

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

47th Anniversary 2012 Annual Report



**CHANGE YOUR
WORLD@YOUR LIBRARY**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Library Director Andy Kulmatisk retired in September 2012 after 38 years with the library. We will miss Andy who was very personable and had a high success rate in obtaining grants to improve the library. He finally succeeded in getting the beautiful new library addition to the main library completed prior to his retirement. He was replaced by Karen Bradley who was on his staff and has done an admirable job under difficult circumstances. She is capably assisted by Serena Butch who replaced Wonja Brucker who was also a long time successful library employee.

The two most significant events during 2012 was the grand opening of the new children's wing at the central library and the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the



Whitney Book Corner and all its volunteers.

The Friends contributed over \$320,000 towards the construction of the new wing and the new mezzanine includes a sign recognizing the Friends contribution.

The children's wing and the entire new construction have received many positive reviews from the newspapers and many visitors and members of the library.

The Whitney Book Corner is called Schenectady's "best kept secret" by Gail Karl the very capable manager. The volunteers love to work at the store and the customers get a great bargain while we are making a lot of money for the library programs. 13,685 people visited the store in 2012.

The Book Sales are the highlight of our year. We have 2 primary sales which are held in early May and October and earn about \$20,000 each with the help of over 150 volunteers. In 2012 a new team replaced Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson who have been coordinating the sales for over 10 years. The new team is Fred and Robin Eddy, Bob Symons and Rich and Susie Leon. Their first sale was October and they did very well in spite of a minor snow storm on Saturday morning of the sale.

Simon Weinstein is leaving the Board after six years of devoted service as well as Bern Allanson, the past president whose advice and hard work has been invaluable. We will miss them. I have been supported by a great hard working Board. Gene Rowland, the first vice president is always available to help. Mary Beth Barbagelata, our secretary has been very efficient and supportive. Nancy Virkler, our treasurer is very talented, hard working, well liked and a great comptroller. The library staff has been generous with their assistance especially Sandy Anderson and Janice Martin. Chris Witkowski, our publicity guru is a jack of all trades.

BILL LEITCH, PRESIDENT

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors of the Friends and the Board of Library Trustees agreed to establish a joint committee for advocacy. The initial tasks of the committee are to identify the services provided by the library system, garner support from the community to make sure those services remain and work for continued excellence. Changes that will take place in 2013 will determine the direction that the advocacy committee will take.

JOHN KARL, CHAIRMAN

HOSPITALITY

The 46th annual meeting and dinner was held on April 10, 2012, at Schenectady County Community College. Prior to the dinner there was a wine/cheese/cracker social hour, followed by a musical performance presented by Schenectady County Community College music students. The dinner, attended by approximately 125 people, was prepared and served by students in the Community College Culinary Arts Department. Long time volunteers of the Whitney Book store were honored. Following that we had very interesting presentations by Serena Butch and Mary Ann Warner about ebooks.

BILL WARD, 2012 DINNER CHAIRMAN

MUSIC PROGRAMS

"Beat the Snow" was again a very popular series with attendance of about 1000 people overall. A memorial concert was held in memory of Ron Patrick, who initiated the Beat the Snow program. There wasn't room enough at our library, so the concert was held at First Methodist Church on April 29th. About three hundred people attended; there were 20 French horns and two percussionists. Two of the horn players also sang, and another played the fiddle. Everyone agreed it was a fine tribute to Ron.

Ian Nolan gave a piano recital in June. He was the second place winner of the 2012 Parillo Competition. The Schenectady County Community College Music department once again gave a spirited performance in April.



JOAN HAM

MONDAY NOON PROGRAMS

The Friends of SCPL have continued to provide interesting lecture programs each Monday at noon from September through May. These programs are presented in the McChesney Room, and patrons are invited to bring their lunch. The year 2012 began with a series of Books Sandwiched In, coordinated by Linda Witkowski. Linda was completing her 14th year of leadership for these programs, and we honored her at the Annual Meeting for her outstanding service to the Friends. The reviews presented in January and February included the following: Harnessed: How Language and Music Mimicked Nature and Transformed Ape to Man by Mark Changizi, reviewed by Dr. Sherri Lyons, science professor and writer; Emma Goldman: Revolution as a Way of Life by Vivian Gornick, reviewed by Esther Willison, staffer and reviewer at the Open Door Bookstore; The Shakespeare Thefts: In Search of the First Folios by Eric Rasmussen, reviewed by Robert Dickson, local businessman; and The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared by Alice Ozma.

