SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1991

VOL. XXVII

NO. 1

RECYCLING BOOKS AGAIN

Here comes another book sale! And you come too--Saturday, Sept. 28th. The barriers go down at 9 a.m., with a half-price sale at 3 p.m., a \$1 bag sale at 4, and giveaway at 4:30. The Literacy Volunteers of America will have their usual food sale to make the day even better.

Books, magazines, and records have been coming in all summer, but there is still time for more if you get them in right away. Bring them to your Branch, or leave them at the loading platform at Central, marked "Book Sale." Best sellers are children's, reference and paperbacks, and non-fiction covering adventure and war, travel, plants, animals, homemaking, sports, art and music (no RD Condensed books, please). We can only sell books in good condition. Would you like to buy books that weren't?

To encourage more old and rare book donations, there will be a silent auction Saturday morning. Bids will be received between 9 and 11:30 a.m., with results announced at 11:30.

Important to the sale is the initial sorting of books as they come in, which goes on all year. Try it; you'll like it! Come in just one morning a week. Adele Brown and Cay Tower have been evaluating the better books, with experienced librarians' eyes, and would welcome more help on Wednesday mornings. Also, Margaret Dickson, Book Sale Treasurer, needs an assistant.

Friday and Saturday we need concentrated help--Friday afternoon to move books down from storage and all day Saturday (starting at 7:30 setting up outdoor tables) to take money, help browsers, and help keep things moving until 4, when everything has to be taken down and put away. This sounds like a lot of work, and it is, and many of our faithful volunteers are getting older. We need younger, stronger arms to carry books and carry on, and for the setting up and taking down. If you can lend a hand as an active Friend, please call the library at 382-3500 or Pat Whitney at 374-2120. Pat and Roger Whitney have a big job as co-chairmen and would love to sign you up for any of these jobs.

(Continued pg. 3)....





"WHERE ARE THE NEW BOOKS?"

BOOKS = READING = LITERACY = AN INFORMED AND PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITY

If you've been in the library lately, you've noticed there are almost no new books. The Library's county book budget is frozen. Last year the Library acquired 25,000 new books. Th year the Library stopped ordering with county funds in mid-February.

Some few books purchased with non-county funds are trickling in. But the majority of new book purchasing has stopped. Think what we're missing; and will continue to miss. Ten and 20 years hence, people will be looking in vain for some of the books that should have been purchased this year.

The heart of our fine public library is the books which any county resident can use. Talk to your neighbors, friends, and relatives, and to your county legislator about the value of the public library to the community. As a Friend of the Library you can advocate support for the public library books we all need--to learn, to live a good life, and to be conscientious citizens.

Jane Somers, President, Friends of the Library

FRIENDS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

The long-heralded White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services took place from July 9 to July 13, 1991 in Washington, D.C. Participants from Schenectady County included Rachel Cahill, Sen. Hugh T. Farley, and Walter Grattidge.

At the top of the delegation's list of priorities were literacy, a National Training Corps for recruiting and training new librarians, and services to youth. From New York's point of view, the Conference was highly successful, with ten of the eleven New York priorities adopted. One of these is of special interest to Friends of Libraries. The resolution states in part; "As a matter of national library policy, the establishment of Friends of the Library groups should be encouraged for all types of libraries."



ROGER'S COUPONS

Thrifty shoppers all clip coupons, but SCPL has a volunteer clipper and sorter and replenisher. Roger Whitney has been doing this for us for the past five years, when he took over from an existing file at Central.

His family, many friends, libraries and those who know of his good work keep him supplied with advertising inserts weekly, from which he cuts about 5,000 coupons. These he sorts by categories, and boxes for the Duane, Scotia and Woodlawn branches as well as Central. He makes his delivery rounds once a week, after which they disappear rapidly. He spends about 24 hours a week, year round, in this dedicated service.

Roger's interest started as a family savings program, with the money saved put in the bank. He knows it is helping many others who are now counting on his collections.



MORE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

All lovers of <u>Anne of Green</u>
<u>Gables</u> will be treated to a
visit to Prince Edward Island
through the eyes and slides of
Karen Hess, Anna Hess and Anne
Blankman, who took a literary
trip there this summer. Come to
the McChesney Room on Saturday,
September 21, at 3 p.m.

Another Young Adult program will be the return in October of Jeanne Jenkins, Assistant Dean of Admissions at RPI, to take the mystery out of writing the college application essay. She will help teens understand what admissions officers in highly rated schools are looking for, and will inspire high school seniors to present themselves in their best light to the colleges they want to attend.

For your own inspiration, if you are interested in fiction for young people and the authors who write for them, don't miss the Friends sponsored program on November 16, at 11 a.m. in the McChesney Room. Grace Thielpape is just back from the "Rogues and Rebels" conference at Williams College, where she met with authors, illustrators, publishers, professors, and librarians and will share conference highlights.

Jo Adams, Young Adult librarian, reports a very successful summer film series. The movies were based on the stories that have captured the imagination of young and old for most of this century. She thanks the Friends for making it possible.

SUMMER HELP

During the summer, young adults made available through the Schenectady Job Training Agency summer program undertook several important projects at the library. They cleaned the large windows on the first floor, weeded the grounds and did other landscaping work at Central and the Woodlawn Branch, and assisted with the weeding of the libary's periodical collection.

The library was most fortunate in obtaining this assistance. The Trustees expressed their appreciation to these young people by treating them to a pizza party.

MORE GOOD BOOKS TO HEAR ABOUT AND READ

It's BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN time again, starting September 16th. These Monday noon-hour reviews are held in the McChesney Room at the Main Library. Bring your sandwiches and buy your drinks. Imogene Scheer and Florence Tobiessen arranged these interesting programs.

