

# Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

## NEWSLETTER

Sept/Oct 2013

Vol. XLIX, No. 1

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

### NOON PROGRAMS BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Jo Adams & Rich Holt, Coordinators

- Sept. 9**     **Hallucinations by Oliver Sacks**; reviewed by Dr. Jack Underwood, local psychiatrist. Using literature, art, and medical history, acclaimed British neurologist Sacks examines a wide range of hallucinations.
- Sept. 16**     **Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed**; reviewed by Julie Clancy. An honest, inspiring memoir of a solo hike along one of three major U.S. long distance hiking trails.
- Sept. 23**     **The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal and the Real Count of Monte Cristo by Tom Reiss**; reviewed by Dr. Tom Kelly, long time BSI contributor. This Pulitzer prize winning biography traces the compelling story of the father of novelist Alexandre Dumas.
- Sept. 30**     **The Flamethrowers by Rachel Kushner**, reviewed by Linda Steiner, Professor of Journalism, University of Maryland. "An intensely engaging exploration of the mystique of the feminine, the fake, the terrorist. At its center is Kushner's brilliantly realized protagonist, a young woman on the verge. Thrilling and fearless, this is a major American novel from a writer of spectacular talent and imagination."
- Oct. 7**     **From D'burg to Jerusalem by Carl Strock**, reviewed by the author. Strock, retired Daily Gazette columnist, will discuss his book which chronicles his journalistic adventures from the most trivial to the most far-reaching. Religious nationalism in Jerusalem, police corruption, Christian fundamentalism, are just some of the issues he has written about.
- Oct. 21**     **Stoner by John Williams**; reviewed by Paul O'Brien, PhD, Bishop Gibbons HS teacher. "A luminous and deeply moving novel. William Stoner emerges from it not only as an archetypal American, but as an unlikely existential hero, standing, like a figure in a painting by Edward Hopper, in stark relief against an unforgiving world."

### SPECIAL FEATURES Gioia Ottaviano, Coordinator NAVY BLUE AND GOLD

- Oct. 28**     **The USS Slater**-Representatives from the Volunteer Speakers Bureau will relate the journey of the USS Slater, a Cannon-class destroyer escort, from WWII active duty to retirement as a museum ship on the National Register of Historic Places on the Hudson River in Albany, N.Y.
- Nov. 4**     **Arctic Submarine Laboratory** - Ray Misiewicz, Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, Ret., will discuss the evolution of the nuclear submarine's exploration under "the ice canopy" in the Arctic Ocean Basin, including climate change studies.



**VOLUNTEER EXPO  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2013  
6-8 P.M.  
McCHESNEY ROOM**



Are you a member of the Friends and curious about volunteer opportunities? Would you like to contribute your time? Do you have a friend who may be interested in joining the Friends? Are you already a current volunteer and wondering what other opportunities might be available?

Join us for an informative and fun filled evening at our first ever Volunteer EXPO. Learn about all the various volunteer opportunities with the Friends as well as the RFID project needs coming up at the Library.

Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!



REELS  
A Free Series of Recent Thought-Provoking Films  
Shown at Noon in the McChesney Room



SEPTEMBER  
Banned Books Made Into Movies

OCTOBER

Sept 4 **Sophie's Choice**

Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Peter MacNicol  
Streep gives an incandescent and seductive performance in her Academy Award-winning role as Sophie, a beautiful guilt-haunted Polish Catholic survivor of the Nazi concentration camps with a catastrophic past. Kevin Kline and Peter MacNicol also star as her mercurial lover who nursed her back to health, and the young, innocent Southern novelist who also loves her.

Sept 11 **All The King's Men**

Sean Penn, Jude Law, Kate Winslet, Patricia Clarkson, James Gandolfini  
Sean Penn heads this all-star cast as charismatic Southern politician "Boss" Willie Stark. Based loosely on Governor Huey Long of Louisiana, Willie shows how political power can corrupt even those with the best intentions.

