

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

September/October 2008

Vol. XLIV, 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.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN - FALL 2008

Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- September 8** *A Billion Lives: An Eyewitness Report from the Frontlines of Humanity* by Jan Egeland
Reviewed by **Dr. Clifford Tepper**, physician; social activist; Trustee of SCPL.
"In this gripping account, global diplomat Jan Egeland speaks to us about our generation's power to end massive misery and prevent conflict and disasters."
- September 15** *The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester. Reviewed by **Dr. Gregg Millett**, China traveler, Worldwide Friendship Organization. Subtitled "The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom", this is the story of the great Sinologist Joseph Needham (1900-1995), author of *Science and Civilization in China*.
- September 22** *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic...* by Steven Johnson. Reviewed by **Dr. James Gavin**, retired physician and UCALL lecturer.
Author Johnson deals with the deadliest cholera epidemic in the history of London and builds his story around physician John Snow, who helped to bring about a fundamental change in our understanding of disease and its spread.
- September 29** *Peak Everything: Waking up to the Century of Declines* by Richard Heinberg
Reviewed by **Dr. John Eisler**, neuroscientist; Assistant Dean of Empire State College.
"Peak Oil" expert Heinberg puts that theory in place alongside corresponding peaks in population, food production, climate stability and fresh water availability to paint a grim future of overlapping and accelerating global crises.
- October 6** *Churchill, Hitler and "The Unnecessary War": How Britain Lost Its Empire and the West Lost the World* by Patrick J Buchanan Reviewed by Erie Tetrault, area radio and television personality. "Certain to create controversy and spirited argument, this book is a grand and bold insight into the historic failures of judgment that ended centuries of European rule and guaranteed a future no one who lived in that vanished world could ever have envisioned."
- October 13** Columbus Day observed- Library is closed.
- October 20** *Andrew Carnegie* by David Nasaw. Reviewed by **Anne Bishop**, retired Social Studies teacher. Without education or contacts, Andrew Carnegie rose from poverty to become the richest person in the world. He then applied the same energy and creativity to give away all his money - more than \$350 million (in the tens of billions today) - in his lifetime.
- October 27** *Dinner at Mr. Jefferson's: Three Men, Five Great Wines and the Evening that Changed America* by Charles A. Cerami Reviewed by **Dr. Thomas Kelly**, retired History professor, Siena College. This gathering around Jefferson's celebrated table involved the creation of the young nation's finances, foreign relations and the eventual location of its capital.
- November 3** *Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood* by Mark Harris
Reviewed by **Chris Bishop**, regional independent moviemaker. *Pictures at a Revolution* focuses on the five nominees for best picture in 1968, made when the studio system was in collapse, audience tastes seemed wildly unpredictable, and our culture was being transformed by volatile social and political forces.

LIBRARY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Schenectady County Public Library is the best library system in upstate New York. However, because it is a non-mandated service, economic hard times can result in major reductions in funding and, therefore, reductions in services. The library Board of Trustees has established a Governance Committee to study options for ensuring that the library continues to provide for the needs of a diverse community in Schenectady. Those options include: continuing as an agency of the county government, hoping for stability in its support; reaching a more secure position within the county system; or proposing an independent library district with direct support from the residents of the county. All options are being studied carefully and will be reported to the community for a final decision.

[John Karl, Chair]

BOOK SALE NEWS

Our big, exciting Fall Book Sale will be Sept. 27, followed by the bag sale Sunday, the 28th. We will need many volunteers to make the sale a success. Especially we need people to set up the sale Saturday 7 to 9AM and Sunday noon to 1PM, and to take down the sale Saturday at 3PM and Sunday at 3PM. Please consider helping at any or all of these times. Also, if you know any youth groups or community volunteers, we can certainly use their help.

In May we netted \$15,485 (\$300 more than last spring) which will benefit the Branches of the Schenectady County Public Library. Hats off to the 38 cashiers who braved the cold and sat outside in the very cold weather we experienced. Because of them, the other 32 cashiers inside, and all the organizers inside and out, the sale was a huge success! More than 200 people participate during the sale and all year long in the sorting of books. Approximately 30,000 books, paperbacks and records have been recycled into the hands of happy customers. This is truly a great community event.

The next big sale will be May 2 & 3, 2009. A fiction sale will be held January 24-26 and a non-fiction sale on February 28 and March 1 in the hall of the library. See you there!

[Ellie Rowland & Virginia Thompson, Co-Chairs]

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members: **Thank you** for your continued support and presence, which enabled us to make a strong showing in the recent "closing crisis." We would not be in the strong position we are without your presence and assistance. The "emergency" is over but much still needs to be done. Installation of new heating and cooling systems should begin in September. Committees have been formed by the Trustees and supported by the Board of the Friends to (1) review and propose main library expansion plans; (2) review the branch structure and (3) consider the way the library is governed. I am confident we will succeed in getting the maintenance done before winter, and an expansion plan ready by the end of next year.

[Bern Allanson, President]

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

"A Community of Writers: The Individual Inspired", presented by Elaine Handley, will be held on **Sunday, October 5th, at 2pm** in the McChesney Room.

How did the explosion of great literature—uniquely American—come about roughly 150 years ago? Would the American literary Renaissance have blossomed if the writers of the era, including Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Longfellow, Alcott, Whitman and Fuller not known one another personally and been both inspired and provoked by one another? Would the notion of the *individual* as a celebrated aspect of the American character portrayed in their work come about? A reading/discussion program of these authors will also take place in the new year. Register for this program by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511.

The 2009 **One County, One Book** titles for community voting will be announced at a Books Sandwiched In program in September. Stay tuned for further details.

Confused about the Upcoming Digital Television Transition? Come to an informative program on **Tuesday, October 28 at 2 p.m.** in the McChesney Room at SCPL, presented by Deborah Onslow, former president of WMHT. Starting February 17, 2009, federal law will require that all television programs be broadcast in digital format. There won't be much of a change for those who subscribe to cable television. The major impact will be on those who receive broadcast signals through antennas. Come to the program with all your questions! The presenter will provide tips on what you can do to make the transition an easy one. She'll also have information that you can use if you decide to buy a digital television set. Call 388-4511 to register beginning Monday, September 29.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER REPORT

The months of June and July brought in approximately 1900 shoppers and just over \$7,000. Our circulation of books has been great with Fiction Hardcover, Paperbacks, and Young Adult Hardcover sales. We continued to have our popular Young Adult Hardcover sale and Reference sales for the month of August. WBC will observe Constitution Week nation wide, September 17-23. Thanks to the Schenectady Daughters of the American Revolution, an exhibit of the Constitution with posters and take-home bookmarks will be available to our shoppers.

October 4-18 is our Craft Book sale. Our shoppers really enjoy our special book sales each month.

The Whitney Book Corner, located on the corner of Clinton and Union Streets, sells quality used books for reasonable prices. Most hardback books are \$2 and paperbacks are \$1. Store hours are M, T, W & F, 10-4; Thursday 10-7 and Saturday 11-3. The store is run by volunteers of the Friends and all proceeds benefit the library system.

Interested new volunteers can contact Ellie Rowland at 370-1958.

[Gail Karl, WBC Manager]

REELS - A Free Series of Thought Provoking Films

Wednesday, September 3 at noon & September 4 at 7pm

Smart People

Dennis Quaid, Sarah Jessica Parker, Ellen Page; Miramax Films; Directed by Noam Murro
Rated R; 95 minutes; 2008

Lawrence, a recently widowed professor, is completely jaded and self-absorbed. When he winds up in the hospital he falls for his beautiful doctor and begins juggling a new love, a difficult family, a failing career and a surprise visit from his adopted brother as he develops a new look on life.