- Sept. 16 MOTHER TONGUE by Bill Bryson

 Reviewed by Carl Strock graduate of New School of Social

 Research with a degree in Philosophy; Daily Gazette

 columnist
- Sept. 23 MENDELSSOHN IS ON THE ROOF by Kiri Weil

 Reviewed by Frank Steiner Ph.D. in German; retired from

 GE; former President of Friends of the Library
- Oct. 7 THE KITCHEN GOD'S WIFE by Amy Tan
 Reviewed by Yoke San Reynolds born and educated in
 Singapore with advanced degrees from U. of Mich. and
 SUNYA; Assistant V.P. for Finance Development and
 Director of Budget Office, SUNYA
- Oct. 21 ALVA MYRDAL A DAUGHTER'S MEMOIR by Sissela Bok
 Reviewed by Sadie Schneider retired Guidance Counselor;
 served on Human Rights Commission, Federation on Aging,
 Parent Education Groups
- Oct. 28 BEGIN HERE by Jacques Barzon
 Reviewed by Dr. Michael Coury degrees from Creighton and
 Drake Universities; Superintendent of Schools in Sch'dy

LVA WILL TEACH YOU TO TEACH

Teaching and learning get a boost in September when schools reopen. You can give yourself and others a boost now too by enrolling in the Basic Reading Tutor Training offered by the Literacy Volunteers of America in the McChesney Room at Central Library.

The five sessions begin September 10th and end September 24th, with pre-registration required. Call the LVA office (372-9819) for schedule and registration form. Volunteer tutors are asked to be able to read, write, and speak English; have the equivalent of a high school education; be available to tutor once or twice a week, 1-2 hours per session, for at least six months; pay a registration fee of \$20; and attend all five training sessions. No prior teaching experience is necessary.

A Tutor Training Workshop for Teaching English as a Second Language has been scheduled to begin October 10th. Participants will be trained to teach adults how to speak and understand English. No foreign language is required. Call LVA for more information.

TABLE TALKS FOLLOW BSI

Beginning Monday, November 18th Frank Steiner has arranged for these speakers: Cay Raycroft, Director Human Services Planning Council in Schenectady; Charles Mills, Schenectady Police Commissioner; Prof. Bradley Lewis, Union College, will talk on economics topic; and Prof. Joseph Board, Union, will talk on the current European situation.

RECYCLING BOOKS (Cont'd.)

Why are we asking you to put your minds, muscle, and money to work on the sale? Bringing and buying books is essential to the Branch collections. From the Spring Book Sale receipts, \$4,000 was spent for Branch adult books & \$2,000 for children's, which is all they've had to spend since the budget freeze in March. This is a much appreciated and needed gift from the Friends.

VOLUNTEERS' LUNCHEON

Our Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on June 11 was a social and gastronomical success. The McChesney Room was filled to capacity and colorfully decorated. This year's mementos were begonias and rulers. On behalf of everyone who attended, a big "thank you" goes to the FOL and the Board of Trustees for their generosity in making it all possible.

The report on the Volunteer Program attested to its steady growth and success by showing an increase in volunteer hours and volunteers. The response to the call for help due to the budget crunch was impressive and gratifying--28 new volunteers throughout the system, 16 of whom are shelving (top priority) on a regular basis. It was also reported that all the nursing homes in Schenectady County are now being served by our volun-teers. Roberta Smylie and Leah Murray have joined Esther Swanker, Ethel and Oliver Murray, Karen Powell and Elsie Maddaus in delivering books twice a This project was initiated by Mrs. Swanker, a member of the Board of Trustees, at the 1988 Volunteer Luncheon. It is said that the best way to teach is by example. Leah Murray is the Murray's 17-year old granddaughter.

The highlight of the afternoon was the giving of Service Awards to special volunteers. Bernard Gerberg and Hazel MacHattie are this year's well-deserving honorees. Bernard has been mending books for the Children's Room for the past four years and has taught many new volunteers the necessary skills. His congeniality and sense of humor have endeared him to everyone. Hazel MacHattie has been volun-

teering at the Scotia Branch since 1982. Although her main responsibility is to process all periodicals, she is a "jack of all trades," and will do anything to help the library.

The afternoon ended on a high, note thanks to the guest speaker, Jane Kintz. Her readings were filled with warmth and wit and left everyone smiling.

Roberta D. Berk, Coordinator of Volunteers

MONDAY NOONS ON TAPES

Did you know that our Monday noon programs are available on videotape for borrowing at the Central library? Or, from the convenience of your easy chair you can view them on public access Channel 11 (formerly 16) Schenectady? Ask at Audio-Visual services or tune in on the following Monday at 2:30 each week to enjoy our fine speakers.

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

The Library has received a federal grant in the amount of \$35,000 for the purpose of continuing and expanding the adult literacy program in cooperation with Literacy Volunteers of America-Schenectady, Inc. The grant will provide funds for the maintenance of the LVA office in the Central Library, continue the services of selected LVA and library staff assigned to the program, make available library space for literacy tutoring and add important literacy resources to the library. Jo Adams, librarian, wrote the grant and will be administering it, scheduled to begin in October. She will be taking a temporary leave of absence from her Young Adult Services activities and Roxanne Murray will pick these up.

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MORE GIFTS...MORE GIVERS

The Friends are applying for inclusion in the General Electric's More Gifts...More Givers" matching gifts program. We must demonstrate widespread interest among GE employees and retirees in the support of our organization. If you or your spouse are connected to GE, please take a moment to fill out and send this form to our Secretary, Gwen Deiber, at 831 Parkside Avenue, Schenectady, N.Y. 12309. Thank you for making this possible.

Name Name	
Address	DIVINE CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE
GE Employee_	or Retiree
Self	or Spouse (name)

CALLING ALL CHILDREN

Plans for children's programs this fall include these "extras" thanks to the Friends' generosity;

At "An Evening with Marcia Lane" the whole family will hear a favorite storyteller from New York City in a return engagement to the McChesney Room, Central Library, Thursday, October 3 at 7 p.m. Emily Davis Mobley presents "America's Neighborhood Bats" at the Quaker Street-Duanesburg Branch Saturday, October 5, at 1 p.m. Barbara Bennett appears at Woodlawn Branch Thursday, October 10, to teach Origami.

