

**FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY  
COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
48<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT**



***Friends Make Great Libraries***

## **President's Report**

I must repeat myself and say that working with the Friends has been one of the most gratifying experiences I can recall. Literally hundreds of volunteers work together to keep our library one of the best in the state. In my experience I have never had a request for help turned down.

2013 has been a very busy year. Former president Bill Leitch, after 4 years of successful leadership, turned over the reins to me. Like most of our leaders, his volunteering did not end with the end of his office. Bill serves on the building committee that is charged with planning the new Bornt Family Literacy Center on State Street. If you'll recall, the library is combining two city branches into one. A major chunk of the funding for the new building came from a bequest from longtime librarian and volunteer Phyllis Bornt. The center will open, hopefully, in early 2015.

One of the highlights of my year has been the volunteer and staff picnic in June. Even with a steady rain, almost 200 volunteers and staff enjoyed great food and socializing. Many thanks to our maintenance staff members, led by George Kirker, who set up everything and did the cooking.

The Friends board held its first volunteer expo in September. Details will be shown later in this report. Our noon programs have continued the excellent offerings of book reviews and speakers as have the music programs and poetry gala. Our directors, Karen Bradley, Serena Butch and MaryAnn Warner, have been very busy with new RFID technology as well as the many programs for adults and children. These also will be explained later in this report.

With the combined incomes from book sales, the Whitney Book Corner, online book sales and membership contributions, The Friends are able to provide just about every program offered at our libraries, along with books and media that are not provided for in the library's budget. Funds are also used for improving the furnishings and even some of the facilities.

2016 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends. Some of us are already looking ahead to planning a yearlong celebration highlighting the wonderful support given by the Friends to the library for five decades.

***John Karl, President***

## **Music Committee**

During the past year, the Music Committee was involved in organizing and presenting three different types of musical presentations. The major program was a twelve week "Beat the Snow" series of concerts every Sunday afternoon during the months of January through March. These were arranged by Chris Patrick, the widow of Ron Patrick who started and arranged the previous four series. This year, the total attendance was 852 for the series and the most popular concert was the Route Fifty 5, a brass ensemble which brought in an overflowing audience. Our new Blue Grass group this year, the Hilltown Ramblers Blue Grass Band, also drew a very large audience, as did performers from the Schenectady Light Opera Company. Our audiences for these series have been very faithful, with many patrons attending each and every concert! They voiced their delight with the varied nature of the concerts and many remarked that they looked forward to each concert. While the series continued in the beginning of 2014, the committee is faced with the challenge of continuing the series in the coming years as will be discussed later.

During April for the past seven years, the Music Committee has also sponsored a musical concert in cooperation with the Music Department of the Schenectady County Community College. A very enjoyable concert was presented by the students, coached by faculty members of the Department. The program included selections by the College choir, ensembles of different instruments and individual student presentations on the piano. These yearly concerts provide a wonderful opportunity for the general public to hear and appreciate the wonderful musical talents of our local youth.

Finally in June of 2013, the committee sponsored a musical presentation by Abby Dunn, soprano, accompanied by Michael Clement on the piano. Abby is a very talented musician, active in many musical groups while still in high school. The McChesney room is a fine setting in which talented young people in our community can hone their musical skills.

2014 marks 20 years since the acquisition and installation of the Steinway Grand Piano in the McChesney Room. Its purchase was possible through a public fundraising effort. The combination of the McChesney Room, the piano, and the many fine artists, particularly among the youth of our region, and an interested public together provide the ingredients for many musical concerts, if only an organizing group is on hand. The current Music Committee is very shorthanded and would welcome Friends who would join the committee and ensure these types of musical programs can continue as part of the Library's offerings.