Wednesday, September 10 at noon & Thursday, September 11 at 7pm

Stop Loss

Ryan Phillippe, Justin Timberlake, Channing Tatum; Paramount Pictures
Directed by Kimberly Peirce; Rated R; 113 minutes; 2008

Sgt. Brandon King is a soldier returning from Iraq trying to resume the life he left behind. When he finally makes peace with civilian life, his world is upended when the government calls him back to duty. His internal conflict tests the bond of family, the loyalty of friendship and the value of honor.

Wednesday, September 17 at noon & Thursday, September 18 at 7pm

Arranged

Zoe Lister-Jones, Francis Benhamou; Film Movement
Directed by Stefan Schaefer, Diane Crespo; NR; 89 minutes; 2008

Two first year teachers at a Brooklyn public school come from very different backgrounds, but have much in common. Rochel is Jewish-Orthodox and Nasira is Muslim – each are going through arranged marriages. This film surveys their developing friendship.

Wednesday, September 24 at noon & Thursday, September 25 at 7pm

Outsourced

Josh Hamilton, Ayesha Dharker, Larry Pine; Lantern Lane; Directed by John Jeffcoat
Rated PG-13; 102 minutes; 2006

After his entire department is outsourced to India, an American novelty salesman named Todd heads there to train his replacement. Initially Todd makes no effort to embrace his new temporary home but over time Todd overcomes his resistance and finds a way to celebrate the cultural differences between the U.S. and India.

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

My Brother is an Only Child

Elio Germano, Luca Zingaretti, Angela Finocchiaro; Image Entertainment; Directed by Daniele Luchetti
Rated R; 108 minutes; 2008; Italian with English subtitles

Accio, one of a family of seven, is a difficult child and drives his parents to desperation. He thinks that he wants to join a mission but soon realizes that priesthood is not for him. He returns back home and becomes politically involved in the local Fascist Party in rebellion against his family's leftist beliefs.

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

Reprise

Anders Danielsen Lie, Espen Klouman-Hoiner, Christian Rubeck; Miramax Films; Directed by Joachim Trier
Rated R; 105 minutes; 2008; Norwegian with English subtitles

Two lifelong friends and aspiring novelists find their lives heading in opposite directions when Phillip's novel is published and Erik's is rejected. Phillip ends up suffering the harsher fate when overnight success brings on an emotional breakdown.

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

The Boss of It All

Jens Albinus, Casper Christensen, Sofie Grabol; IFC Films; Directed by Lars Von Trier
Not Rated; 100 minutes; 2007; Danish with English subtitles

Ravn owns an IT firm but trouble arises when he goes to sell it as he created a fictitious boss named Sven to handle the more difficult elements of the business from afar via email. His cranky potential buyer will only deal with Sven so Ravn hires an actor to fulfill the role for his meeting which spirals into hilarious chaos.

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

The Visitor

Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman, Danai Gurira; Overture Films; Directed by Tom McCarthy
Rated PG-13; 108 minutes; 2008

Walter, a college professor, travels to a conference in New York and returns to find a Syrian man and his Senegalese girlfriend living in his apartment. The couple has nowhere to go and when Walter reluctantly allows them to stay with him they return his kindness by teaching him the exuberant rhythms of the African drum, rekindling his passion for life.

Wednesday, October 29 at noon & Thursday, October 30 at 7pm

War/Dance

Documentary Feature; ThinkFilm; Directed by Andrea Nix and Sean Fine
Rated PG-13; 105 minutes; 2007

Set against the backdrop of Uganda's twenty year civil war in which over 30,000 children have been abducted by a rebel army, this film tells the story of schoolchildren Dominic, Rose, and Nancy as they take an historic journey to compete in a national music and dance festival. Amidst the tragedy that surrounds them just being asked to compete brings pride to their tribe.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have received 24 new members since the last report. We are happy to welcome the following new Friends: Mr. & Mrs. J. Richard Cahill; Robert Coppola; Sharon Finkelstein; Lois Foight-Hodges; Phyllis Gaumond; Joann Griffin; Beverly Groesbeck; Mary Jane Hammerle; Charles E. Hatch; Rachelle Kehoe; Jeannette Kenneally; Jessica MacLeod; Mr. & Mrs. Jason Moses; Danya Padilla; Karen Pascoe; Kathryn Quick; Janet Rainey; Beth Schroeder; Robert & Joan Townsend; Bill & Linda Ward.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

BOOK SALE



most books
\$1.00
paperbacks
3/\$1.00

hard covers
paperbacks
biographies
cookbooks
records & CDs
foreign language books
mysteries
children's books
fiction & nonfiction
large print books

Large
selection of
religion books.
2/\$1.00

**SATURDAY,
September 27, 2008
9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

*** \$ 2.00 Bag Sale *
Sunday, September 28
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**



Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
388-4500
www.scpl.org

Coffee & donuts will be sold by the Literacy Volunteers of America.

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2008

Vol. XLIV, No. 2

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NOON PROGRAMS November-December, 2007

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN - FALL 2008 Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

November 3 *Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood* by Mark Harris
Reviewed by **Chris Bishop**, regional independent moviemaker. *Pictures at a Revolution* focuses on the five nominees for best picture in 1968, made when the studio system was in collapse, audience tastes seemed wildly unpredictable, and our culture was being transformed by volatile social and political forces.

FALL FEATURES

Gioia Ottaviano, Special Features Coordinator
"War is Hell" – William Tecumseh Sherman

November 10 *1861-1865 - American Civil War* – Presented by Howard Young, member of The Civil War Round Table and a reenactor with the 125th New York Regiment.

November 17 *1914-1918 – World War I* – Presented by John Vallely, History Professor and Librarian at Siena College, Loudonville, NY.

TABLE TALK PROGRAMS John Karl, Coordinator

Monday, November 24 **Don Rittner, County and City Historian.** Don has written numerous works on local history. He is currently involved in the completion and promotion of the Dutch ship replica, *Onrust*. Don will talk about the *Onrust* Project

Monday, December 1 **Ray Gillen, Director of Metroplex.** Ray will follow up last year's presentation on developments in Downtown Schenectady with a look at Metroplex activities outside the downtown area.

Monday, December 8 **Mayor Brian U. Stratton.** The mayor will speak on "The State of the City".

Monday, December 15 **James Kunstler, Author.** Mr. Kunstler is well known in the area for opposing "sprawl" and advocating for a return to urban living. His many writings have gained him national recognition. His topic will be "The Long Emergency and Implications for Everyday Life in America's Future".

MUSIC PROGRAMS

The Schenectady County Public Library Music Committee will host an hour of reflection in the McChesney Room on **November 4, Election Day, at 12:10 p.m.** Carefully selected musical offerings will be presented by Ronald Patrick, horn, Jonathan Kaladin, cello and Christine Patrick, piano. Coffee, tea and cookies will be provided. Please plan to join us.

LIBRARY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee has been busy investigating possible options to recommend to the trustees. Several library directors have been interviewed with the aim of finding common problems or issues and how they were or were not resolved. A workshop meeting with the trustees, county legislators and county management will be held in November. Hopefully, after all of these efforts, a decision on achieving a stable budgeting process and more trustee control of the library will be reached.

By John Karl, Chair

REELS

A Free Series of Recent Thought Provoking Films

Wednesday, November 5 at noon & November 6 at 7pm

The Last Winter

Ron Perlman, James Legros, Connie Britton; IFC Film; Directed by Larry Fessenden
Rated PG-13; 101 minutes; 2007

In Northern Alaska, an oil company prepares for an extraction that will forever alter the pristine land. Trying to put a good face on the project, they allow some environmentalists to check the site but will go through with their plans anyway. When a young intern is found near-catatonic by an encounter he can not articulate the group finds that mother Earth might be seeking revenge in this eco-thriller.

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

The Violin

Film Movement; 98 minutes; 2008; Spanish with English Subtitles

Disguised as a harmless violin player to get back lost ammunition stock after the military seizure of his village, Don Plutarco charms the army captain with his violin playing and is ordered to return daily.