On Saturday, October 26 is "CATS--A Halloween Special," at 11 a.m. in the McChesney Room. Students of Barbara Mayhood's Dance Studio will dance a mini-performance, and will describe how makeup and costumes are used to create "Cats" for the Broadway musical. Participants will make their own cat masks. Registration is required.

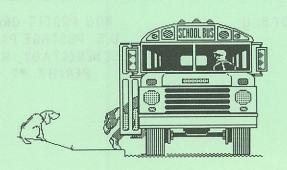
During school-vacation-week in the <u>Central Children's Room</u> Barbara Bennett will offer two workshops: for 6-11-year-olds "Lego Brick Bonanza" Friday, <u>December 27</u> at 2 p.m.; and for 4-5-year olds "Duplo Brick Building" Friday, <u>January 3</u> at 2 p.m. Registration is required for both programs.

Other December events include a return performance by singer and musician Paul Strausman, at <u>Woodlawn</u> on Thursday, <u>December 12</u>. He will also present "Holiday Tales and Sing-Along" at <u>Hamilton Hill</u> Branch Tuesday, <u>December 17</u> at 3:30 p.m. and at <u>Mont Pleasant</u> Wednesday, <u>December 18</u> at 3:30 p.m. Friends are welcome, as always, to drop in and share these treats!

STORY TIME TIMES

It's story hour time again with the beginning of school! Bring your 2-3 year-old to Toddler Times beginning September 10-11. The six week sessions meet Tuesday at 9:20 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Main Library Children's Room.

Pre-school story hours for 3-5 year-olds begin September 16-17. These happy hours are every Monday and Tuesday, at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Be sure to save a place by registering at the Children's Room 382-3540.



AAUW PROGRAMS FOR MOMS

The Schenectady Branch of the American Association of University Women is sponsoring four programs of interest to mothers while their children are at story hours September 30 and October 7 (11 a.m.) and October 1 and 8 (10 a.m.).

Two of these will be presented by Clare Schmitt who will show slides on "Nature Places in Schenectady County" on September 30 and October 8th, to give mothers ideas for enjoying themselves along with their children. If you are a young "Mom," join us, and tell others. You don't have to have a child at the story hour to attend. For more details call Joan Amell, 399-4709.

KEEPING COOL WITH BOOKS

It was practically a gold rush! While local illustrator-author Bruce Hiscock presented drawing workshops to children at Central and branches in June, July and August, enthusiastic library patrons purchased copies of his books <u>Tundra: the Arctic Land</u>, <u>The Big Rock</u> and <u>The Big Tree</u> from Friends of the SCPL, who worked with the Open Door Bookstore to make these titles available.

Mr. Hiscock's programs were made possible through LSCA Title I funds granted by the New York State Library through the Mohawk Valley Library Association. Volunteers attended programs, sold books, and earned 20 per cent on the 67 books purchased. Thanks to our volunteer Friends, these were high-quality programs that made everybody happy-children, parents, Friends and Bruce Hiscock!

A glowing "thank you" to the Friends for funding so many fine programs in the Alaskan Adventure Summer Reading Club. We think it was our most successful, highest attendance such program yet!

-Lois Foight Hodges, Coordinator of Children's Services-

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Central and Branches need volunteers for shelving books and shelf reading. Training and supervision are provided. Contact Roberta Berk (382-3521).



Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m. If unable to attend, please let the secretary know.

WELCOME TO NEW FRIENDS

Mrs. R. Dailey
Michael P. Della Selva
Kim Gurney
Patrice M. Hollman
Fran Madison
Mary C. Schultheis
E. Gus & Themetria Svolos
Tom and Anna Shank

The Newsletter is published in September, November, January, March and June

FRIENDS OF SCPL

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2nd Vice President Eleanor Friedman

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Newsletter Editors Katherine Dixon &

Kathryn Scudera

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Schenectady, 12309

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library Corner of Liberty and Clinton Streets Schenectady, New York 12305

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1991

VOL. XXVII NO. 2

TIME FOR TABLE TALKS

Beginning November 18th, a series of four Table Talks will be presented Monday noons in the McChesney Room. Bring your lunch. Hot drinks will be available. These are coordinated by Malinda Myers and Frank Steiner.

November 18 - HUMAN SERVICES, 21ST CENTURY STYLE - Catherine Raycroft, Ex. Dir. Human Services Planning Council, Schenectady County

November 25 - END OF COLD WAR, BEGINNING OF WHAT? - Dr. Joseph Board, Professor of Political Science, Union College

December 2 - COMMUNITY POLICING - Charles M. Mills, Police Commissioner, City of Schenectady

December 9 - PROSPECTS FOR THE U.S. FINANCIAL SYSTEMS - Dr. Bradley Lewis, Professor of Economics, Union College

The Books-Sandwiched-In reviews will begin January 6th and will run through February 10th. These are being planned by Robert Orr and Richard Sills.

FALL BOOK SALE

The big fall book sale brought in \$4400 to buy books for branches. It was held on a cold Saturday the end of September, but this did not discourage the buyers, who cleaned out the boxes earlier and with fewer leftovers than ever.

There were 866 boxes of books, magazines and records sold, and 143 volunteers working throughout the year and at the sale to make it a success. For the first time a "silent auction" was held, which got better prices for better books.

The money is already being spent so that the branches can have some new books. Since March these book sale funds have been the only means to provide more volumes for their shelves. One-third goes for children's and two-thirds for adult titles.

Pat Whitney, chairman, wants to thank each and every FRIEND who so sincerely and enthusiastically gave of time and effort to make this sale so successful.

TEENAGE READING

Do you wish you had help in selecting books for your teenage children and grandchildren? Christmas is coming and here's a chance to find out what's available, from Grace Thielpape, who will speak at the McChesney Room at 11 a.m. Saturday, November 16th.

Her report is on the recent "Rogues and Rebels" conference held at Williams College, where teachers, librarians, editors and authors gathered to discuss how "to promote awareness of the significance of literature in the lives of children."