Sept 18 **Women In Love**

Glenda Jackson, Oliver Reed, Alan Bates  
Under Ken Russell's forceful direction, a film has finally been made that captures the dense atmosphere, wit, passion, scope, and pure sensuality of author D. H. Lawrence.

Sept 25 **Slaughterhouse Five**

Michael Sacks, Ron Leibman  
The first screen adaptation of a Kurt Vonnegut novel, the movie performs the remarkable task of faithfully capturing the popular novelist's complex vision and manic black humor.

Oct 2 **Mud**

Matthew McConaughey, Tye Sheridan  
A pair of inquisitive adolescents encounter a charismatic drifter along the mighty Mississippi when they stumble upon a small island inhabited by Mud (Matthew McConaughey), a desperado who claims to be on the run from brutal bounty hunters after killing a man in Texas.

Oct 9 **The Great Gatsby**

Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan, Isla Fisher  
Nick Carraway, a Midwesterner now living on Long Island, finds himself fascinated by the mysterious past and lavish lifestyle of his neighbor, Jay Gatsby. He is drawn into Gatsby's circle, becoming a witness to obsession and tragedy.

Oct 16 **We Steal Secrets -The Story of Wikileaks**  
Documentary Feature

In this film Director Gibney moves beyond black and white to penetrate a complex network of activity guided by courage and idealism but also allegedly guilty of ethical insensitivity and hypocrisy.

Oct 23 **Bless Me Ultima**

Miriam Colon, Luke Ganalon, Benito Martinez, Delores Heredia, Joaquin Cosio, Castulo Guerra  
Director Carl Franklin helmed this adaptation of Rudolfo Anaya's controversial novel about a young boy and the enigmatic healer who opens his eyes to the wonders of the spiritual realm.

Oct 30 **Stories We Tell**

John Buchan, Joanna Polley, Mark Pooley  
Sarah Polley's documentary finds the director/actress exploring a family secret.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we look forward to another event filled program year at our libraries, it is time to reflect on the developments of the past year. First and most important is the severe reduction of county funds imposed during the first half of 2013. These reductions will be continued and, probably increased, for 2014. Library staff has already been assigned the task of coming up with at least \$70,000 on their own, apart from the county budget. As a result, staff levels are at a record low and purchase of new materials has cut severely into new offerings of books and media. Hours have been shortened and services have been curtailed. How can these cuts be justified?

The answer for the county leadership is that the library is a non-essential service. I beg to differ. Tell the patrons who depend on computer services, who rely on the research services and who come for inexpensive entertainment. Tell the several hundred volunteers who are working to keep the library tip top that libraries are a non-essential service. Fortunately, all library programs are provided by the efforts and funding of the Friends. Your membership contributions and the funds raised by volunteers at the book sales and the bookstore are not subject to county reductions. It was never the intention of the Friends to take the place of county funding obligations, but there is a real concern that without an alternative source of funding, library services will continue to deteriorate. Some alternative method must be found, either a more direct source of funding or a more stable commitment on the part of the county. I know you are as concerned as I am. Let your county representatives know that the current reductions and those planned for the future will be intolerable. Contact information can be found on our website or at Central's Reference Desk. -----John Karl

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

We are updating our cooling system for the store. A new air conditioner will be installed above the main door entrance, and the air conditioner in the rear of the store will be refurbished. Our landlord will share in the cost.

Various groups have been taking advantage of our free book coupon offer: the participants of the Summer Reading Program at the main library & branches; a school bus driver who gave out coupons to his students just before school was out; and to show our thanks, volunteers at our Spring Book Sale received one. Many thanks go out to our sorters, including high school students, and to the cart pushers who keep our store well supplied.