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

Days and Clouds

Film Movement; 115 minutes; 2007; Italian with English Subtitles

Elsa leaves her job and fulfills an old dream of studying art history. Her life changes when she finds out her husband hasn't worked in two months. They eventually break-up and realize they risk losing their most precious possession.

Wednesday, November 26 at noon

The Sensation of Sight

David Strathairn, Ian Somerhalder, Daniel Gillies; Monterey Media; Directed by Aaron J. Wiederspahn
Rated R; 134 minutes; 2006

In this sensitive drama an introspective English teacher, upon witnessing a recent tragedy for which he counts himself responsible, abandons his normal life's routine and begins selling encyclopedias in a small town in hopes of finding the redemption he needs. This off-beat story portrays a small circle of people struggling to communicate their feelings of grief and loss.

Wednesday, December 3 at noon & Thursday, December 4 at 7pm

Surfwise

Documentary Feature; Magnolia Pictures; Directed by Doug Pray
Rated R; 93 minutes; 2008

In this portrait of legendary Malibu surfer Dorian "Doc" Paskowitz we find that he introduced the sport to Israel in the 1960s. This inspiring and tumultuous story of the now 85-year old surfer shows us his wife and nine children who grew up on the beach, surfed and adhered to a strict diet and a simple lifestyle free of the trappings of money.

Wednesday, December 10 at noon & Thursday, December 11 at 7pm

Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson

Documentary Feature; Magnolia Pictures; Directed by Alex Gibney
Rated R; 118 minutes; 2008

This fast moving documentary looks at the uncanny life of gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson, fueled by Wild Turkey and superhuman doses of drugs. We are shown Thompson's major touchstone moments such as his ill-fated relationship with the Hell's Angels, his involvement in George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign and much more through clips of never-before-seen home movies, audiotapes and passages from unpublished manuscripts.

Wednesday, December 17 at noon & Thursday, December 18 at 7pm

Man on a Wire

Magnolia Home Entertainment; PG 13; 94 minutes; 2008

A look at the high-wire walk made by Philippe Petit in 1974 between the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York City, and how it is still considered one of history's most artistic crimes.

Wednesday, December 31 at noon

Young @ Heart

Twentieth Century Fox; PG; 108 minutes; 2007

To prepare for a show in their hometown that is only weeks away, a group of senior citizens must learn a slate of new songs ranging from James Brown to Coldplay. The tireless musical director leads the chorus through a series of chaotic rehearsals. We share in the poignant events that mark the lives of these aged singers.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION TEAM

Thanks to the folks who worked on the September-October newsletter. They were: Kathy August, Bill Beaulieu, Rudy Dehn, Lois and Bill Isles, John Karl and Anne Yunick.

ANOTHER TERRIFIC BOOK SALE!

In spite of dire weather predictions, the rain held off and the Fall Book Sale was an overwhelming success. We banked \$19,073.37* from those two sale days and from selling the remainder books to BooksProQuo from Springfield, MA.. All proceeds benefit the Branches of the Schenectady County Public Library. Approximately 36,000 books have been recycled into the hands of happy customers. We are very grateful for all the book donations we have received over the years, as well as the library discards.

Everyone involved did their part to make the sale so successful and at the same time a fun time for all. One hundred and seventy-six people were needed to conduct a sale of this magnitude. Thirty-three of those people did two or more jobs or shifts. Included in this number were set-up and breakdown people from GE Power University, GE Global Research, and the Bridge Center. The individuals who made major contributions to this sale include:

Bern Allanson, Sylvia Curley, Leah and Bill Leonard for organization, Fred Thompson for record, CDs, cassettes, and books on cassettes sales, Valerie Catlin for financial management, Literacy Volunteers of America for sale of refreshments, Lisa Holt for publicity, and the wonderful help we received from the library staff, especially Betty Jean Lent from Maintenance and Sandy Anderson, for design of all the graphics and printed material. Price Chopper and Hannaford's helped with refreshments and paper products for the workers, and throughout the year we collect wine boxes from Englehardt's, Guidarelli's, Holiday Liquor, King Cork and Rotterdam Wine and Liquor. We are grateful to the Sheriff for providing us a guard both Saturday and Sunday.

Non-profits are invited to come and choose as many free books as they can use at 2:30 on Saturday. This year we sent 24 invitations and 15 organizations came. We also give all the complete, soft-covered bibles to the jail library.

Our next big sale will be May 2 & 3, 2009 and we will have a sale of fiction books the end of January and non-fiction books the end of February. Y'all Come!

ADULT PROGRAMMING EVENTS AT SCPL

On **Saturday, November 15th**, the Friends are sponsoring a **Literary Tour to Concord, Massachusetts** to visit the homes of Louisa May Alcott and Nathaniel Hawthorne and stroll at Thoreau's Walden Pond. The cost, including bus round-trip, admissions and lunch at the historic Colonial Inn, is only \$90 for our members (\$100 for non-members). Reservation Forms for the trip are available at the Library. It is on a "first-come-first-gets-a-seat-on-the-bus" basis. Payment must accompany the reservation. Make checks payable to SCPL Friends of the Library and mail to Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library (Central), 99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305. Question? Call Karen at 388-4533 or Kathy August at 280-9373.

On **Sunday, November 16th**, the **6th Annual Community of Writers** program will be held in the McChesney Room at 2:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public. The program will be moderated by Bill Poppino and will feature the following writers: Catherine de Salle, Margaret Cunningham, Winifred Elze, Emil Jarczyński, Nan Johnson, Sandra L. Manchester, Catherine Norr, Susannah Risley, Leonard A. Slade, Jr., and members of the Hamilton Hill Arts Center.

NEWS FROM THE WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The Whitney Book Corner, 600 Union Street, is having a sale of used Christmas books from November 1-15. Sale books are \$1 each. From December 6-20, the store will have New Children's Books – priced as marked. Store hours are Mon-Wed 10am-4pm, Thurs 10am-7pm, Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 11am-3pm and Sunday 1pm-3pm. The Whitney Book Corner, sponsored and run by the Friends of SCPL, sells quality used books for reasonable prices. Also, the store offers a selection of used vinyl records, music cassettes, children & adult videos, books on tape and language instruction in both tape & CD formats. Reasonable prices start at 50 cents with video & records at \$1. Books on tape & language instructions are priced according to size. The WBC is now offering Gift Certificates in increments of \$5 or \$10. Shoppers will have a chance to give a truly great gift, for someone who is dear to them. By Gail Karl, Store Manager

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Friends of SCPL organization has acquired nine new members since our last report. They are: Ruth Bonn, James L. Bowden, Mark Frederick, Madeline Goodwin, Carol Kramer, Chris Morroni, William J. Parry, Hazel M. Wilson and Bernie Witkowski. We welcome them to the Friends.

ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK SURVEY

The committee that administers the One County, One Book program is seeking your opinion on the criteria used for selecting book candidates. When the program was started, we offered our readers the opportunity to nominate books for the program using the following criterion: the book must be available in hardcover, paperback, large print and audio.

Since the beginning of the program it has become extremely difficult to obtain Large Print copies. Apparently, publishers are just not producing them. Consequently, we have had to eliminate many great books from consideration.

Therefore, if a book is available in EITHER Large Print or Audio would you approve of the selection committee choosing that book?