Grace Thielpape has reviewed young adult books at SCPL for several years and is a professional storyteller. The program is funded by the Friends and sponsored by the Young Adult Services.

Pass on Books



Do you belong to a book club? Consider giving your books to the library after reading so that the latest books will be available to other readers. With a limited new book budget, this will help fill our shelves.

Books to Heritage Home

Area nursing homes have been enjoying volunteers bringing large print book bi-weekly. Now the women at Heritage Home can look forward to these visits thanks to Esther Swanker. Thus, the library is continuing to serve all ages, from tots to totterers!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Upcoming Children's Department programs provided with funds from the Friends of SCPL.

- 12 (Thurs.) at 3:30 Woodlawn Branch (6-12) Songs and Stories with Paul Strausman
- Dec. 17 (Tues.) at 3:30 Duane Branch "Winter Taleabration" Songs and Stories with Bill Cliff.
- Dec. 17 (Tues.) at 4:00 Hamilton Hill Branch (6-12) Holiday Tales and a Sing-A-Long with Paul Strausman.
- Dec. 18 (Wed.) at 3:30 Mt. Pleasant Branch (6-12) Holiday Tales and a Sing-A-Long with Paul Strausman.
- Dec. 27 (Fri.) at 2:00 Children's Room (6-11) "Lego Brick Bonanza"
 with Barbara Bennett. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
- Jan. 3 (Fri.) at 2:00 Children's Room (4-5) "Duplo Brick Building" with Barbara Bennett. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome new members Sylvia Curley, Teresa Czwakiel, Patrice M. Hollman, Tom and Ann Shak, Tracey K. Tudor and Abbie S. Verner.

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Our membership year runs from May 1 to April 30th, and overdue renewal notices will be going out this month. To help save postage and keep up to date, please send your 1991 dues to: Treasurer, Friends of the SCPL, Liberty and Clinton Streets, Schenectady, NY 12305.

THANKS to the volunteers who helped in collating and stapling the September Newsletter. We appreciate you!

Helen and Frank Steiner, Dorothy Peterson, Pat and Roger Whitney, Peg Fisher, Tuly Svolos, Florence Scheels, Lois and Bill Isles. Mildred Neslin, Chairman, and Rudy Dehn, Co-chairman.

KIM SCUDERA, who has served on our Board, been Co-editor on the Newsletter, Secretary, Treasurer, and Branch Volunteer, has moved to Virginia. Kim was dedicated to the Friends and will be greatly missed. A replacement is needed to work on the Newletter. Can you help?

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library Corner of Liberty and Clinton Streets Schenectady, New York 12305

STAFF ENTERTAINED

The Friends hosted a coffee, tea and cider morning in October for the SCPL staff, including branch personnel. Appreciation was expressed by the director and approximately fifty attending for the welcome break. Kim Scudera and Kay Dixon poured, while Helena Piotrowski, Jean Rettie and Ken Wagner assisted Wilma Bradt in arrangements.

RETIREES

Friends have worked with and have been helped by and appreciated these SCPL retirees and wish them well in their new ventures! Jean Rettie, Head of Circulation; Lois Voight Hodges, Head of Children's Services; Marilyn Huston, Technical Services; Stanley Oleksiak, Janitor; and part-time branch workers Janet and Norm Thompson.

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1992

VOL. XXVII NO. 3

BOOKS-SANDWICHED-IN

Coordinated by Robert Orr and Richard Sills Come to the McChesney Room at Noon on Mondays and bring a sandwich.

- January 6 FINAL EXIT by Derek Humphry Reviewer: Dr. Derek Sayers, who will lead a discussion on the issues addressed in this book. Dr. Sayers was educated in England, attending Medical School at London University. He is a retired anesthesiologist and is a volunteer with Schenectady Hospice.
- January 13 BERNARD SHAW (3 volumes) by Michael Holroyd Reviewer: Robert A. Donovan, who recently retired from SUNY Albany after 29 years as Professor of English. He has written numerous scholarly and critical essays and has reviewed biographies before for BSI.
- January 20 Library closed for holiday
- SCARLET by Alexandra Ripley
 Reviewer: Sandra Boynton, who has been with the Theatre January 27 Department at SCCC since September 1991. She spent 11 years in professional theatre and has supplied costumes for theatre companies in the US and abroad.
- February 3 LOS CUSANOS by John Sayles Reviewer: Prof. Alberto Carlos, Professor of Romance Literature at SUNYA. He has given a number of BSI reviews of Latin American novelists in the past.
- February 10 SAINT MAYBE by Anne Tyler Reviewer: Nancy Thornton, a Schenectady business woman who also teaches writing. She has reviewed for us before.
- February 17 Library closed for holiday
- February 24 **STILL LIFE** by A. S. Byatt Reviewer: Prof. Carl Niemeyer, former Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature at Union College. Prof. Niemeyer is a veteran reviewer at BSI.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

February and March dates have been set for winter children's events, made possible by the support of the Friends of the Library.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

Feb. 8 (Sat.) - 2 p.m. - "Mirror Magic" - ages 6-11. Make a kaleidoscope with Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Feb. 22 (Sat.) - 2 p.m. - "The World of Wizardry" Magic with guest magician Eric Conover - ages 6-11.

HAMILTON HILL

Feb. 4 (Tues.) - 4 p.m. - "Colonial Hearts and Flowers" with Frances Brown. Stories and crafts for ages 6-12.

MONT PLEASANT

Feb. 5 (Wed.) - 3:30 p.m. - "Colonial Hearts and Flowers" with Frances Brown. Stories and crafts for ages 6-12.

WOODLAWN

- March 5 (Thurs.) 3:30 p.m. Lego Building with Barbara Bennett for ages 6-11. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
- March 12 (Thurs.) 3:30 p.m. Duplo Building with Barbara Bennett
 for 3 and 4 year olds. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

FRIENDS OF SCPL NEWSNOTES

BOOKS NEEDED

There are a few new books at the library thanks to all of you who have donated books or money this past year. Please continue to help us by finding people who belong to book clubs. Ask them to donate their latest titles (after they've read them, of course) to the library.