**SALE – SEPTEMBER 7 10:30-4PM!** The streets will be hopping with The Stockade Art Show, the Little Italy Street Fest and the Greek Festival. Every item in the store will be half price, excluding sale items. -----Gail Karl

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to announce a new member feature. In our next newsletter we will begin recognizing members who join or renew their membership at the Supporting, Patron, and Benefactor levels for the current calendar year to date. This is similar to other organizations, Proctor's being an example of a well known and respected organization that lists its contributors and benefactors in its Playbill.

If you are a member at the Supporting, Patron, or Benefactor level and wish to remain anonymous, please let us know via e-mail [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com) (or write us at 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305) by **October 12, 2013** so we can remove your name from the listing.

Our membership is growing! Welcome to the following: Randy Fine, Bonnie Derkowski, Burt Goldstein, Eileen Abrahams, Gayle Caufield, Gail Denisoff, D. Clarke Dimond, Karen Ferris-Fearnside, Mary Jane Fisher, Ann & Joe Gotwals, Valerie Grant, Prentiss Hastings, Sylvia Lange, Cynthia Lovely, Chris Makofski, Katie Marcincuk, Jane McCloskey, Ronald Ratchford, Diane Robusto, Susanna Sherwood, Elaine Bair, LanYing Fan, Donna Lagone, Maimuna Mwamba, Jim & Mickey Schultheis and Susan Vincent. -----Rita Moore

## BOOK SALES

The Fall Book Sale is October 5 with the Bag Sale on Sunday, October 6.

Please volunteer to help when Robin Eddy emails or calls you. We need everyone to pitch in if it is to be a success. Please bring any yard signs that you may have from the previous sale to the Whitney Book Corner so that the dates can be changed. In the middle of September the signs will be available for the October sale at the Whitney. -----Susie Leon

## GENEALOGY DAY AT SCPL

**Exploring Your Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Genealogy and Family History**, Saturday, September 28, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in McChesney Room

Discover how to start or expand your family tree by finding information from online resources and in hidden gems from the library vaults. Learn about other area resources, and meet representatives from Capital Region genealogical societies. Instructors include SCPL librarian Robert Sullivan, 2011 winner of the New Netherland Institute's Alice P. Kenney Memorial Award for Contributions to Colonial Dutch Studies for his creation of the library's Schenectady Digital History Archive. Also on hand will be Nancy Curran, Professional Genealogist and Ancestry.com specialist, and Joan Parslow, Director of the Albany, New York Family History Center.

Registration is suggested; call 388-4511.

## GIFTS RECEIVED

The Friends are grateful for the following donations: David Gerhan and Anita Paul in memory of Dick Cahill; Mel & Frances Simon, James & Judith Burns, Christine Morroni, Norman & Mildred Gittinger, Linda Blandino Weisel and Neil Weisel, Carol Walsh, Richard Junge, Geraldine Massingill, Charles & Sharon Manieri and William & Sue Picotte in memory of Anthony Orsino.

## TELL US YOUR STORY



From Karen Canton:

My cousins are several years older than I, so naturally they had their "junior" library cards for many years before me. As a pre-schooler in the 1950s, I often went with them to Flemington Free Public Library in Flemington, NJ. Because of my age and that I lived in the county and not in town, I could never check a book out from this library. The children's room librarian was very understanding of this and encouraged me to bring my Golden Books from home to the library. When my cousins checked out their books, the nice lady who was the librarian would check out my "special" book with the same procedure, gluing a white due date slip in the back of my Golden Book and stamping it with the special purple ink date stamp that was attached to her yellow pencil. During my next visit to the library she would check in my "special" book. Of course, all my books were returned "on time."

To see more stories and videos check out our website. And send us **your** story!

## CONTACT US

Find us on Facebook  
Visit our web site [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org)  
Email us at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com)  
Write us @ 99 Clinton St., Schenectady 12305

## HELP WANTED

Dee Coblish, Coordinator of the RFID tagging effort at the SCPL, is looking for volunteers who could work once a week, for a three hour shift. The volunteer would need some mobility, as he or she would need to be able to pull items from high and low shelves. There is also a small technological component that would require the volunteer to scan a coded sticker and verify a record on a laptop screen. If interested contact her at [dcoblish@mvls.info](mailto:dcoblish@mvls.info) or 388-4513.