March began with the Science Series, coordinated by Walter Grattidge. The programs presented were as follows: Maria Sybilla Merriam, First Female Scientist, Mother of Entomology presented by Phil Adams, Civil Engineer, GE (retired); Limits to Growth- Revisited by George Wise, Historian; Where have All the (Alpine) Flowers Gone? By Nancy Slack, Professor Emeritus; and



Keeping Your Brain Young by Dr. Francisco Gomez of Ellis Medicine.

Gioia Ottaviano coordinated the Spring Special lectures: West to East: Bicycling from the Pacific to the Atlantic by Bill Kornrumpf, a retired GE engineer ; and South to North: Hiking the Appalachian Trail by Millie Gittinger, a member of the Trail Conservancy.

Linda Witkowski completed her final season with a series of six book reviews: Hot: Living Through the Next 50 Years on Earth by Mark Hertsgaard reviewed by Pat Rush, PhD; The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined by Steve Pinker, reviewed by George Wise of GE Global Research (retired); Winner-Take- All Politics by Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson, reviewed by Gene Rowland of GE Global Research (retired); The Swerve; How the World Became Modern by Stephen Greenblatt, reviewed by Bertrand Fay, lecturer at Russell

Sage and Union College; Critical Children: the Use of Childhood in 10 Great Novels by Richard Locke, reviewed by Dr. Patrice Kindle, author, teacher and lecturer; and Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour by Lynne Olson, reviewed by Dr. Thomas Kelly, Professor of History at Siena College (retired).

The 2012 Fall season of Books Sandwiched In began under new leadership. The following series of book reviews were coordinated by Jo Ann Adams and Richard Holt; The Little Piano Shop on the Left Bank by Thaddeus Carhart, reviewed by Rand Reeves, musical director, performer and restorer of fine pianos; Charles Dickens, A Life by Claire Tomalin, reviewed by Robert Donovan, Professor Emeritus; Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson, reviewed by Rob Dickson, local businessman and avid reader; Conquered Into Liberty by Eliot A. Cohen, reviewed by Deborah Reid, U.S. Air Force, retired; Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare? by James Shapiro, reviewed by Walter Grattidge, GE Global Research (retired); Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, reviewed by Fred Eddy, computer expert and entrepreneur; James Madison and the Making of America by Kevin R.C. Gutzman, reviewed by James Cefcik; and Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann, reviewed by Paul O'Brien.

Gioia Ottaviano organized a Special Feature by local author James Breig, titled Searching for Sergeant Bailey: Saluting an Unknown Soldier of WWII. This was a fascinating search for a true unknown soldier.

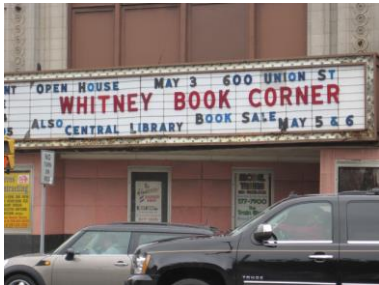
John Karl coordinated the Winter Table Talks series, consisting of the following speakers: Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy, presenting an update on the “State of the City”; Schenectady School Superintendent Laurence Spring, giving his impressions of the school district, it’s problems and it’s successes; Master Sergeant Corine Lombardo, describing her adventures during a 30-year military career ; and Dr. Alan Diebold, Professor of Nanoscale Science at SUNY Albany, describing ways in which Nanoscience has and will affect our daily lives.

As the year 2013 began, a series of Books Sandwiched In programs got underway, coordinated by Patricia Rush. The reviews to be presented in January and February are as follows: To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion by Adam Hochschild; Velazquez and the Surrender of Breda by Anthony Bailey; The Making of a Masterpiece: Oil’s Endless Bid: Taming the Unreliable Price of Oil to Secure Our Economy by Dan Dicker; The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness by Michelle Alexander; and The Space Between Us by Thrity Umrigar. On February 25, the One County One Book selection, The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein will be reviewed.