Next year's book budget will cover subscriptions and standing orders but will allow for few new fiction and non-fiction books. By donating or bequeathing money and books you can help insure that children and adults in Schenectady County keep reading! Books can be left at the reference desk at the central library or at circulation at the branches.

BUSY WEEKDAYS

To the extreme inconvenience of many people, especially families and students, the library will be closed Sundays in 1992, and Saturdays as well next summer. This will mean busier weekdays at the library. Can you volunteer to help? Call Robert Berk at 382-3521.

BUY A BOOK

The library has prepared a new flyer encouraging library users to donate funds to it for the purchase of books. The donor has the option of selecting the area or library facility where the book is to be placed.

MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

Our membership is constantly growing with new Friends who contribute not only dues to help support our programs but give of themselves too. Those joining us recently are Joe Brennan, Cynthia Goodman, James J. LaForest, Julia A. Newberry, Alice Schuman, Johanna Takaroff, Linda Wallenkempf. Welcome!

The Newsletter is published in January, March, June and September.

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library Corner of Liberty and Clinton Streets Schenectady, New York 12305

NISKAYUNA BRANCH MOVING

The Niskayuna branch library, located in the Van Antwerp school building, will close on Saturday, December 14. During the succeeding two weeks the books and equipment will be removed from the facility. It is expected that the bookmobile will be placed into service in early January to continue this branch's operation. The primary location will be the Grand Union parking lot on Balltown Road.

BUDGET CUTS

The Library's budget is in place for 1992. The schedule of reduced hours begun in 1991 will continue into 1992. Funds for library materials have been set at \$198,000 compared to \$295,000 in both 1990 and 1991.

The reduction in state aid for state mandated programs and the increase in the number of people using social services entitlement programs have contributed to the very difficult financial problems currently faced by Schenectady County.

We have a Friend's mailbox behind the switchboard at Central. Any communications can be left there.

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m. If unable to attend, please let the secretary know.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

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MARCH-APRIL 1992

VOL. XXVII NO. 4

MONDAY NOON PROGRAMS

Diverse Views in Science and Technology will be presented Monday noons during March in the McChesney Room at Central Library. These interesting Friends' programs have been arranged by Dr. Walter Grattidge and Dr. Herb H. Strom.

- March 2 MAN AND NATURE IN CONFLICT - Raymond M. Fisher, Jr., retired mechanical and electrical GE engineer
- FORMS OF ELEMENTAL CARBON Francis P. Bundy, retired physicist, GE Corporate R&D; involved in high pressure physics and March 9 diamond making
- THE WASTE REVOLUTION Robert P. Yunick, chemist; VP of March 16 Research at Schenectady Chemicals
- STATE OF THE ART IN CARDIAC SURGERY Jay Taub, Chief Perfusionist, Cardiac Surgery Unit, Ellis Hospital March 23

The Spring Literary Series will follow on March 30 and April 6. Mary Arensberg, of the SUNYA English Department, will speak on THE MYTHOLOGICAL DIMENSION IN ART, FILM, PSYCHOLOGY AND LITERATURE. Dr. Arensberg has a special interest in mythology and has reviewed a number of books for BSI.

*

Next comes two Monday noon Table Talks:

- THEMES OF PEACE AND JUSTICE IN MODERN AMERICAN LITERATURE -April 13 Kathleen Conway, SUNYA
- THE DANCE MARATHON FADS OF THE 20's AND 30's Prof. April 20 Frank Calabria, Union College (ret.)

And then another excellent selection of BSI Reviews start the next week.

- WARTIME by Paul Fussell, reviewed by Prof. Peter Heinegg, April 27 Union College
- WHEN YOU BEGIN TO LOOK LIKE YOUR PASSPORT PICTURE IT'S TIME May 4 TO GO HOME by Erma Bombeck, reviewed by Dr. Erma Ruth Chestnut
- THE LAST FINE TIME by Verlyn Klinkenborg, reviewed by Prof. May 11 Malcolm Williston, Siena College
- ANNE SEXTON, A BIOGRAPHY by Diane W. Middlebrook, reviewed by May 18 Prof. Jeffrey Berman, SUNYA
- CROSSING TO SAFETY by Wallace Stegner, reviewed by Prof. Randall June 1 Craig, SUNYA
- A WHOLE DIFFERENT BALL GAME by Marvin Miller, reviewed by Steve June 8 Fitz, well-known radio personality

We thank Frank Steiner for lining up the Literary Series, Table Talks and Books-Sandwiched-In, and we are grateful to him for many previous noon programs.

SPRING BOOK SALE - MAY 2

Our big spring fund-raising booksale, which provides much-needed books for the Branches, will be held Saturday, May 2. Many books have already been received, but the more we have the more we can sell and the more we can buy. Check your shelves and bring in good saleable volumes now. These can be left at Central's loading platform or at your Branch desk, marked "Book Sale." Best sellers are children's, references and paperbacks, and non-fiction covering adventure, travel, war, plants, animals, homemaking, sports, art and music. (What we cannot sell are Readers Digest Condensed Books, technical items and weekly news magazines.) Better books are evaluated and specially marked. To encourage more old and rare book donations, there will be a silent auction Saturday morning. Bids will be received between 9 and 11:30 a.m., with results announced at 11:30. A cashier will be on the spot.

Pat and Roger Whitney, co-chairmen, always need a lot of volunteer help. They would like to get more posters out about two weeks before the sale, so if you can spread them around your neighborhood, let them know. As usual, strong arms and backs are needed on Friday afternoon to move books down from storage and early Saturday morning to set up outdoor tables. Then after the sale everything has to be put away. It's a lot of work! Pat is already signing up cashiers and helpers during the sale day. Call her at 374-2120 if you can help. We need you!

The sale begins at 9 a.m. when the barriers go down. At 3 p.m. the half-price sale starts; then a \$1 bag sale at 4; and giveaway at 4:30. Mark the day on your calendar and sign up for helping--call the Whitney's at 374-2120, or the library at 382-3500. Spread the good word and be sure to come by to buy. Help make this the best sale yet.