YES

NO

Please tear off this ballot and either mail it to Karen Bradley at the Main Library (99 Clinton Street, Schenectady 12308) or drop it in the containers provided. Thank you for your cooperation

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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2009

Vol. XLIV, No. 3

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NOON PROGRAMS-January-February 2009

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN - Winter 2009

Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- January 5** *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* by **Jeffrey Toobin** Reviewed by **Julia Helfman**, former Schenectady County Human Rights Commissioner and social activist. *New Yorker* legal writer Toobin surveys the Court from the Reagan administration onward, as the justices wrestled with abortion, affirmative action, the death penalty, gay rights and church-state separation.
- January 12** *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time* by **Greg Mortensen** Reviewed by **Sheelagh Bailly**, retired mental health administrator. Co-authored by David Oliver Relin and set against the turmoil in Pakistan and Afganistan, this is an inspirational story of one man's efforts to address poverty, educate girls, and overcome cultural divides.
- January 19** **Martin Luther King Day - Library closed**
- January 26** *Churchill, Hitler, and "The Unnecessary War": How Britain Lost Its Empire and the West Lost the World* by **Pat Buchanan** Reviewed by **Ernie Tetrault**, former television newscaster. In this monumental and provocative history, the author makes the case that, if not for the blunders of British statesmen, the horrors of two world wars and the Holocaust might have been avoided and the British Empire might never have collapsed into ruins.
- February 2** *Rupert Murdoch's China Adventures – How the World's Most Powerful Media Mogul Lost a Fortune and Found a Wife* by **Bruce Dover** Reviewed by **Greg Millett**, a China traveler who recently returned from Bejiing. Mr. Dover, the News Corporation's representative in China from 1992 to 1998, takes us inside the business and the mind of its boss.
- February 9** *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the Civil War* by **Drew Gilpin Faust** Reviewed by **Deborah Noyes**, librarian, Civil War reader. Battle is the dramatic centerpiece of Civil War history; this penetrating study looks instead at the somber aftermath. Historian Faust notes that the Civil War introduced America to death on an unprecedented scale and of an unnatural kind.
- February 16** **President's Day – Library closed**
- February 23** *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution--and How It Can Renew America* by **Thomas L. Friedman** Reviewed by **Patricia Rush**, a climate activist and past president of ECOS. Friedman takes a fresh and provocative look at two of the biggest challenges we face today: America's surprising loss of focus and national purpose since 9/11, and the global environmental crisis, which is affecting everything from food to fuel to forests.

GREAT DECISIONS 2009

Tuesdays – 10:00 – 11:30 – the McChesney room

The Great Decisions discussion series is free of charge and is sponsored by the national, non-partisan, **Foreign Policy Association** (www.fpa.org). Its purpose is to encourage free and open discussion of major foreign policy issues. A discussion guide, which gives participants a comprehensive balanced view of each of the topics, is helpful, but not mandatory. A copy may be ordered by contacting Phil Adams (393-9505) padams1@jhu.edu, or Frank Feiner (377-9448) FFEINER@nycap.rr.com

The 2009 series topics are as follows:

Feb3 – The US and rising powers	Mar 10 – Global food supply
Feb 10 – Afghanistan and Pakistan	Mar 17 - Cuba after Castro
Feb 17 – Energy and the global economy	Mar 24 – Universal human rights
Feb 24 – The Arctic age	
Mar 3 – Egypt in the 21 st century	

This is a chance for all who are interested in foreign policy issues to express their thoughts and opinions, and to listen to those of others.

REELS

A Free Series of Thought Provoking Films
Schenectady County Public Library – McChesney Room

Wednesday, January 7 at noon & January 8 at 7pm

Sense and Sensibility

Emma Thompson, Kate Winslet, Hugh Grant,
Alan Rickman, Emile Francois
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Ang Lee
Rated PG; 135 minutes; 1995

Emma Thompson stars in and received an Academy Award® for her screen adaptation of Jane Austen's first novel about two sisters: pragmatic, ironic, Elinor (Emma Thompson) and passionate, willful Marianne (Kate Winslet). Their struggle to find romantic happiness in an early 19th century English society obsessed with financial and social stature is a warm-hearted drama.

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

The Duchess

Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes, Hayley Atwell
Paramount Vantage; Directed by Saul Dibb
Rated PG-13; 110 minutes; 2008

A vibrant beauty and celebrity of her time, the extraordinary 18th-century aristocrat Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, was reviled for her extravagant political and personal lives. Stuck in an unhappy marriage she fell in love with a young politician and the affair caused a bitter conflict with her husband and threatened to erupt into a scandal.

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

Brideshead Revisited

Emma Thompson, Michael Gambon, Matthew Goode
Miramax Films; Directed by Julian Jarrold
Rated PG-13; 100 minutes; 2008

In this provocative and suspenseful drama set in the pre-WWII era, Captain Charles Ryder is stationed at Brideshead Castle where he becomes entranced with the noble Marchmain family. The rise and fall of Charles' infatuations reflect the decline of a decadent era in England between the wars.

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

Pride and Prejudice

Greer Garson, Laurence Olivier, Mary Boland
MGM/UA; Directed by Robert Z. Leonard
Black and White; Not Rated; 118 minutes; 1940

All the wit and wisdom of Jane Austen's comedy of upper-crust manners in 19th century England have been retained in this screenplay written by Jane Murn and Aldous Huxley. Greer Garson is the spirited Elizabeth Bennet and Laurence Olivier, the dashing Mr. Darcy.

Wednesday, February 4 at noon & February 5 at 7pm

Hamlet 2

Steve Coogan, Catherine Keener, Amy Poehler
Focus Features; Directed by Andrew Fleming
Rated R; 92 minutes; 2008

When a down and out actor moves to Tucson to run the drama department at a high school he finds out that the department will be removed at the end of the semester due to budget cuts. Mr. Marschz then sets out to produce a ridiculous re-working of Hamlet (he didn't like how the original ended!) in hope of inspiring people to donate funds to save the department.

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

Vicky Cristina Barcelona

Scarlett Johansson, Penelope Cruz, Javier Bardem
The Weinstein Company; Directed by Woody Allen
Rated PG-13; 96 minutes; 2008

Two American girls on a summer holiday in Spain become enamored with the same painter named Juan Antonio. Juan attempts to seduce both girls and while the more conservative Vicky initially resists him, he eventually breaks down both of their defenses in this love letter to Barcelona.

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

Mamma Mia

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth
Universal Pictures; Directed by Phyllida Lloyd
Rated PG-13; 108 minutes; 2008

In this big screen version of the stage musical featuring the songs of ABBA, Donna is the mother to Sophie, who's on a quest to discover the identity of her father on the eve of her wedding. Donna owns a small hotel on an idyllic Greek island and when three men from her past arrive unexpectedly it is a trip down memory lane that no one will ever forget.

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

Bottle Shock

Chris Pine, Alan Rickman, Bill Pullman
Shocking Bottle LLC; Directed by Randall Miller
Rated R; 110 minutes; 2008

The year is 1976 in the early days of California wine making. When British wine lover Steven Spurrier decides to bring a few U.S. vintages to the famous blind taste test in Paris the wine world is turned on its ear when a bottle from California winery Chateau Montelena wins the prestigious contest. Based on a true story.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

- January 18th, at 2:30, Louis Lohrasab, a student of Findlay Cockrell, will present a program of piano music in the McChesney Room.
 - January 30th, at noon, the Etude Club will present an hour of classical music in the McChesney Room.
 - February 8th, at 2:30, Music for Fun will be presented in the McChesney Room. Ron Patrick is arranging the program, which will feature two special guests along with 15 French horns, an oboe, clarinet, bassoon, piano, a story and a short skit. The special guests are Malinda Myers, who will sing spirituals, and Johnny Willis, who will play blues guitar and sing. The final work on the program will be an arrangement of Beethoven's Overture to Egmont performed by 12 horns.
-

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In November we were able to gift our members with an outstanding Literary Tour to Concord, Massachusetts. Thank you, Karen Bradley. Those who attended gave it high praise and welcome another Tour in the spring. Recently, our Library's McChesney Room was a warming place for people forced from their homes by the ice storm power outage. Staff provided coffee and tea and a deputy sheriff was on duty 24 hours a day. Many children will benefit from the Children's New Book (really, they are uncirculated books) sale at the Whitney Book Corner – half the books were sold in the first week. There is nothing like a fresh book to a young reader.

*Happy New Year! May the spirit of the season keep you warm in heart and soul and body.
Bern Allanson, President, Friends of SCPL*

JAZZ DANCE!

