and Bern Allanson-music CDs and cassettes. Fred Marx handles the paperbacks, Sylvia Curley does the children’s books, and Joyce Parry is the financial manager.

Bouquets to You!

Throughout the store's history the library staff has given invaluable help and support. The Friends heartfelt gratitude goes to all of you. A special thanks goes Sandy Andersen, who does the graphics and to all of the custodial staff, who daily bring in the donated books from the loading dock and take them to the second floor for sorting. The key ingredient of the Whitney's success is the wonderful, helpful, cheerful and loyal volunteers. They give the store a homey atmosphere that makes it a welcoming place for all who enter the door.

Our inventory is totally dependent upon the books the citizens of Schenectady County donate, along with library discards, which are then sorted and categorized. The sorters work diligently weekly to choose the books for the Whitney Book Corner, for online sales and for the large book sales. Bob Symons and Alice Reid do the original sort, Leah Leonard heads up the fiction books, and non-fiction books are directed by Sally and Simon Weinstein. The Friends wish to thank all who contribute time, talent and books, so that the Whitney can continue to be an outstanding place to shop.

The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

semi-annual

BOOK SALE

Saturday, May 5, 2012  
9 am - 4 pm

\$2.00 Bag Sale  
Sunday, May 6, 2012  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Most Books  
\$1.00

Children's Books  
25¢ & 50¢

Paperbacks  
3/\$1.00

Romance  
(Hard & Paperback)  
2/\$1.00

Records...DVDs...CDs...VHS...Audiobooks

For year-round deals on quality used books, visit the Whitney Book Corner on the corner of Clinton & Union Streets. [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org)

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