CIRCULATION UP

Circulation increased in 1991 in spite of significant reduction in hours at the Central Library and larger Branches. It has been rising spectacularly at the Glenville Branch, and is also up at Quaker Street/Duanesburg and Mont Pleasant. Staff have also observed that in-house use of the Library remains at a very high level. On Saturdays it is not uncommon to see virtually every reader station occupied.

COLONIAL FESTIVAL

February again brought many programs showing and telling of bygone days to Schenectady, with the library having an important part in this reliving of our past. There were stories and crafts and lectures and teaching throughout the week of February 3-8, held at Central, Scotia, Hamilton Hill, Mont Pleasant and Quaker Street branches. Demonstrations of weaving, Colonial stitchery, quilting, calligraphy, stencilling, spinning and counted cross stitch attracted children and grown-ups in great numbers.

Friends of the Library funding made some of these programs possible. Margery Beeler served as the Library's representative to the Festival planning committee.

NEW VIDEO TV SYSTEM

The video cassette TV projection system has been installed in the McChesney Room. This allows us to project video cassettes on to a large screen. This capability is very important because fewer and fewer 16mm films are available. The Library will be increasingly projecting "public performance rights" videos here. The purchase of this system was through a special legislative grant made possible by Senator Farley and Assemblymen Tonko and Tedisco. We appreciate their continued support.

T T T

CALL NOW--WHY WAIT?

March 10th is Library Day in Albany. This year don't wait for the Friends and SCPL Board members to visit our legislators. Call or write your Senator and Assemblymen NOW to ask for much-needed money for the Library. Let them know how much we can use their help.

Senator Hugh Farley- 455-2181 Assemblyman Paul Tonko- 356-5497 Assemblyman James Tedisco- 370-2812



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK - APRIL 5-11

There are many worlds within the library, and these will be introduced and explored during National Library Week, whose theme is "Reach for the World." There will be tours to find out more about these various worlds--"World of the Child," "World of Machines" (A-V Dept.) and "World of Information." Volunteers will introduce visitors to the "World of the CD-ROM Catalogs."

A program for children and families will take place Thursday evening-either "The World of Music" or "The World of Puppets." On Saturday afternoon the Sierra Club and Children's Room staff will offer "The World of Garbage." Speakers are being invited to enlighten us on other worlds, from the "Natural World" to the "Business World". Phyllis Ochs will present a seminar on the "World of Work" and how to do a job search.

On Wednesday evening, the third annual Great American Read-Aloud will take place across the nation, and local celebrities will read from their own favorite books at the Central Library. Schedules and more information will be released as plans materialize. Roxanne Murray and Marjorie Woods are co-chairs.

BEDSIDE BOOKS

Volunteers are now bringing books to all the nursing homes in the county, Heritage Home for Women and the geriatric ward of the New Medico Rehab. and Skilled Nursing Center of the Capital District. During 1991 a total of 3393 books were circulated with a smile and kind word. And another 414 were delivered along with Meals-On-Wheels. Faithful book-bringers include Leah Murray, Roberta Smylie, Mary Druke Becker, Oliver and Ethel Murray, Esther Swanker and Elsie Maddaus.

NISKAYUNA BOOKMOBILE

The Niskayuna bookmobile has been set up and is operational, located in the Grand Union parking lot off Balltown Road. If you have an opportunity, stop by and say hello to the staff and borrow a book while you are there. The hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. We are all looking forward to the day when there will be a permanent branch library serving Niskayuna residents.



COME HEAR GEORGE WISE, GE HISTORIAN

Mark your calendars April 7th (Tuesday) when we will gather together at the Annual Friends of SCPL dinner in the McChesney Room at Central Library at 6:15. In addition to the pleasure of seeing friends and enjoying the delicious food from Classic Caterers, we will have a treat in hearing George Wise speak. In his usual witty and informative fashion he is sure to interest you in Schenectady General Electric history. Wilma Bradt is in charge of arrangements.

Tickets are \$9.50, payable to the Friends of SCPL. Mail your check to Pat Whitney, using the coupon below. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, March 31st.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

In 1987 Edgar Brown volunteered to work on the new automation project that the library had just begun. After two years the task at Central was completed but Ed continued as a computer volunteer for the circulation department, and then also assisted in the bar coding process at Woodlawn and Duane through 1990.

Then he started performing assorted clerical tasks for the reference department and soon became sole volunteer in charge of the Official Compilation Codes of Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, which he organized and now keeps updated.







BRING YOUR CHILDREN

Help your children be creative at these March special programs given by Barbara Bennett. She will be at Woodlawn March 5th at 3:30 p.m. instructing 6-11 year-olds in Lego Building, and there again on March 12th teaching 3 and 4 year-olds the skills of Duplo Building at 3:30 p.m. On Saturday, March 25th, she will hold another Lego Workshop at Glenville for 6-12 year-olds at 3:45 p.m. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for all of these, which are made possible by the support of the Friends.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- at Central to shelve books and for clerical and typing jobs;
- at Duane to work with chidlren by reading to them or helping with homework;
- at Rotterdam to shelve paperbacks;
- at Scotia to work with catalog records to make an inventory of the juvenile collectons; and
- at Woodlawn for shelving, especially on Thursday.

Supervision and training are provided. Please contact Roberta Berk - 382-3521.

The Library is indeed fortunate that Ed Brown, a member of the Friends of the Library Board, found time to volunteer in so many capacities. A book, in an area chosen by Mr. Brown, will be purchased and a special bookplate will be inscribed in honor of his devoted service as a library volunteer. What better way to say "Thank you!"

YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

"Get Started: Activate Teens, Books and Your Library" is the theme of the all-day YA Continuing Education Conference sponsored by the three local library associations, to be held March 26 at Union College. A Teen Program Resource Directory is being compiled to be distributed, and for registration forms call Sue Rokos at MVLA, 355-3010. Jo Adams is helping to plan the program.