***Walter Grattidge***

## Monday Noon Programs

The Friends are continuing to present interesting and informative programs on each Monday when the Library is open, from September of 2013 through May of 2014. These presentations are held in the McChesney Room of the Central Library, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. The format varies through the program year, consisting of four different series: *Books Sandwiched In* book reviews (18 in all); *Special Features* (4); *Table Talks* (4) and *Science Lectures* (4). Special Features are coordinated by Gioia Ottaviano, Table Talks by John Karl, and the Science Series by Walter Grattidge. The Books Sandwiched In reviews are coordinated by three teams consisting of Jo Ann Adams and Richard Holt (Fall 2013); Patricia Rush and John Karl (Winter 2013-14); Susie Leon and George Wise (Spring 2014). Overall coordination of the Monday Noon Series is the responsibility of Gene Rowland, who wishes to say a large "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who make this series possible, including the many speakers who give graciously of their time to present the programs.

***Gene Rowland***

### Publicity



The public image of the Friends of the Library received a huge boost in 2013 with the design of a colorful, dynamic new logo. The logo, equally attractive in black and white, adorns all of our publications, including a wonderful banner hanging in the McChesney Room.

We have introduced a new feature in our newsletter and on the website called "Tell Us Your Story". Through videos and written stories, we have collected the recollections of SCPL patrons as they relate the importance of libraries in their lives.

Our Facebook pages for both the Friends of SCPL and the Whitney Book Corner continue to garner new “likes” every day. We utilize the free advertising provided by the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation weekly email to announce Whitney Book Corner sales as well as important library events. Our paid advertising includes the Daily Gazette, Metroland, Downtown Schenectady Magazine, Schenectady Symphony Orchestra playbill and the Capital District Guides. In the fall and spring, the yellow yard sales signs advertising the book sales pop up all over the community.

The Friends newsletter received a major facelift in 2013. The new format, which provides a substantial increase in space, enables us to utilize photos to showcase our volunteers and activities, include a feature recognizing member contributions, provide regular columns from the president and library director, and present a more professional, attractive publication.

***Christine Witkowski & Corine Lombardo***

## **Book Sales**



During 2013, the large spring and fall used book sales and two smaller mid-winter book sales continued to provide nearly half of the annual revenue of the Friends of SCPL. This is possible only with a lot of effort by volunteers who work at the sales themselves and also by those who work throughout the year, getting ready for the sales.

Each book sale is organized and monitored by members of the new Book Sale Committee with help from experienced members. Before each book sale, Robin Eddy uses her database of previous and new volunteers to ask for help in the new sale. Response from the community has been

very positive, and we are able to fill 360 positions with volunteers for each of the major sales. Many of the volunteers are members of the Friends of SCPL, but we have also gotten volunteers from community-based groups such as Union College Student Activities, local high schools, The Center for Community Justice, and a large group from GE Energy Learning Center in Niskayuna.

Long before each book sale, members of the Friends work behind the scenes every week to organize the used books donated by the community. Bob Symons does the primary sorting of each donated book. Joan Malloy, Leah Leonard and Pat Stearns sort the fiction books by author with the help of Joanne Griffin and Bev Glover.

The non-fiction books are sorted into categories by Sally and Simon Weinstein, Susie Leon, Robin Eddy, Donna Hennel and some students on vacation (Anna, Catherine and Seth). Sylvia Curley deals with the children's books with the help of Dottie Potochnik and Donna Fairlee while Fred Marx and Judy Dillenbeck sort all the paperbacks. Ellie Rowland sorts Christmas books and provides experienced help where needed. Bern Allenson handles music and Nancy Virkler organizes movies and is the treasurer/coordinator for our sales. Rich Leon finds storage space for our huge inventory of books with help from Ken Nyeu and Fred Eddy, while Keith Rolfe delivers selected books to the Whitney Book Corner.

As a result of this huge cooperative effort we have brought in total 2013 revenue of \$42,804, with sale-related expenses of \$2,407, for a net income of \$40,397

We look forward to 2014 Book Sales with new ideas. For example, we have decided to combine the winter fiction and non-fiction sales into a much larger sale which will use the McChesney Room. We will continue to try to improve our book sales, while making them more convenient to our volunteers and our customers. Many thanks to all who have helped or have shopped at our used book sales!