GENE ROWLAND, PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

PUBLICITY

The Friends website, www.friendsofscpl.org, made its debut in 2012, bringing us fully into the social media spotlight. Along with our page on Facebook, the Friends can publicize events and important announcements, support advocacy, advertise literary trips, and promote membership,



all with the push of a button. Additionally, we have compiled an email list of Friends members and have started a monthly email, entitled *News and Notes of the Friends*, another excellent way to disseminate important information regarding our organization. The Whitney Book Corner’s 10th Anniversary celebration was featured prominently in the DSIC’s Explore Downtown Schenectady magazine and in an article by reporter Jeff Wilkin of the Daily Gazette. We advertised the anniversary and the Spring Book Sale on the

Marquee at State and Erie Blvd. With the regular release of press statements not a week goes by without some mention of the Friends in the media.

We continue to use an on-line press release service, paid advertising in the Daily Gazette, inclusion in several on-line local community and news calendars, as well as yard signs and flyers to generate publicity for the book sales. A survey of book sale patrons conducted last year identified flyers at the main Library branch as the leading means of publicizing the sales. Yard signs and word-of-mouth generated the next highest means of publicity and was followed by paid display advertising in the Daily Gazette. Thank you to the Friends who pass out flyers, display yard signs and talk up the sales.



CORINE LOMBARDO AND CHRIS WITKOWSKI, CHAIRWOMEN

BOOK SALES

The Used Book Sales sponsored by the Friends continue to both be an exciting event for the community and to bring much needed funds for the Schenectady County Public Library Programs. The Winter Hall sales and an extra truck pick-up of our remaining books made \$6000. In the Spring Semi-Annual sale we made \$19,561, and the Fall Semi-Annual Sale made \$18,711. This only happens year after year due to the tremendous support of all the Friends membership plus outside agencies, especially GE Power University for set up.

Spring was the last time Virginia Thompson and Ellie Rowland were the Co-Chairs of this event. The continual growth of the sales is due to the over 200 volunteers who contribute their time, muscle and their ideas for improvement of the sales. Special thanks go to the 25 people, who weekly, sort all the library discards and the donations from the people of Schenectady. Most important are special people that we wish to thank for sorting, organizing the books for sale and continue to do that throughout the sale. Bob Symons does the primary sorting of all donations. Leah Leonard and Joan Malloy manage fiction and non-fiction during the sale. Sally and Simon Weinstein, Robin Eddy, Susie Leon and Donna Hennell manage the non-fiction. Sylvia Curley deals with all the children's books and Judy Dillenbeck all the paperbacks. Bruce Northrup sorts records and Bern Allenson handles music. Rich Leon organizes the storing of book boxes and crates during the sales. Nancy Virkler not only organizes all movies but she manages the financial areas of the sale. Finally, we wish to say that it has been most enjoyable and a great privilege to work with all the people who are the ones making the sales so successful. The future sales are in very capable hands: Bob Symons, Robin and Fred Eddy and Susie and Rich Leon. We wish them a great future in providing much needed funds for the Schenectady County Public Library

2012 Book Sales Committees:

First Half: Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson

Second Half: Bob Symons, Rich & Susie Leon, Fred & Robin Eddy



BOOKS ON LINE

Amazon has deposited \$11, 288.79 in the Friend's account during the calendar year 2012. This results from the sale of 588 books, posted, wrapped, mailed and confirmed by the loyal (but small) crew of Rickie Gageway, Joyce Parry and me. The return per sale is slightly under \$20....some sales are multiple books or sets. The Amazon-deposited money does not represent "profit" or net earnings since the postage and cost of supplies has not been factored in. The net is closer to \$8500. Business has been brisk, but we could use some additional help having lost a couple of people to moving out of the area in one case and opening her own business in another.