A free, multi-media program exploring the history of jazz dance through dance demonstrations and historic video footage featuring Tap Dancer and Lindy Hopper, choreographer, and writer, and dance preservationist Rusty Frank, will be held on Saturday, January 17 @ 11 a.m. in the McChesney Room of the Central Library. This program is presented in cooperation with the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center Living Legacy Project with funding provided by The National Endowment for the Arts and support from the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library. The Living Legacy Project is the same group who brought us last year's fine Gershwin program. For information call 388-4500.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Income has been steady and the number of customers has been increasing. We are doing an experimental opening on Sundays from 1:30 to 3:30 to see if this meets the needs of our customers. Many thanks to all the volunteers who make the WBC a success. – Gail Karl, manager

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

I wish I had more progress to report. The meeting planned with the county and state officials was cancelled and we are trying to set up a session after the first of the year. Hopefully the new year will bring meaningful dialogue about the future governance of the library. – John Karl

ONE COUNTY/ONE BOOK

Water for Elephants, Sara Gruen's novel about circus life and how a man, a woman and an elephant bonded and survived during the Great Depression, has been chosen by popular vote as Schenectady County's 2009 One County, One Book (OCOB) community read selection. As in past years, there will be many activities and events planned around the themes presented in the book. For anyone interested in becoming involved in this year's program, there will be a Volunteer Meeting on Wed., January 14th, at 4pm in the McChesney Room of the Central Library. All are welcome to attend. Any questions should be directed to Karen Bradley at 388-4533.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



The Friends of SCPL has acquired 15 new members since our last report. The are: Joseph Nell, Vernea Ghasripoor-Scherer, Sister Deborah Baker, Patty Mack, Eleanor Monlea, Angela Nebolini, S.E. Perkins, Ruth Wege, Carol Reynolds, Lisa Reynolds, Patricia Richards, Rita Moore, Patricia Rush, Gloria Ericson and Wayne Kant. We welcome them as friends. We acknowledge & appreciate the donations received in memory of Rose M. Nottke and Charles T. Watts.

MID-WINTER BOOK SALES

The Fiction Sale will be in the hall of the main-branch of the Schenectady County Public Library January 24-26 during Library hours. There will be hard-cover or trade paperback books of every type, including modern fiction, mysteries, historical novels, action and suspense, westerns, Sci-Fi and others. Price \$1.00 each. Also, special this year will be books on cassette tapes for \$1.00 or \$2.00. Large print books will be at the Whitney Book Corner for \$1.00 each during store hours.

The Non-Fiction sale will be February 21-23, same time, same place, same price per book, as noted above. The books on cassettes will also be on sale at this time. Sports books will be at the Whitney during store hours.

We know everyone looks forward to these sales as a welcome break from the winter routine. Keep your fingers crossed for mild weather. Y'all come. – Ellie Rowland

<p><i>The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library</i></p> <h1>FICTION BOOK SALE</h1> <p>January 24-26, 2009</p> <p>All Fiction</p>  <p>\$1.00</p> <p>Books on tape and VHS available. Priced as marked.</p> <p><i>Sale will be held in the lobby at the Central Library during library hours.</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><small>Schenectady County Public Library 99 Clinton Street • Schenectady, NY 12305 385-4500 • www.scpl.org</small></div>	<p><i>The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library</i></p> <h1>Non Fiction Book Sale</h1> <p>February 21-23, 2009</p> <p>All Non Fiction</p> <p>\$1.00</p>  <p>Books on tape and VHS available. Priced as marked.</p> <p><i>Sale will be held in the lobby at the Central Library during library hours.</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><small>Schenectady County Public Library 99 Clinton Street • Schenectady, NY 12305 385-4500 • www.scpl.org</small></div>
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Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2009

Vol. XLIV, 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 2009

SCIENCE SERIES PROGRAMS

Walter Grattidge, Coordinator

- March 2** **From Stem Cells to Regenerative Medicine**
Ricki Lewis, PhD Science Writer, Author & Lecturer, Scotia, NY
- March 9** **Three Million Years Of Climate Change**
T.G Mihran, PhD(ret) GE Global Research, Niskayuna, NY
- March 16** **Can Energy Supply Meet Human Demand?**
Paul Swartz, PhD(ret)A Founding Member, Intermagnetics General, Latham, NY
- March 23** **Early Maps of the Americas: Art and/or Science**
Cal Welch, (ret) First National Bank of Scotia, Scotia, NY

SPRING SPECIAL -Revisiting Shakespeare

Gioia Ottaviano, Coordinator

- April 6** **Shakespeare: Inside/Out** Carol King, director, actress and theater reviewer for the Daily Gazette rethinks some commonly held beliefs about Shakespeare's characters and their actions.
- April 13** **Shakespeare's Prose & Poetry** Paul Lamar, teacher, writer, and theater reviewer for the Daily Gazette will discuss how Shakespeare used language forms to shift the conversation and dialog of his players.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- March 30** **Water for Elephants** by Sara Gruen; reviewed by Rich Holt, former Niskayuna English teacher, in conjunction with **One County/One Book** program. "The novel, told in flashback by nonagenarian Jacob Jankowski, recounts the wild and wonderful period he spent with the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, a traveling circus he joined during the Great Depression".
- April 20** **The Outliers: The Story of Success** by Malcolm Gladwell; Reviewed by Gene Rowland, Friends Program Chair, (ret) G.E. Global Research . Examining the lives of outliers from Mozart to Bill Gates, the author builds a convincing case for how successful people rise on a tide of advantages, "some deserved, some not, some earned, some just plain lucky."
- April 27** Serena Butch, Coordinator of Youth Services at SCPL – title to be announced

NINTH ANNUAL POETRY GALA

It's not too early to start thinking about the Poetry Gala to be held on April 19, 2009 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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Friends welcome five new members: Nancy Sieper, The Priest Family, Kathleen Neff, Katrina Banks and Anne Peterson.

REELS

A Free Series of Thought Provoking Films with April movies highlighting themes found in OCOB selection
Water For Elephants
Schenectady County Public Library – McChesney Room

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

Bottle Rocket

Andrew Wilson, Owen Wilson, Luke Wilson,
Robert Musgrave, Lumi Cavazos, James Caan
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Wes Anderson
Rated R; 92 minutes; 1996

Driven by his obsession with Hollywood crime movies and his desire to become a thief and con-artist, eccentric slacker Dignan (Owen C. Wilson) plans to hold-up a bookstore with his partners in crime, Anthony (Luke Wilson) and Bob (Robert Musgrave) in this unconventional crime comedy that has just been re-released in this Criterion edition.

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

Boy A

Andrew Garfield, Peter Mullan, Katie Lyons
The Weinstein Company;
Directed by John Crowley
Rated R; 100 minutes; 2008

Jack has spent most of his young life in juvenile institutions for a murder he committed. When he is released, his care worker provides guidance for his new life giving him a new name, a new job and a new home. When Jack commits an impulsive act of heroism his identity is exposed and he must face up to his past.

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

Happy-Go-Lucky

Alexis Zegerman, Eddie Marsan, Sally Hawkins
Miramax Films; Directed by Mike Leigh
Rated R; 118 Minutes; 2008

Quirky, upbeat school teacher Poppy takes great joy in all things, especially in teasing her grumpy new driving instructor. This interesting outlook on modern urban relationships integrates humor with moments of isolation, sadness and conflict as flighty Poppy attempts a romantic relationship with a social worker who collaborates with her at school.

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

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

David Thewlis, Vera Farmiga, Amber Beattie
Miramax Films; Directed by Mark Herman
Rated PG-13; 94 minutes; 2008

This unique film tells the story of the Holocaust through the eyes of eight-year-old Bruno whose father is a Nazi commander at Auschwitz. Bruno strikes up a friendship with a Jewish boy, Shmuel, through the fence surrounding the camp where everyone wears striped “pyjamas.” Their friendship will have startling and unexpected consequences for both of them.