***The Book Sale Committee: Bob Symons, Rich & Susie Leon, Fred & Robin Eddy***

## **Books-on-Line**

The sale of books via the web was initiated to realize the full value of some of the books that are offered for sale. Watching the "dealers" comb our inventory for their own profit provided a stimulus and our on-line operation was started in 2007.

During the year 03/01/2013 to 03/01/2014, we sold 650 units (a unit is almost always one book, occasionally a set). The gross for this period was \$17,413.29 and \$11,917.68 was deposited in the Friends account.

The operation was staffed with very able volunteers: Rickie Gageway, Mary Trivilino, Charlie Hatch, Julie Shepelavy, Janie Hayner, Shawn Schultz and me. Recently Shawn has taken over the administration of the operation and Miranda Rand has joined the group.

As always space limitations have limited the number of books we can maintain as inventory, but recent "concessions" by the Library have allowed for some expansion and therefore more books and sets posted on line.

***George Gould***

## **WHITNEY BOOK CORNER**

The annual income from our special monthly sales has increased by \$3600 since 2012. The most popular sales topics were mysteries, travel, records, and craft/hobbies. In 2013, 13,570 customers visited our store. Advertising has played a big part in our success. We advertise on the Friends website, DSIC [Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation], Gazette, and posters/flyers. Let's not forget the clerks, sorters, shelvees, book transporters, and publicity volunteers, who work so hard to provide funds and programs for the Library.



We have updated the cooling system. A new air conditioner was installed above the main door entrance, and the air conditioner in the rear was refurbished.

The WBC continues to give free book coupons to various groups: The Summer Reading Program at the Library & Branches; volunteers that helped with the Friends Spring/Fall Book Sales. We continue to participate in the "Return the Favor" program, giving 50% discounts to all military veterans.

We had special coupon sales and book sales to go along with community events such as the September Downtown Schenectady Stockade Art Show, The Little Italy Festival and the Greek Festival. In November, we joined with other merchants in the historic lower Union St. area for a "Holiday Open House". Seasonal decorations with luminaries lining the sidewalk gave a festive feel.

***Gail Karl, Store Manager***



## Literary Trips

Responses to the bus trips sponsored by the Friends of SCPL in 2013 were overwhelming. On June 8, fifty members traveled to Quincy, Ma. to visit the Adams National Historical Park, run by the National Parks Service. The trip included tours of three homes: the birthplace of John Adams, second President of the United States, the first home of Abigail and John Adams, birthplace of John Quincy, and the “Old House” where John and Abigail moved when they returned from the White House. It was also the retirement home of John Quincy Adams, who stipulated in his will that a stone structure be built on the property to house his personal library, also part of the tour.



In conjunction with this trip, the Friends held a program on John Adams and his wife Abigail at the Schenectady Public Library on May 13. The speaker for this program was Jim Sefcik, retired Director of the Louisiana State Museum and early American History expert.

The second trip was on September 4 to Hyde Park, New York to visit the Vanderbilt Museum, the FDR Museum and library and tour the FDR home. Lunch was at the Culinary Institute of America, the nation’s premier school for preparing our top chefs. Fifty members were on this trip, which had a waiting list of twenty-five people, one of the Friends most popular trips in terms of response. All of our trips usually fill up quickly. Twelve people signed up as new members of the Friends for these trips.

Many thanks go to Val Catlin who takes care of registrations, Chris Witkowski who handles publicity for the Friends and Nancy Virkler, Friends Treasurer, who makes sure the bills are paid.

***Lisa Holt***



## MEMBERSHIP

Active, creative, and resourceful describe your Membership Committee for 2013. Our numbers totaled 998 active, inactive and complimentary memberships with 91 new memberships. Our accomplishments include:

- First Volunteer Expo for current potential members that showcased the various volunteer needs of the Friends, our libraries, and the newly established Friends of Schenectady City School District.
- Tell Us Your Story launched on our website
- Submitted proposal for NYLA workshop
- Established Member Recognition column on website
- Revised informational brochure with new FOL logo

Your membership committee established the following goals for 2014:

- Review and update all membership documents
- Increase membership by 10%
- Develop and implement plan to increase member involvement
- Propose mission and vision statement based on the founding purposes of the FOL