GEORGE GOULD

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The bookstore continues to be a successful fundraiser for library needs. Over 100 volunteers serve as clerks, working 18 hour shifts 52 weeks a year. The store is resupplied several times a week through the efforts of a dedicated crew. Donations of books and other media are sorted and shipped to the store for sale at prices ranging from 10 cents to five dollars. We are fortunate to have a great landlord and hope for a very long relationship on the corner of Union and Clinton. During the year 2012, which happened to be the 10th anniversary of the Whitney Book Corner, the following activities took place: started to give Veteran discounts through the "Return The Favor Program"; coupons were given for free materials and books to schools and community groups; partnered with the Open Door Bookstore, Café' Nola, and Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation [DSIC] in a series of events during the year; special sales were held to coincide with community events – Black Friday, Holiday Open House, Stockade Walkabout, Greek/Italian Festivals, etc. The highlight of the year was the Open House commemorating our 10th Anniversary. Attending were local dignitaries including Legislator Karen Johnson, Assemblyman Jim Tedisco and Niskayuna Supervisor Joe Landry. A representative from Senator Hugh Farley's office also attended.

GAIL KARL, MANAGER



LITERARY TRIPS



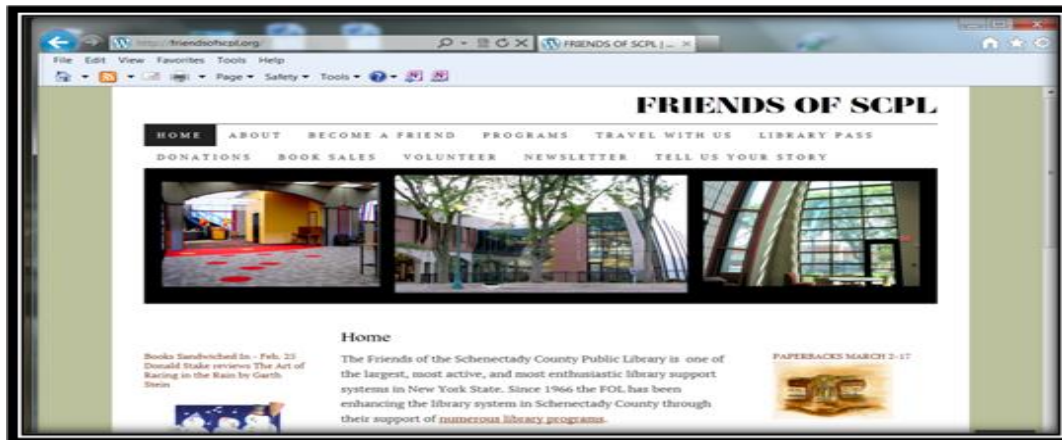
In 2012, the Friends of SCPL sponsored several trips for members. One hundred and eighteen members went on these tours and twelve people became new members. On June 9, fifty-five individuals traveled by bus to Amherst, Massachusetts to visit the home of Emily Dickinson and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Lunch was at historic Lord Jeffery Inn. In the fall, on October 26, forty-five members traveled to Salem Massachusetts for a guided tour of The House of the Seven Gables, a home that is credited with inspiring Nathaniel Hawthorne's book of with John the same name. After lunch at the Hawthorne Hotel, the group went on a highlighted tour of the Peabody Essex Museum. From September 8 – 20th, eighteen members traveled to Ireland on a trip led by John Goldsmith and his wife Diane. After three nights in Dublin, the group spent two nights at the Cashel Palace Hotel close to the Rock of Cashel and continued to County Kerry, taking in the Ring of Kerry and the Dingle Peninsula. From there, they headed north to tour the spectacular vistas of the Connemara region where they spent two nights at Ashford Castle.

One of the highlights of this trip was the wonderful hotels in which we stayed: Jury's Inn, Christchurch Place, Dublin (3 nights), Cashel Palace Hotel (2 nights), Europe Hotel on the shore of the Lakes of Killarney near Killarney (3 nights), and the five-star Ashford Castle on the shore of Lough Corrib near Cong Village (2 nights). The Ashford Castle Hotel has consistently been voted Ireland's finest hotel. The scenery, historic buildings, quaint towns and bustling city of Dublin were all amazing.

We are all eagerly awaiting our next trip with John and Diane to Provence in May 2013.