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

American Madness

Walter Huston, Pat O'Brien, Kay Johnson, Gavin Gordon
Columbia Pictures; Directed by Frank Capra
Black and White; Not Rated; 75 minutes; 1932

Special screening of a rarely-seen Frank Capra classic. “American Madness” tells the story of a progressive bank President whose solution to the Great Depression is to loan money to everyone—sound familiar? There’s also intrigue, a bank robbery and a pre-Hays Code romantic subplot that’s bound to scandalize!

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

Of Mice and Men

John Malkovich, Gary Sinise, Sherilyn Fenn
MGM/UA; Directed by Gary Sinise
Rated PG-13; 110 minutes; 1992

With today's headlines inviting comparisons to America's economic hardships of the 1930s, director Gary Sinise explores John Steinbeck's timeless story of two friends who live on the fringes of American society. Horton Foote adapts Steinbeck's classic novel into a compelling and stirring work brought to life by a masterful cast.

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

The Greatest Show on Earth

Betty Hutton, Cornel Wilde
Paramount; Directed by Cecil B. DeMille
Not Rated; 151 minutes; 1952

One of the world's greatest showmen, Cecil B. DeMille, produced and directed this splashy, colorful look at life under the big tent. This Academy Award winning film ("Best Picture" - 1952) blends drama with spectacle as the Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey Circus provides the settings and co-stars. DeMille tells a personal story of the behind-the-scenes circus life and still manages to get in lion tamer, circus flyers, acrobats, tightrope walkers, clowns, and an incredible train wreck. Features a strong cast headed by Betty Hutton. This is really a testament to the determination, skill and magic of circus life — and those who perform so well in the center ring.

Wednesday, April 22 at noon & Thursday, March April 23 at 7pm

Seabiscuit

Tobey Maguire, Jeff Bridges, Chris Cooper, Elizabeth Banks, William H. Macy, Annie Corley
Universal Pictures; Directed by Gary Ross 2003

This true story based on a best selling book tells the story of a group of the unlikeliest of heroes. It would seem that pairing a knobbly-kneed horse with a half-blind ex boxer jockey would lead only to last place. Instead this unsung duo became a winning combination that inspired and intrigued a nation suffering the hardships of the Great Depression.

Wednesday, April 29 at noon & Thursday, April 30 at 7pm

Riding the Rails

WGBH Boston
Documentary
72 minutes; 1997

The unforgettable story of the 250,000 teenagers who left their homes and hopped freight trains during the Great Depression. An engaging slice of Americana interweaves interviews, wonderful archival footage and a fine soundtrack featuring Woody Guthrie.

Mid-Winter Book Sales

We profited \$2,727 selling fiction books and books on cassettes during the Fiction Mid-Winter sale in the library hall January 24-26. Additional money was made at the Whitney selling the Large Print books for \$1.00. It was a great sale; patrons and workers alike showed warm spirits, although it was very cold outside. A big Thank You is extended to the cashiers

Special thanks go to Bill and Leah Leonard, Sylvia Curley, and Judy Dillenbeck for organizing the event and to the people who set-up and took all remainders back upstairs to await the May 2nd sale. Val Catlin and Nancy Virker did a great job managing the money collections and financial record keeping. Again, we had wonderful cooperation from the library staff: Sandy Anderson, Betty Jean Lent, and Bob Schumaker. They also bring in all the donated books and take them upstairs to be sorted. 22 people are then involved in getting the books in organized shape for the upcoming sales. This activity is the foundation of the book sales and the inventory at the Whitney Book Corner.

The much anticipated Non-Fiction sale will be February 21-23 in the Library hall. During that time books on Sports will be sold at the Whitney for \$1 as part of the sale. Since this sale will take place after the March Newsletter goes to print the results will be published in the May issue. –Ellie Rowland

News from the Music Committee of the Friends of the Library

- The Etude Club will present its annual spring program on Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 o'clock
- The Music Committee has arranged for the students of the Music Department of the Schenectady County Community College to present a musical recital on Sunday April 26 in the McChesney Room at Central, beginning at 2.30 p.m. SCCC's Vocal Chamber Ensemble will be singing and in addition there will be a Mozart piano concerto with a string ensemble as orchestra. Soloists in piano and voice will perform works by Brahms and Rachmaninoff. The program will conclude with a small jazz ensemble. Refreshments will follow the program.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

We continue to have a steady flow of customers, with new people constantly coming to the store. From March 7-21 one of our biggest sales will feature all paperbacks, 3/\$1.00. From April 4-18, we will feature gardening books, \$1.00 each. Also from time to time, we have unannounced sales.

Did you know? We have plenty of large print books for \$2.00; used vinyl records; music cassettes; children & adult videos; books on tape, & CD format & language instructions- all reasonably priced. And, we sell gift certificates in increments of \$5.00.

The bookstore, located at 600 Union St., Schenectady, is open Mon-Fri. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m, Thurs. til 7 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sun. 1:30-3:30.

My associates, Chris Witkowski, Roberta Richardson, along with Ellie Rowland, and I, want to thank all the volunteers for making the WBC a success. We could not do it without you.- Gail Karl, WBC Manager.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By-Laws Change Proposed for April 2009:

“The elected officers of this organization shall be a President, [President Elect,] First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and such other elected officers as the Board of Directors may from time to time deem necessary as elected by the membership.”

With two Vice Presidents, the President Elect position has shown to be unnecessary and in practice, has not fulfilled its original purpose. Therefore, to conform the By-Laws to actual practice, the above change may be submitted to the membership at its Annual Meeting. –Bern Allanson

DISTRIBUTION

Thank you to the following for working on the Jan/Feb. issue: Bill and Mary Liz Leitch, Bill Beaulieu, John Karl, Anne Yunnick, Rudy Dehn, and Kathleen August. Kudos to these people who braved the weather that day!!!

UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Job Hunting on the Web

Join us on Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m. in the McChesney Room for an informative overview of finding job openings on the Internet. We'll show you a number of web sites that will help you in your job search, whether you want to stay in the area or possibly find work elsewhere. If you've ever wondered what monster.com is all about or thought about seeing what civil service jobs are out there, then this is the program for you! Loads of other information will be included.

Please register by calling 388-4511. The program is made possible by the generous support of The Friends of the Library.

Introduction to Daily Dollar Decisions

Saturday, March 21, 10-noon, McChesney Room @ the Central Library

Take control of your everyday finances! Learn how to patch that hole in your wallet or purse by first taking a look at common attitudes (and mistakes) regarding finances. You will be introduced to a fresh approach and specific strategies that will enable you to reach your goals. We will cover how your use of time and space affect your spending habits, and how stress can sabotage your efforts to make your dreams a reality. Finally, you will learn how to slash your expenses to the bare bone if necessary to reign in your debts and get started on reaching your goals. Presenter: Consumer Educator **Rochelle Runyon**. Free and open to the public.

Challenges of Coping with "The Brave New World" –Dr. Rudy Nydegger

March 31, 7 P.M., McChesney Room @ the Central Library

Between joblessness, tight economic times, foreclosures, and normal challenges of life, many people are finding it difficult to deal with all of the things that confront them on a daily basis. Dr. Nydegger, whose book "Understanding and Treating Depression" was recently published, will discuss how these types of problems impact people, the kinds of difficulties they produce, and what people can do to cope with these issues. Emphasis will be made on providing people with some ideas for how we can each find productive and healthy ways to cope with difficult times.

ONE COUNTY/ONE BOOK Programs & Events

A number of events and programs are being developed in conjunction with the OCOB featured book, **Water for Elephants**. For a complete listing check www.onecountyonebook.org/events

Art Contest-A Circus Dreams themed Art Contest for grades K-12 will run through March 18, 2009. Prizes and certificates will be awarded at the reception on Friday, April 17. For more information, call 388-4540

Cooking Show - Monday, March 23rd, at 10 a.m., SACCTV's Dolores Scalise, will discuss how people can make their food dollars stretch to feed the whole family - with some reflections back to the Great Depression and how families managed then, to stretch food.