***Rita Moore***



## Hospitality

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual dinner of the Friends of the SCPL was held on Tuesday, April 16 at the Schenectady County Community College. The evening began with a wine and cheese get together during which music was provided by a jazz combo of SCCC music students. Over 110 attended the dinner, which was prepared by the Culinary Arts Department of the college. Following a brief business meeting and election of officers and board members, James Salengo, Executive Director of the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation, described the many improvements that have been made in the city recently. Concluding the evening was the presentation of a large number of awards for volunteers who had served huge numbers of hours at the Whitney Book Corner.

The committee also planned the refreshments for the 1<sup>st</sup> Friends Volunteer Expo in September. Sandwiches were provided by Glen Sanders Catering.

***Mary Beth Barbagelata, Dorothea Potochnik, Patricia Rotunda***

## **Youth Programs**

The staff of the Youth Services department is so appreciative of the generosity of the Friends. We are able to offer the highest quality programs throughout the year, at all of our locations, solely because of the support we receive. This year we used program and supply funds for a huge variety of library programs and services. Thank you so much!

- 95 Special Events for children and teens at Central and Branches throughout the year (paid performers, workshops, shows, etc.)
- Highlights include the annual Teen Writing Camp; weekly professional entertainment all summer at every branch; a performance of A Christmas Carol by Hampstead Stage Company.
- Posters, literacy incentives and prizes for school year and summer reading programs.

***Serena Butch***

## **Well-Deserved Award**

The Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation named the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library as the Volunteer Organization of the Year 2013.



## Nominating Committee

The following are candidates for one year terms:

President: John Karl

1st Vice President: Fred Eddy

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Eleanor (Ellie) Rowland

Secretary: Mary Beth Barbagelata

Treasurer: Nancy Virkler

The following candidates will begin their 2<sup>nd</sup> three year term: Joan Molloy, Dorothea Potochnik, Rita Moore.

The following will be leaving the board and we thank them for their service: Charles Hatch, Gloria Zampini, Gail Karl, Christine Witkowski.

We are saddened by the passing of Leah Leonard who has served on the board for the past 6 years. She will be missed.

## Candidates for the Friends Board

**Robert "Bob" Symons** was from Pennsylvania, but has spent most of his life in upstate New York. He attended a Bible College in Edinburg, NY and, with his wife, pastored a church in PA. Returning to NY, he taught at the Bible College for 22 years. Since then he has started a construction business and has built houses, including his own and his daughter's. Bob was introduced to the Friends book donation and sales program by then Library Assistant Director Wonja Brucker several years ago and has since been an integral part of the Sales team.

**Madelyn Thorne** has lived in Schenectady for 48 years. She has been married to Chuck Thorne for 25 years. They share 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

Madelyn has been a long time volunteer for the library, working the book sales- frequently as part of the clean-up crew. Recently retired, she is now able to volunteer at the Whitney Book Corner, as her mother did before her. She still works the book sales and for the RFID project. She also sits on the Boards of Habitat for Humanity and The Umbrella of the Capital District.

***Sandy Marshall*** grew up in Virginia and attended Roanoke College in Salem, VA. She taught elementary school in Roanoke City for three and a half years, then became a stay-at-home mom while her two children were young. Back to work, she worked in banking and became manager of training for a local bank. During this time, she was also involved with AIB (American Institute of Banking) which was an educational organization for people in banking. She also served on the AIB board for 4 years. Since retiring, Sandy enjoys many different activities including volunteering as a clerk at the Whitney and helping with book sales.

***Patricia Rush*** is a life-long devotee of libraries and books. She has been involved in book clubs, and has taught English at the high school and college levels. At Cornell, Pat taught literature in the *Women's Studies Program*. After moving to Schenectady, she worked in development and fund-raising at Union College for many years. *She was an early volunteer* at the Whitney Book Corner, and is currently a coordinator and reviewer for the Books-Sandwiched-In program of the Friends.