LISA HOLT, PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

MEMBERSHIP



Your Friends organization is on the web at <http://friendsofscpl.org>. All the latest programs, digital photos PLUS videos and audio (podcasts)! We may not “go virile” but we definitely have a world-wide presence. When you see Chris Witkowski, be sure to let her know what an outstanding job she is doing as our webmaster.

If you gave us your e-mail address, you have received our e-blasts with timely news and notes of Friends programs and activities. This is another example of how your Membership group is reaching out to you. Effective and timely communication is of paramount importance to the well-being of our organization. When you see Cheryl Cufari, be sure to let her know you appreciate her work managing all those e-mail addresses – what a job! Our revised renewal program is working smoothly. Members appreciate knowing their renewal date. Our renewal letters address the current fiscal plight of the library system and the importance of our organization in advocating for libraries and library programs. As of February 2013, we have a total of 934 memberships which include 665* members in good standing, 211 in arrears, and 57 complimentary to local schools and politicians. 170 of our members are eligible for GE matching funds. We would also like to acknowledge the successful launch of the Friends of the Schenectady City School District by Donna Phillips, National Board Certified teacher with SCSD.

Future plans for your Membership Committee include presentations at professional conferences such as NYLA (New York Library Association), development of a new volunteer survey form, and participation in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national levels. Looks like we will be really busy on your behalf.

*This number is of memberships, which may include more than one individual, e.g. a family membership, so the actual number of members is higher.

JOHN KARL AND RITA MOORE, CO-CHAIRMAN



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Report of the Nominating committee

1. President: John Karl

John is a Schenectady native. He taught history at Bethlehem High School. He is a former president of Friends of SCPL, and currently membership co-chair of Friends of SCPL.

2. First VP: Fred Eddy

Fred Eddy retired after working at GE Global Research as a computer scientist, co-authoring a software design book, and consulting to other large companies. He helps organize book sales for the Friends of the Library, volunteers at the Whitney Book Corner and serves on the Steering Committee of UCALL.

3. Second VP: Ellie Rowland

Ellie has been a member of SCPL for over 35 years and a Friends member for most of that time. She is the volunteer coordinator for the Whitney Book Corner, past book sales co-chair and a past board member. The library and its programs are an important part of my life.

4. Secretary: Mary Beth Barbagelata

Mary is retired. She has been a director and secretary of the Board of Friends since April 2009. Also, she works at most of the book sales and substitutes at all 10 libraries.

5. Treasurer: Nancy Virkler

Nancy is a retired banker having spent 35 years in the industry with various employers. She has been a member of the Friends since 1995 and has served as Treasurer for 3 years. She enjoys volunteering for various other charities including Equinox and Camp Little Notch. She lives in Rexford with her husband, Wayne.

6. 2nd terms on Board: Bill Ward and Bob Coppola

Bill has been a member of the Board for 3 years. He organized 2 annual meetings of the Board and volunteers at book sales.

Bob is a Whitney Book Corner volunteer and is an assistant treasurer for the semiannual Book sales. He is a graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in Business Management. Bob is retired from Lockheed Martin/ KAPI after 35 years of service. He is an active member of the First United Methodist church where he teaches Sunday school. He likes to bowl, read and take UCALL courses

Board of Directors continuing in office:

1st term: Kathy August, Charles Hatch, Rich Leon, Leah Leonard, Joan Molloy, Rita Moore, Dotti Potochnik, Patti Rotundo, Tricia Vargas and Gloria Zampini.

2nd term: Gail Karl, Bill Leitch (past president), Gene Rowland, Virginia Thompson and Chris Witkowski.