*The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library*

# semi-annual BOOK SALE



**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

**9 am - 4 pm**

**Most Books  
\$1.00**

**\$2.00 Bag Sale**

**Sunday, October 6, 2013**

**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Children's Books  
25¢ & 50¢**

**Romance  
(trade & hardcover)  
2/\$1.00**

**Records...DVDs...  
CDs...Audiobooks**

**Paperbacks  
3/\$1.00**

**Watch for our next big Fiction/Nonfiction Sale!**

**January 25 & 26, 2014 in the McChesney Room, Central Library.**

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

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





# NEWS OF THE FRIENDS of Schenectady County Public Library

Nov./Dec. 2013

Volume XLIX No. 2



## WE HAVE A NEW LOOK...



And we hope you like it! Changing our format will enable us to provide more information regarding Friends activities, focus on the issues involving the library, and highlight YOU, the volunteers. Things may look different, but everything you've found in the newsletter in the past is here, plus much more. Happy reading!

## FRIENDS RECEIVE AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERISM



*Ellie Rowland, Gail Karl, John Karl, Karen Bradley, Julia Stone and Cheryl Cufari accept the Susan Rosenthal Award for Volunteerism from DSIC Director Jim Salengo at the October 10 Building Blocks Party. Photo by Ralph Rosenthal*

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## BOOK SALE HUGE SUCCESS



*This looks like one satisfied customer!  
More about the sale on page 4.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Friends have had quite an active Fall.

On Sept. 20 the

Volunteer Expo was a great success. A number of visitors signed up to assist in our many programs. Many thanks to those who organized the event: Rita Moore, Chris Witkowski, Dottie Potochnik, Patti Rotunda and Donna Phillips. Our good friend Angelo Mazzone of Glen Sanders provided great sandwiches for the affair. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the Friends and we welcome those who join us.

The second big event was our semi-annual book sale the first weekend in October. Over 300 volunteers worked to raise necessary funds for library programs. Special thanks to Rich & Susie Leon, Robin & Fred Eddy and Bob Symons, who organized and worked super hard to make it a success. Proceeds from the sale will guarantee continued services at the library.

It was my privilege and honor to represent the Friends at the annual Block Party of the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation. The Friends, designated the outstanding volunteer organization of the year, was awarded the Susan Rosenthal

award. A plaque will be on display in the library. Over the years the Friends has been the major force providing resources that have not been provided by the county.

As the future of county financial support remains uncertain, there needs to be a more assured stream of funds to sustain our most precious asset, the library. Several years ago I chaired a committee to explore the possibility of changing the relationship between the county and the library. One very attractive option is to create an independent legislative district for the library, allowing the residents of the county to directly vote for the funds to operate the library and to directly elect representatives to govern it. Most libraries in New York State are not tied to the political systems in their communities. Our library is totally subject to the county legislature and its political dependencies. Over the past five decades, the Friends have stood strong to keep the library strong. There may be an opportunity to stand up once more. Keep your membership alive and keep informed about how you can help.

.....John Karl

Friends of the Library Board  
John Karl, President  
Fred Eddy, 1st Vice President  
Ellie Rowland, 2nd Vice President  
Nancy Virkler, Treasurer  
Mary Beth Barbagelata, Secretary  
Bill Leitch, Past President

Directors  
Kathy August  
Bob Coppola  
Charles Hatch  
Gail Karl  
Rich Leon  
Leah Leonard  
Joan Molloy  
Rita Moore  
Dotti Potochnik  
Patti Rotunda  
Gene Rowland  
Virginia Thompson  
Tricia Margas  
Bill Ward  
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Gloria Zampini