8:06 AM  
01/27/14  
Cash Basis

**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2013**

	<u>Dec 31, 13</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
Checking Accounts	16,527.47
Money Market Accounts	322,361.30
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>338,888.77</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	338,888.77
<b>Other Assets</b>	
AAA Visa Travel Card	340.24
Bulk Postage Permit Account	304.59
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>644.83</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>339,533.60</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	
Sales Tax Payable	311.08
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>311.08</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>311.08</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	311.08
<b>Equity</b>	
Allen Wood Fund	4,297.93
Book Sales Fund	154,549.49
Gilbert Endowmnt Fnd Restrict	1,000.00
Music Fund	11,289.54
Niskayuna Landscape Fund	871.36
Operating Funds	9,945.14
Whitney Book Corner	129,741.23
Woodlawn Fund	849.35
Net Income	26,678.48
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>339,222.52</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>339,533.60</b></u>

8:05 AM

01/27/14

Cash Basis

**Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library**  
**Profit & Loss Budget Performance**  
 January through December 2013

	Jan - Dec 13	Budget	Jan - Dec 13	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Author Book Sale	153.00	200.00	153.00	200.00	200.00
BookSale Income	42,804.18	45,000.00	42,804.18	45,000.00	45,000.00
Contributions	23,383.65	20,000.00	23,383.65	20,000.00	20,000.00
Friends trips	39.96	0.00	39.96	0.00	0.00
GE Match	6,910.00	6,000.00	6,910.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Gifts/Memorial Contributions	1,180.00	500.00	1,180.00	500.00	500.00
Interest	377.32	700.00	377.32	700.00	700.00
On line sales	9,528.44	7,000.00	9,528.44	7,000.00	7,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>84,376.55</b>	<b>79,400.00</b>	<b>84,376.55</b>	<b>79,400.00</b>	<b>79,400.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>84,376.55</b>	<b>79,400.00</b>	<b>84,376.55</b>	<b>79,400.00</b>	<b>79,400.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
Annual Dinner	341.67	750.00	341.67	750.00	750.00
Audit	785.00	800.00	785.00	800.00	800.00
Book Donations from Booksales	347.36	30,000.00	347.36	30,000.00	30,000.00
BookSale Expenses	2,407.19	2,000.00	2,407.19	2,000.00	2,000.00
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Central Landscape	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Equipment	151.26	151.26	151.26	151.26	151.26
Friends Noon Programs	1,169.13	1,200.00	1,169.13	1,200.00	1,200.00
Great Books Program	-1.13	100.00	-1.13	100.00	100.00
Library Week	134.66	500.00	134.66	500.00	500.00
Membership	358.50	700.00	358.50	700.00	700.00
Music	456.42	400.00	456.42	400.00	400.00
Newsletter	2,476.41	2,000.00	2,476.41	2,000.00	2,000.00
Other	1,261.34	1,500.00	1,261.34	1,500.00	1,500.00
Piano	450.00	400.00	450.00	400.00	400.00
Poetry Gala	77.97	50.00	77.97	50.00	50.00
Postage	1,180.07	1,000.00	1,180.07	1,000.00	1,000.00
Program Supplies, Adult	2,367.88	5,000.00	2,367.88	5,000.00	5,000.00
Program Supplies, Children-YA	3,932.81	10,000.00	3,932.81	10,000.00	10,000.00
Programs, Adults	11,718.00	30,000.00	11,718.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Programs, Children-YA	19,627.00	20,000.00	19,627.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Publicity	3,654.59	3,000.00	3,654.59	3,000.00	3,000.00
Staff Conferences	4,029.61	6,000.00	4,029.61	6,000.00	6,000.00
Stationery	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Technology Support	-435.20	200.00	-435.20	200.00	200.00
Volunteer Picnic	1,207.53	1,500.00	1,207.53	1,500.00	1,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>57,698.07</b>	<b>119,800.00</b>	<b>57,698.07</b>	<b>119,800.00</b>	<b>119,800.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>26,678.48</b>	<b>-40,400.00</b>	<b>26,678.48</b>	<b>-40,400.00</b>	<b>-40,400.00</b>