Memoir Writing Program – "'Tell Us What It Was Like: Seniors recall the fabric of life during the Great Depression," a writing program for those who lived through the Great Depression/and or attended the circus. The program, facilitated by author Susannah Risley, will be held on Tuesday, March 24 and Tuesday March 31st at 10 a.m. in the Board Room of the Central Library. You may register by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511

Great Depression - April 7th, at 7pm, in the McChesney Room. Assistant Professor Andrew Morris, Union College, will present a program on the Great Depression.

Family Circus Fun Day – April 18

Water For Elephants – a discussion of the book, the circus and the history of elephants, will be held Saturday, April 25 at 2:30 p.m. in the McChesney Room. Featured speaker is Dr. Noha Abou-Madi, DVM, of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. Susannah Risley will facilitate the book discussion and Gordon Turner, local circus historian, will participate.

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library – 43nd Annual Dinner Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Van Curler Room
Schenectady County Community College (SCCC)
178 Washington Avenue, Schenectady

About the Sit-Down 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.

Speaker: Bernard Margolis, New York State Librarian

The Menu:

Baby mixed green salad with cherry tomatoes, served with citrus vinaigrette

Choice of Entrees:

- *Stuffed breast of chicken with champagne sauce*
- *Filet of sole, finished with shrimp butter*
- *Asian stir fry medley with rice noodles (vegetarian)*

Chef's choice of seasonal spring vegetable

Fresh rolls and butter

Strawberry whipped cream cake

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: Debbie McCambridge; Secretary: Mary Beth Barbagelata; Treasurer: Junice Wusterbarth.

Directors: For a second three year term: Valerie Catlin, Sally Magid, Debbie McCambridge
For an initial three year term: Mary Beth Barbagelata, Eugene A. Rowland, Virginia Thompson.

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 Wed., April 1 – Please Use Form Below

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library
Tuesday, April 14, 2009 @ 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

_____ **Chicken** **Sole** **Vegetarian**

_____ **Chicken** **Sole** **Vegetarian**

Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail by April 1 to:

Simon Weinstein
4036 Windsor Drive
Niskayuna, NY 12309

UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

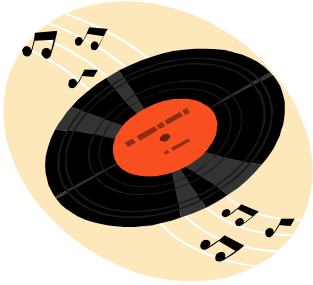
BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009

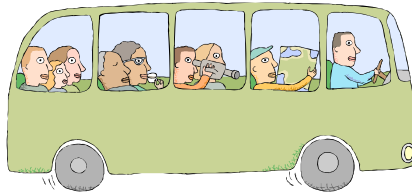
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

\$2.00 BAG SALE SUNDAY, MAY 3

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



LITERARY DESTINATIONS



On Saturday, June 6, 2009, the Friends of the Library will sponsor their next Literary Field Trip to the Mark Twain House www.marktwainhouse.org/ and the home of Harriet Beecher Stowe www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/ in Hartford, Conn. The trip will include guided tours of the Stowe House and gardens and the Twain House as well as a self guided visit to the Museum Center. Lunch will be at the Avon Old Farms Inn which dates back to 1757.

Registration forms, with pricing information, will be available March 15th at all library branches and at the Whitney Book Corner. If you are interested in going on the trip, contact Lisa Holt at 370-1811 or e-mail her at lahnisky@yahoo.com

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

May/June 2009

Vol. XLIV, 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-May, 2009

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

May 4

Havana Nocturne: How the Mob Owned Cuba and Then Lost It To The Revolution by T.J. English; reviewed by Walter Grattidge, Chair of the Science Series. "True-crime writer English (*Paddy Whacked*) presents an empire-building saga in which the "Havana Mob" of American gangsters, led by visionary financier Meyer Lansky, controlled Cuba."

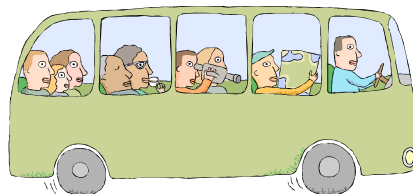
May 11

Banana: The Fate of the Fruit that Changed the World by Dan Koeppel; reviewed by Sara Foss, Daily Gazette reporter and columnist. "The world's most humble fruit has caused inordinate damage to nature and man, and *Popular Science* journalist Koeppel (*To See Every Bird on Earth*) embarks on an intelligent, chock-a-block sifting through the havoc."

LIBRARY NEWS – UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Rotterdam Branch Library will be hosting a NYSCA facilitated book discussion of Mary Ann Shaffer's **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** on Saturday, June 13th, at 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served. You can register for the program by calling 356-3440. Rotterdam will have extra copies of the book to check out or you may reserve a copy at any branch library.
- Ryan Smithson, a local author, will conduct a program about his new book **Ghosts of War: My Tour of Duty in Iraq**, on Tuesday, July 14th, at 7 p.m. at the Central Library in the McChesney Room. The Open Door Bookstore will hold a book sale and signing that evening. Ryan's book is suitable for ages 14 and up.
- The Central Library is considering the establishment of a writing program. Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Karen Bradley at 388-4533 or via email at kbradley@sals.edu. An organizational meeting will be held at the conclusion of Ryan's program on July 14th, at approximately 8 p.m.
- The Central Library will be hosting a NYSCA facilitated book discussion of David Wroblewski's novel **The Story of Edgar Sawtelle** on Tuesday, July 28th at 7 p.m. in the McChesney Room. Refreshments will be served. You may register for this program in June by calling 388-4511. Copies of the book will be available at the Reference Desk to reserve and check out in June.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR THE TRIP TO HARTFORD!



On **Saturday, June 6, 2009**, the Friends of the Library will sponsor their next Literary Field Trip to the Mark Twain House www.marktwainhouse.org/ and the home of Harriet Beecher Stowe www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/ in Hartford, Conn. The trip will include guided tours of the Stowe House and gardens and the Twain House as well as a self guided visit to the Museum Center. Lunch will be at the Avon Old Farms Inn which dates back to 1757.

The trip costs \$70 for Friends members and \$80 for nonmembers. The deadline for registering is **May 4**. Registration forms are available at the main library and all branches as well as the Whitney Book Corner, and can be downloaded from the library's web site at www.scpl.org For more information contact Lisa Holt at 370-1811 or e-mail her at lahnisky@yahoo.com

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

***The Village Barbershop* – Wed., May 6 at noon & Thurs., May 7 at 7p.m.**

John Ratzenberger, Shelly Cole, Cindy Pickett
Monterey Media; Directed by Chris Ford
Not Rated; 99 minutes; 2008
Art Leroldi is a fading Reno barber stuck in a rut of haircuts and horse books suddenly faced with a difficult decision. He must decide whether to give up the one thing he's got left —his "man's man" barbershop—or hire the last person on earth he'd ever want working there—a woman.

***Last Chance Harvey* – Wed., May 13 at noon & Thurs., May 14 at 7p.m.**

Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Kathy Baker
Overture Films; Directed by Joel Hopkins
Rated PG-13; 92 minutes; 2008
Harvey Shine is on the verge of losing his job as a jingle writer and only has one more chance to deliver a hit. He goes to London to attend his daughter's wedding and promises to be back in the office on Monday but when he misses his plane, he is fired on the spot. He then strikes up a conversation with a woman in a bar and the unexpected connection transforms both of their lives.