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Find Us On Facebook

JOIN US AT THE **WHITNEY BOOK CORNER** ON NOV. 1-3 FOR THE FIRST HISTORIC LOWER UNION STREET HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE! LUMINARIES, BUGGY RIDES, AND MORE! EXTENDED STORE HOURS



# NOON PROGRAMS

## SPECIAL FEATURES

### NAVY BLUE AND GOLD

Gioia Ottaviano, Coordinator

November 4

**Arctic Submarine Laboratory** - Ray Misiewicz, Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, Ret., will discuss the evolution of the nuclear submarine's exploration under "the ice canopy" in the Arctic Ocean Basin, including climate change studies.

## TABLE TALKS

A Series of Talks Focusing on Developments In and Around the Capital District  
John Karl, Coordinator

November 18

**Debra Schimpf**, Executive Director, Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP). Ms. Schimpf will describe the many ways in which SCAP addresses the needs of residents in our community.

November 25

**Wendy Rosher**, Vice President, Clinical Services, Ellis Medicine. Ms. Rosher will address the ways in which Ellis is growing to provide for the medical needs of the community.

December 2

**Glen Merfeld**, Director of Storage Battery Manufacturing Operation for GE in

Schenectady, will inform us about the newest technology in energy storage and its applications.

December 9

Fire Chief **Michael Della Rocco** will talk about the challenges of informing and protecting community residents concerning fire prevention and the impact of fires on the community.

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Patricia Rush, Coordinator

December 16

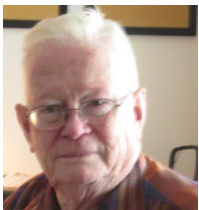
**Leonardo and The Last Supper**, by Ross King. Pat Rush will review the latest book by the Canadian art historian. King chronicles how Leonardo created the fragile masterpiece that would forever define him.

January 6

**Flight Behavior**, by Barbara Kingsolver. Melinda Perrin reviews this novel by an acclaimed American writer, who has written one of the more thoughtful novels about the scientific, financial and psychological intricacies of climate change.

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## TELL US YOUR STORY....



From Sam Wait: My first job was as Page Boy Third Class at the Brandywine Branch of the Library. Theoretically, all I could do was shelve books that had been returned by borrowers. The librarian in charge at that time was Miss Adele Brown. However, she went home for dinner leaving me alone in the library for a while. During that time I checked out books and even tried to answer some reference questions. One I remember well was from a boy who wanted to know about 'boondoggle', a material for making a lanyard out of thin plastic fibers. I was able to point him to the Boy Scout handbook which had the answer. If I remember correctly I was paid \$0.35 per hour for this part time job in 1948 or 1949.

*Let us know what your library means to you. Send your stories to Rita Moore at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com). Additional stories and videos can be found at [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org).*

# KEEPING UP WITH THE FRIENDS

## BOOK SALES

The Book Sale Committee would like to thank the willing volunteers who filled over 380 positions in order to run another successful book sale. The weather cooperated and the shoppers were enthusiastic. Many hours of hard work unloading, sorting and storing donated books, both for the book sales and for the [Whitney Book Corner](#), happens every week behind the scenes.

Leah Leonard, Joan Molloy, and Pat Stearns take fiction seriously with help from Joanne Griffin and Bev Glover. Sally and Simon Weinstein, along with Susie Leon, Robin Eddy, Donna Hennel, Linda and Bill Ward, and some teens - Anna, Catherine and Seth from Niskayuna H.S.- try to organize and keep up with the never ending nonfiction. Judy Dillenbach and Fred Marx sort and store the thousands of donated small paperbacks. Sylvia Curly and Dottie Potochnik sort all the children's books with many ending

up at the Whitney. Nancy Virkler works with DVDs, Bern Allanson entertains us with music while he sorts CDs, and Bruce Northrup made sure the records we sell don't have scratches. Ellie Rowland sorts Christmas books and fills in where needed. Alice Reed reviews the library discards, so they are ready for the store or sale. John and Gail Karl not only categorize books for the Whitney Book Corner, they take care of many logistical details that need attention.