MORE NEW MEMBERS

It is heartening to add new names to our membership list. Since January the following have indicated that they care enough about our library to join the Friends:

Phyllis J. Cornelius, Lisa Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Lapidus, Mrs. Gerald Parkhurst, Robert Votis, Sue Ann and Arnold Grosberg, Louis G. Pileggi, and Nancy E. Fullman. Nancy is seven years old and this is a gift membership from her grandmother, Doris Fullman, who is a long-time member.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President 1st Vice Pres. Frank Steiner Rec. Secretary Gwen Deiber

2nd Vice Pres. Eleanor Friedman Act. Treasurer J. Wusterbarth Newsletter Ed. Katherine Dixon Circulation Mildred Neslin Rudy Dehn Patricia Whitney 1117 Earl Avenue Sch'dy, NY 12309

Jane Somers

Membership

May-June 1992

VOL. XXVII NO. 5

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Times continue to be difficult for libraries. Fiscal and personnel constraints become tighter while the needs of patrons expand and utilization In economic hard times libraries clearly show themby the public grows. selves to be needed as they provide access to unique information and jobrelated resources.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library System recognize that important role in our community and are ready to continue to show faith and support for our library system. At the recent Annual Meeting, a new Board was authorized to plan programs and continue the successful activities of the organization for the coming year. In the name of the Board we pledge to continue the great work which has gone before.

Dr. George Wise, speaker at the Annual Meeting, reminded us once again of the significant technological heritage which we as residents of the Schenectady community inherit. The challenge now is for us to ensure that the present and future generations of Schenectadians are able to continue to provide the world with similar significant technological and other developments. For that our library and educational systems merit strong support.

The Friends play an important cultural and educational role in our community. We encourage your financial support but welcome even more your active participation in the programs and activities. The Newsletter helps keep you abreast of the programs. Attend and bring a friend, who we hope will want to join us as a contributing Friend.

Walter Grattidge

FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

Friends' donations of time and money helped the Library in a tight budget year. Volunteer time is a matchless gift to it and its readers.

The two successful booksales brought in \$11,000, which was given to the Branches for new books. Other book gifts were \$3,000 each for children's and adult books for the Central Library, and the International Encyclopedia of Associations.

Through Library Link the Friends gave \$2,000 once again to support quality library programs for children in day care centers, schools, camps, and other agencies.

Large and appreciative audiences came to three sets of Books-Sandwiched-In, two Table Talks, one Science Series, and Literary Lectures on dimensions of mythology. Frequently more than 100 attended these popular noon programs.

Other activities of the Friends during the year included advocacy at the County Budget Hearing and Library Day legislative visits; annual staff coffee and volunteer luncheon; and volunteer visits to the County Jail where 3,203 paperback books and magazines were circulated.



1992-1993 IN GOOD HANDS WITH NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

At the Annual Friends Dinner Meeting in April the following slate of officers and directors was unanimously approved by the membership:

OFFICERS

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Recording Secretary
Treasurer

Walter Grattidge
Jo Adams
Katherine Dixon
Gwen Dieber
Junice Wusterbarth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

First 3-Year Term

Jo Adams Annette Billmyer Dorothy Brandon Naomi Bristol Marie DeLorenzo
Elsie Maddaus
Mildred Neslin
Junice Wusterbarth

Second 3-Year Term

Roberta Berk Eleanor Friedman Jane Somers Eugene Zola

Other continuing Board Members are Wilma Bradt, Ed Brown, Gwen Deiber, Katherine Dixon, Bernard Gerber, Walter Grattidge, Helena Piotrowski, Jean Sampson, Don Schein, Pat Whitney, and Roger Whitney.

Retiring are John Belton and Sara Michener; and resigning are Virginia Laumeister, Kathryn Scudera and Jack Ward. The Nominating Committee was headed by Roberta Berk, with Helena Piotrowski and Bernard Gerberg also serving.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jo Adams is new to the FOL Board but not new to the library. With a MLS degree from SUNY at Albany, she joined SCPL's reference staff in 1978 and since has been the Young Adult librarian. Right now she is the liaison with Literacy Volunteers with her main goal obtaining grants for new readers and English as a second language.

Annette Billmyer graduated from Miseria Cordia College, Dallas, Pa. She has been an active Board member of AAUW, and her extensive community involvement includes the Museum, Symphony, City Mission, Historical Society and Annie Schafer Center.

Dorothy Brandon is a retired librarian and was part of the Capital District Library Council. She was director of the Frothingham Free Library in Fonda and worked for MVLA. She also worked in the Ellis Hospital medical library.

Naomi Bristol is back on the Board after a hiatus of many years. In the interim she held the first staff position of Coordinator of Volunteers while working towards a MLS from SUNY Albany. In 1985 she became a children's librarian at Central and is now serving in that capacity for Woodlawn and Niskayuna.

Marie Christine DeLorenzo grew up in Schenectady and owned the Marie Christine Bridal Shop on Union St. for 33 years. She is a charter member of the Soroptomist Club as well as a Friend of Schenectady Museum and a member of the Schenectady Children's Theater Company. She will be coordinator of the Friends' volunteers.

Elsie Maddaus is a graduate of Skidmore College and SUNY Albany. She is another retired librarian who joins our Board after being Director of the Ballston Spa Public Library for 20 years. She is a part-time archivist-librarian at the Historical Society and substitutes at the Scotia Branch. She is one of our library volunteers at the Baptist Retirement Center.

Mildred Neslin was formerly a member of the Board and has continued on the Newsletter Circulation committee. She comes from Seattle, Wash., and attended the University of Washington. She has been a trustee of Temple Gates of Heaven and a volunteer at Ellis Hospital for 20 years. She is also active at the YWCA.

Junice Wusterbarth is coming back on the Board as the official treasurer after serving as acting one for the past ten months. She has been treasurer as well as president of the Board. Junice's loyalty to the Library includes being a faithful volunteer at the Woodlawn Branch.