BILL WARD, CHAIRMAN NOMINATING COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL REPORTS

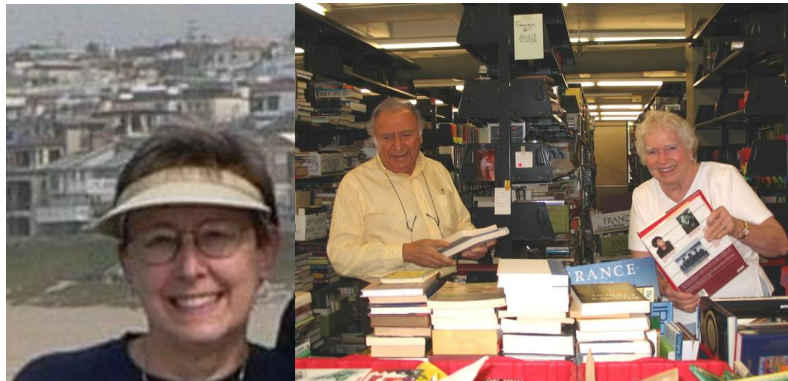
BALANCE SHEET As of December 31, 2012

ASSETS

Checking/Savings	
Checking Accounts	34,122.69
Money Market Accounts	241,990.0
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Total Checking/Savings	276,112.7
 Other Assets	
AAA Visa Travel Card	518.61
Bulk Postage Permit Account	244.67
Petty Cash - Noon Programs	50.00
Petty Cash - Postage	25.00
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Total Other Assets	838.28
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TOTAL ASSETS	276,951.0
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Sales Tax Payable	299.98
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Total Liabilities	299.98
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 Equity	
Albert Wood Fund	5,000.00
Book Sales Fund	117,142.60
Building Expansion Fund	0.00
Gilbert Endowment Fund	1,000.00
Music Fund	11,289.54
Niemeyer Memorial Fund	1,627.93
Niskayuna Landscape Fund	895.39
Operating Funds	42,481.28
Whitney Book Corner	118,692.5
Woodlawn Fund	660.95
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Net Income	-22,139.15
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Total Equity	276,651.0
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	276,951.0
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Profit and Loss Budget Performance: January through December 2012

		Jan - Dec 12	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income				
	Author Book Sale	250.70	300.00	-49.30
	Book Sale Income	44,136.60	45,000.00	-863.40
	Building Expansion	0.00		0.00
	Contributions	21,482.58	20,000.00	1,482.58
	Friends trips	709.95		709.95
	GE Match	4,390.00	5,000.00	-610.00
	Gifts/Memorial Contributions	650.00	500.00	150.00
	Interest	804.58	2,000.00	-1,195.42
	On line sales	8,078.75	6,000.00	2,078.75
Total Income		80,503.16	78,800.00	1,703.16
Expense				
	Annual Dinner	1,130.87	750.00	380.87
	Audit	780.00	750.00	30.00
	Book Donations from Booksales	2,528.60	25,000.00	-22,471.40
	BookSale Expenses –A)	31,376.93	1,500.00	29,876.93
	Capital Expenses	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00
	Central Landscape	0.00	500.00	-500.00
	Equipment	791.00	0.00	791.00
	Friends Noon Programs	1,230.33	1,200.00	30.33
	Great Books	52.76	0.00	52.76
	Library Week	165.51	500.00	-334.49
	Membership	1,231.33	700.00	531.33
	Music	323.32	600.00	-276.68
	Newsletter	1,770.77	2,000.00	-229.23
	Other	2,490.29	1,000.00	1,490.29
	Outreach	0.00	200.00	-200.00
	Piano	370.00	500.00	-130.00
	Poetry Gala	49.84	100.00	-50.16
	Postage	745.99	2,000.00	-1,254.01
	Program Supplies, Adult	7,501.47	5,000.00	2,501.47
	Program Supplies, Children-YA	9,265.31	10,000.00	-734.69
	Programs, Adults	15,844.50	30,000.00	-14,155.50
	Programs, Children-YA	15,215.00	20,000.00	-4,785.00
	Publicity	3,028.03	4,000.00	-971.97
	Staff Conferences	4,617.06	4,000.00	617.06
	Stationery	645.55	2,000.00	-1,354.45
	Technology Support	507.25	200.00	307.25
	Volunteer Picnic	980.60	1,500.00	-519.40
Total Expense		102,642.31	164,000.00	-61,357.69
Net Income		-22,139.15	-85,200.00	63,060.85

(A 28,500 = 2012 CAPITAL EXPENSE
FOR LIBRARY

NANCY VIRKLER, TREASURER