Rich Leon, Fred Eddy, and Ken Nyeu do the impossible by finding space for all the sorted books. And we would be remiss if we didn't mention the HUGE contribution that Bob Symons makes to organize and keep our operation moving along. Without his efforts, the sorters' jobs would be much more difficult and time-consuming.

The book sale was a

WONDERFUL community event. THOUSANDS of people came to shop and, with their purchases, contributed to the mission of the Friends of the Library.

Please come out and support our Winter Sale January 25 & 26 in the McChesney Room featuring both fiction and nonfiction. We can't do this without all the support of our FRIENDS!

.....Susie Leon



*Shoppers at the Book Sale found Sylvia Curly hard at work.*

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

The successful Volunteer Expo on September 20 brought us many new helpers for the store -shelvers, clerks, and cart transporters. We still could use helpers in other areas. Call me (393-7590) if you are interested in helping in some capacity.

The sales at the Whitney did very

well during the Friends Book Sale on October 5 & 6. We had 200 customers that weekend.

**COMING UP** - On November 1-3 The [Whitney Book Corner](#) will join with other merchants in the historic lower Union Street area for a "Holiday Open House". Many activities are planned

for the three days. Look for the advertising for the event in the Gazette and take advantage of the coupons that will be offered. We will extend our hours on Friday, November 1 until 8 pm.

We will be having a half price sale on Black Friday, Nov. 29. ---Gail Karl



# KEEPING UP WITH THE FRIENDS

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The following volunteers have been assisting with the various mailings sent out during the year: Anne Yunick, Bill Leitch, Mary Liz Leitch, Bill Isles, Lois Isles, Kathy August, Joan Molloy, Cheryl Cufari, Dottie Potochnik and Rudy Dehn. They prove that many hands make light work.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Friends welcome the following new members: Elaine Bair, LanYing Fan, Donna Lagone, Maimuna Mwamba, Jim & Mickey Schultheis, Susan Vincent, Catherine Cawley, Grace DeMarco, Alice Gibson & Don Feiden, Jewel & Alfred Kommel, Ling Ling Lee, Philip E. Livingston, Larry Spongberg, Gary & Lucy Spongberg, Eunice M. Chouffi, Louise Lamby, Nancy Connolly, Irene Cronin, Susanne & Robert Doyle, Robert & Eric Gilston, Ted Heisler, Catherine A. Lewis, Mary B. McClaine, Julianne Michaud, Cathleen O'Connor and Emily & John O'Grady.

.....Rita Moore

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating committee for the April election of officers and board members will be: Jo Adams, Bern Allanson, Joan Molly and Ellie Rowland. They will prepare a slate of candidates for election at the annual dinner in April.

## BEAT THE SNOW



The Winter Concert series, held on Sundays at 2:30 in the McChesney Room, will return on Jan. 5 with the Dino Cimino Jazz Trio. The complete schedule will appear in the next newsletter. What a great way to survive the cold northeast winter!

## JOIN US

The Friends of the Library meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Swanker Board Room, Central Library, on the 4th Tuesday of the following months: August, October, January, March and May. The meetings are open to the public.



*Marilyn Soffer and Bob Coppola smile for the Whitney customers.*

## OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE FRIENDS



*Rich Holt and Lorene Zabin take a break outside the FDR Library on the Sept. 4 Friends Trip.*



*Toni Walsh wins the prize at the Friends Volunteer Expo.*

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are proud to announce a new member feature. Listed below are names of members who have joined and or renewed their membership at the supporting, benefactor or patron level. We thank everyone for their support!