\$6,000 FOR MORE BOOKS

Six thousand dollars will buy a lot of much-needed books for the Branches, and that, (plus \$159.60) is what came in at the Spring Book Sale. Pat Whitney, chairman, says its success depended, as always, on the volunteers (130) who spent so much time and effort in weekly sorting of the donated materials, distributing posters, setting up, cashiering, selling and cleaning up after the sale. The Friends thank everyone who volunteered, donated books, bought books and worked so hard to help the Library keep its shelves filled in these hard times.

NOON PROGRAMS CONTINUE

Still to enjoy are two final Monday noon Books-Sandwiched-In programs:

<u>June 1</u> CROSSING TO SAFETY by Wallace Stegner, reviewed by Prof. Randall Craig, SUNYA

June 8 A WHOLE DIFFERENT BALL GAME by Marvin Miller, reviewed by Steve Fitz, well-known radio personality

These popular programs will begin again in the fall, with books and reviewers announced in the <u>September</u> Newsletter and in library flyers.

On Thursday at noon a series of lectures that examine the way that image has replaced reality runs two more weeks. This Image series is made possible through a grant from the MVLA and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

May 28 LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES and KENNEDY-NIXON DEBATES will be presented (including video) by Honora Kinney, CSJ from St. Rose

June 4 LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN. This James Agee book with Walker

Evans photos will be discussed by Bruce Miroff, SUNYA.

NEW YORK STATE STORIES AND SONGS FOR CHILDREN

There's a busy summer ahead for children with lots of programs scheduled at Central and the Branches. Flyers will be available at the circulation desks in June, but in the meantime here are some of the special offerings to look forward to which are possible through funding by the Friends.

Great State - Bill Cliff's music, songs and stories; Iroquois Tales - storyteller Lois Foight Hodges; Wildlife of N.Y. State - hands-on program by 5-River's Naturalist; Celebrate the Outdoors - songs and stories with George Steele; Pirates and Treasure in New York - storyteller Dorothy Mancini; Longhouse Whys and Hows - Lois Foight Hodges; Summer Song and Storyfest - Bill Cliff; Eat Your Way Through New York - storyteller Nancy Gifford; Finding Stories in Your Own Backyard - storyteller Marni Schwartz; Adirondack Antics - stories and a weaving craft with Myra Shinkle; Creatures that Crawl - Kenneth Barnett.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Local observance of National Library Week, April 5-11, was due to the combined efforts of the staff and volunteers, coordinating planning and publicity to presenting programs for adults and children. Many thanks to all the Friends and other volunteers who were involved in this special annual library week.

Marilyn Schroeder's performance of "Poppy Doodles Puppets" for family enjoyment was a highlight of the week. In other programs Emily Davis Mobley gave a slide presentation about caves of New York State, displaying her knowledge and love of spelunking and bats. George Robertson shared his vision of the World Trade Center of the Capital Region and told how it is already becoming a reality.

The ongoing presence of volunteers willing and able to assist people at the CD-ROM computers was one of the successes of the week. Many patrons have still not found the "nerve" to approach the computer catalog on their own, and found the offered assistance extremely helpful.

DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS

The General Electric Foundation has designated the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library as eligible for Gift Matching under the "More Gifts--More Givers" Program. Under the program, contributions of \$15 or more to the Friends will be matched by the Foundation.

Employees and retirees of GE are eligible and should report their contributions to GE Foundation Matching Gifts Center, 1-800-462-8244. When reporting, give your name, SS number, date and Friends' zip code (12305), and amount of gift. Mark your check "eligible for GE Foundation Match."

To help the Library as a Friend, you may want to consider increasing your contribution to take advantage of doubling your dollars.

Apologies to Dr. Herb H. Strong, whose name was misspelled in our last issue, due to a typographical error. Dr. Strong has been instrumental for the last five years in lining up interesting programs in the Science and Technology noon series, including the March talks.

NEW MEMBERS

Lutricia Bradley, Dorothy Brandon, Cathy Buckwalter, Lillie R. Cain, Josephine & Nicholas Christy, Tim Coakley, Ann Daly, Catherine D'Amato, Richard DeLuccia, Roland Durant III, Brian & Roberta Kelly, Dottie Libbon, Alice Owen, Robert Rej, Nina Rindenello, Bryan Sattler, Jack & Cathle Schmidt, Cynthia & Wayne Schneider, Marie Stone, Dr. & Mrs. Victor Wallenkampf, Linda Walker.

Marie Christine DeLorenzo is the new Coordinator of Volunteers, for the Friends. Call her if you can help on projects such as the fall book sale (393-4711).

HOPE FOR PARENTING CENTER

Schenectady County Public Library has applied for a \$50,000 grant from the N.Y. State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council for the purpose of establishing a library-based parenting center.
The program, if funded, will seek to meet the needs of families, parents and prospective parents concerned about the health of their children. Major elements of the program would include a community centered information service and multi-media resources.

SCOTIA BRANCH RECEIVES GIFT

Recently the grown children of Mary Elna and John David Bloomer, Jr. donated \$5,000 to the Scotia Branch Library through the SCPL/Board of Trustees in memory of their deceased parents for the purchase of children's books for the branch library. Mr. and Mrs. Bloomer founded and operated the Culligan Company in Scotia for many years and were very active in community affairs.

VOLUNTEERING

Lots of volunteers are helping all year long in many ways to help pro-vide the special services SCPL gives. They will be recognized at a luncheon June 9, which is cosponsored by the Board of Trustees and Friends of the Library.

Needs right now are volunteers to shelve books and read shelves at Central and some Branches, and Teens for summer help at Central Call Roberta and all Branches. Berk, 388-4521.

FRIENDS OF SCPL

President 1st Vice Pres. Jo Adams Rec. Secretary Gwen Dieber Treasurer Circulation

Membership

Walter Grattidge 2nd Vice Pres. Katherine Dixon Junice Wusterbarth Newsletter Ed. Katherine Dixon Mildred Neslin Rudy Dehn Patricia Whitney 1117 Earl Avenue Sch'dy, NY 12309

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library Corner of Liberty and Clinton Streets Schenectady, New York 12305

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