***Flash of Genius* – Wed., May 20 at noon & Thurs., May 21 at 7p.m.**

Greg Kinnear, Lauren Graham, Dermot Mulroney
Universal Pictures; Directed by Marc Abraham
Rated PG-13; 119 minutes; 2008
Based on a true story, Bob Kearns develops a device for windshield wipers that will be used in every car in the world. Thinking he has struck gold, Bob is unceremoniously shunned by the manufacturers and begins a long battle with the U.S. automobile industry.

***Blindsight* –Wed., May 27 at noon & Thurs., May 28 at 7p.m.**

Documentary Feature
Image Entertainment; Directed by Lucy Walker
Rated PG; 104 minutes; 2007
Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Himalayas, this film follows the gripping adventure of six blind Tibetan teenagers who set out to climb the 23,000 foot Lhakpa Ri on the north side of Mount Everest.



JUNE IS

WOODY ALLEN MONTH

***Love and Death* – Wed., June 3 at noon & Thurs., June 4 at 7p.m.**

Woody Allen, Diane Keaton, Feodor Atkine
MGM/UA; Directed by Woody Allen
Rated PG; 85 minutes; 1975
If a comedy based on the great Russian novels doesn't sound funny to you, then you don't know Woody Allen. Try to imagine Boris Grushenko (Woody Allen), a small skinny coward in the Russian army during the Napoleonic Wars. Like any good Russian of the time, Boris talks and thinks expansively on all the great issues of life, love, and death. The plot leads us to everything in the era worth lampooning.

***Annie Hall* – Wed., June 10 at noon & Thurs., June 11 at 7p.m.**

Woody Allen, Diane Keaton, Tony Roberts
United Artists; Directed by Woody Allen
Rated PG; 93 minutes; 1977
Chronicles the ups and downs of obsessive, neurotic, NY comedian Alvy Singer's (Woody Allen) relationship with Midwest ditz Annie Hall (Diane Keaton) in 1970s Manhattan. Allen allows us a glimpse of his personal life in this semi-autobiographical portrait of the amorous partnership between Allen and Keaton.
Academy Awards: Winner of Best Actress in a Leading Role, Best Director, Best Picture, and Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen

***Hannah and Her Sisters* – Wed., June 17 at noon & Thurs., June 18 at 7p.m.**

Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, Michael Caine, Dianne Wiest
Orion; Directed by Woody Allen
Rated PG-13; 107 minutes; 1986
The loves and lives, fears and frustrations, and triumphs and tribulations of Hannah (Mia Farrow) and her sisters (Barbara Hershey and Dianne Wiest) intertwine in Woody Allen's romantic comedy that explores interpersonal relationships.
Academy Award Winner for Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress and Screenplay

***Crimes and Misdemeanors* - Wed, June 24 at noon & Thurs, June 25 at 7p.m.**

Woody Allen, Martin Landau, Angelica Houston, Mia Farrow
Orion Pictures; Directed by Woody Allen
Rated PG-13; 105 minutes; 1989
Successful ophthalmologist (Martin Landau) with a seemingly storybook life has the Mafia murder his crazy mistress (Angelica Houston) after she threatens to reveal their affair to his wife. This suspenseful comedy thriller is a fascinating tapestry of intricately woven relationships played against a colorful Manhattan setting.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thank you to all members. Without you we would not be able to hold the Book Sales, operate the Whitney Book Corner, conduct our new Literary Tours, have the funds to support the special events at the Libraries, support the new Library Pass program, hold the many noon hour programs throughout the year and all the other things the Friends do. Without you we might have been faced with a library closed for 18 months and the destruction of the McChesney Room.

I have been privileged to be President for the past two years. I have been privileged to work with the outstanding staff of our libraries, an excellent Board of Directors of the Friends and Board of Trustees of the Library. All are people of dedication and integrity. If I tried to list everyone deserving recognition, it would fill the entire Newsletter. Therefore, I ask everyone to look to the west and enjoy a glorious sunset, then turn to the east to view a brilliant sunrise to welcome our new President, Bill Leitch. –Bern Allanson

BOOK SALE NEWS

As expected, the Non-Fiction Sale, Feb. 21-23, 2009 was a huge success, making \$3,437! So, together with the profits for the winter sale, the total earnings were \$6,164. At just \$1.00 a book, this is a lot of books sold!

A huge thank you goes to the cashiers, who braved the cold to sit in the hall, to all those who helped set up or clean up, to the organizers before and during the sale, and especially to the publicity chair.

We are now planning the big Spring Sale for May 2 from 9:00-4:00, followed by the \$2 Bag Sale on Sunday 1:00-3:00. Please tell everyone you know. Word of mouth is our best publicity. With the budget continually being cut, we hope we can make the most money ever to give to the library for books for the nine library branches.

Jobs we can use help with: Set up - 7a.m. Saturday morning or Sunday at noon; Clean up - Saturday at 4:00 p.m. or Sunday at 3:00 p.m. We always need a great deal of help at those times. –Ellie Rowland

MUSIC PROGRAM

The Etude Club will present its annual spring program on Sunday, May 17 at 2 p.m. in the McChesney Room. –Joan Hamm

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the following new members: Emily Ross, Donna Northrup, Don & Donna Hennel, Bernard R. Turner, Linda C. Fay, Arlene Gollmer,

David & Janice Howells, Rose Marie McLean, Nancy Migneault, Barbara Palmer, Joan A. Welch, Anna Maria Shutts, Frank W. Jones, Andrew Wexler, Diane Leone and Katie Schwabach.

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

We're reviewing Sunday openings to see if we will continue. Generally, sales have been very good, and our monthly special sales have been very successful. **Coming up:** May 2-16 biographies will sell for \$1.00, and June 6-20 all popular fiction hard covers will sell for \$1.00.

Ellie Rowland trains & schedules our volunteers. Chris Witkowski will be our new publicity chair, replacing Lisa Holt who's retiring after six years of great service. **Thanks Lisa!** Chris and Roberta Richardson are the associate managers. –Gail Karl, Manager

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Thank you to the following for assisting with the mailing of the last newsletter: Kathy August, Bill Beaulieu, Anne Yunnich, Rudy Dehn, John Karl, Bill & Mary Liz Leitch, Doris Clark and Chris Witkowski.

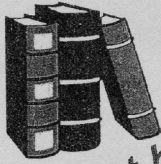
KUDOS TO THE FRIENDS

From the April 10, 2009 *Daily Gazette Editorial Page*: “Starting Monday the library will offer free, two-day passes to five different venues: the Empire State Aerosciences Museum in Glenville, the Mabee Farm Historic Site in Rotterdam Junction, the Schenectady Museum and Planetarium, Schenectady Civic Players and Iwerks at Proctors. It’s a good way to get more people to come to the library, and to those other places. Call it cross-fertilization of culture. While new to Schenectady, the program has been tried elsewhere with great success. In Chicago, which pioneered it, it’s called “Great Kids Museum Passport;” in Toronto, “Museum + Arts Pass;” in Phoenix, “Culture Pass.” The terms vary by city and venue, but basically the libraries in those cities offer passes on a first-come, first-served basis, good for a few days, to those over 18 that will give them and/or their kids free admission to other participating institutions. The passes cannot be renewed, but they can be taken out again after a decent interval.

Most of these institutions aren’t well off, particularly in the current economy, so it is good that they are not being asked to simply give the passes away. In those other cities, corporate sponsors subsidize the program; in Schenectady it is **The Friends of the Library**, which has budgeted \$2,000 for it this year and hopes to expand it in the future.”

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

BOOK SALE



most books
\$1.00
paperbacks
3/\$1.00

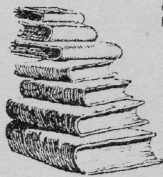
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mysteries
children's books
fiction & nonfiction
large print books

Large
selection of
records



**SATURDAY,
May 2, 2009
9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

***\$ 2.00 Bag Sale*
Sunday, May 3
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**



Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
388-4500
www.scpl.org

Coffee & donuts will be sold by the Literacy Volunteers of America.