## SUPPORTING - \$35

Lois & Richard Atkinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick G. Baily  
Patricia P. Barker  
Phyllis Boyd  
Sylvia & Robert Briber  
Naomi G. Bristol  
Hank & Pat Buczkowski  
Gertrude Carpenter  
Louis & Judy Clough  
Richard & Marian Clowe  
Janet R. F. Crandell  
Camille Siano Enders  
Hans & Sara Erickson  
Donna & Bill Fairlee  
Dr. Marion Farlin  
Renie M. Federighi  
Rose Cooper & Frank Feiner  
Mr. Howard C. Fiedler  
David & Patricia Gosda  
Dorothy Graham  
Marion Grimes  
Arthur W. Haberl  
Mary James  
Don & Marilyn Leach  
Shirley Levey  
Katharine Lowe  
Jane McCloskey  
Althea R. Nelson  
Barbara Palmer  
Elizabeth Pieper  
Alice Reed  
Lawrence & Linda Relyea  
Grace Riccobono  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Ringlee  
Charlene M. Roman  
Emily Ross  
Ruth E. Savastio  
Bill Schmitt  
Marilyn Soffer  
Betty & Owen Sutton  
Themetria Svolos  
Mary Ann Tote  
Barbara VanEtten  
Legislator Holly C. Vellano  
Amy & Paul Volk

Robert & Patricia Wall  
Ernest & Barbara Walton  
Harry and Sandra Willis  
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Woodzell

## PATRON - \$50-199

Eileen Abrahams  
Jo & Phil Adams  
Chester Harvey & Katherine Armstrong  
Hendrick and JoAnne Arnold, Jr.  
Dave & Adrienne Bashe  
Bill & Mary Jane Beaulieu  
Elmer & Olga Bertsch  
Barbara & John Beverley  
Mr. Richard J. Bigley  
Ms. Ann Bish  
William & Carol Borthwick  
Karen & David Bradley  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard M. Breault  
Anne Marie Brown  
Phyllis Budka  
Mrs. Flower Buhrmaster  
James R. & Sandra Buhrmaster  
Miriam W. Butzel  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Catlin  
Doris Clark  
Cheryl Cufari  
Edward & Dorothy Curley  
Rudolph Dehn  
Gail Denisoff  
Susanne & Robert Doyle  
Fred & Robin Eddy  
The Rev. Ralph Edwards  
Lyle & Eileen Eldred  
John & Gloria B. Ericson  
Lisa & Bob Esperti  
Randy Fine  
Mary Fitzgerald  
Nancy D. Fitzroy  
James Gibney, Jr.

Alfred & Mary Jo Gilbert  
Virginia Golden  
George & Joan Gould  
Patricia Halsey  
Howard & Emily Hart  
Charles E. Hatch  
Analine Hicks  
Richard & Lisa Holt  
Richard M. Junge  
Ernest H. & Gloria Kahn  
Robert & Karen Kanarkiewicz  
Gail & John Karl  
Marjorie Karowe  
Gerri & James Kenney  
Mr. & Mrs. William P. Leitch  
Joe Leonardo  
Bill Levering  
Ann & Donald Liebers  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Liebers  
Elaine & Marvin Lubert  
Charles & Sharon Maneri  
Arlene & Jack Maranville  
Kim Mastrianni  
Barbara & Bernard McEvoy  
Anne Middleton  
Rita Moore  
Margaret Moore  
Robert M. Nottke  
Paul & Deborah O'Brien  
Brock & Maryann Osborn  
William J. Parry  
Catherine Paupst  
Donna Phillips  
Dorothea & Frank Potochnik  
Beverly Provost  
Lisa Reynolds  
Beryl Rockwell  
Janice Rose  
Donna Esposito & William Ross  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rowland  
Kathleen M. Ryan  
Margaret & Harvey Schadler  
Joan M. & Francis J. Scheib

George and Katherine Schmidt  
Cynthia & Wayne Schneider  
Helga A. Schroeter  
Jim & Mickey Schultheis  
Dr. & Mrs. Alvin D. Schwartz  
James & Beverly Sefcik  
Janet R. Shook  
David & Shobha Smith  
Ralph & Linda Spaulding  
Joan & Robert Spencer  
Delanne Stageman  
Harry Steven  
Frank Taormina  
Fred & Virginia Thompson  
Jon & Nancy Tobiessen  
Fleurette Traxler  
Marylois & Leland Tupper  
Nancy Virkler  
Barbara Vivier  
Anita Walther  
Diana & Peter F. Weinberg  
Junice & Harold Wusterbarth  
John & Constance Young  
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Wendy & Walter Berninger  
Mr. & Mrs. Elwin C. Bigelow  
Mr. Donald Early  
Neil & Jane Golub  
Lawson P. & Priscilla L. Harris  
Sylvia E. Hosegood  
Richard & Patricia Margas  
Anne L. Peterson  
Kristina Philip  
Esther M. Swanker  
Samuel & Carol Wait  
Sally & Simon Weinstein



# REELS

A Free Series of Films Shown at Noon in the McChesney Room



## NOVEMBER

## DECEMBER

Nov. 6 **THIRTEEN DAYS** Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood, Steven Culp, Dylan Baker, Henry Strozier, Frank Wood 145 minutes

Nov. 13 **OBLIVION** Tom Cruise, Olga Kurylenko, Andrea Riseborough, Morgan Freeman, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Melissa Leo 124 minutes

Nov. 20 **JFK** Kevin Costner, Sissy Spacek, Joe Pesci, Tommy Lee Jones, Gary Oldman, Laurie Metcalf 189 minutes

Nov.27 **WHITE HOUSE DOWN**  
Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx, Maggie Gyllenhaal, James Woods, 137 minutes

Dec. 4 **THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES**  
Ryan Gosling, Eva Mendes, Bradley Cooper  
Rated R; 106 minutes **\*\*FILMED IN SCHENECTADY!\*\***

Dec. 11 **42** Harrison Ford, Chadwick Boseman, Alan Tudyk 128 minutes

Dec. 18 **OZ: THE GREAT AND POWERFUL**  
James Franco, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams  
130 minutes



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



I would like to congratulate our SCPL Friends of the Library for the wonderful recognition

they received at the 11th Annual Schenectady Downtown Improvement Corporation's Building Block Party on October 10, 2013. The Susan Rosenthal Award for Volunteerism that was awarded could not have been given to a more deserving organization. The recent Volunteer Expo organized by the Friends brought out many new faces. It was heartwarming to hear so many people say "My library has done so much for me, I want to now give back during its time of need." There is truly something for

everyone to do - from the recent annual fall book sale featuring a whole army of people volunteering over four days to the weekly book sorters and [Whitney Book Corner](#) volunteers. There are many opportunities to become involved and to make a positive difference in our community. Most of the wonderful programs we offer for people of all ages are made possible through the Friends. Whether you can volunteer just a few days a year or can make a weekly commitment, there is a way that you too can make a difference.

Fall seems to be flying by as fast as the leaves are falling off the trees and Thanksgiving will soon be here. The past year has been a challenging one for library staff as

we have worked hard to implement the Restructuring Action Plan. The support of our Friends of the Library during this time has been tremendous and there is much to be grateful and thankful for, from your financial support, to your friendship, to your advocacy for our library system. A vibrant library system says a lot about the community it serves. It is one that values education and cultural resources and is an asset to those who choose to raise their families here and to businesses that choose to locate here.

.....Karen Bradley



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## TRAVEL WITH US

Travel with Tour Director John Goldsmith from May 7 to May 20, 2014, on a magnificent exploration of the great National Parks and scenic wonders of the American West. John has organized three previous trips for the Friends of the Library and this time he will bring us to some gorgeous sites in the United States.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP INCLUDE:

Jackson Hole, Gateway to the Grand Tetons, staying at the luxury Wort Hotel  
Yellowstone National Park  
Bryce Canyon National Park, Home of the Magnificent Hoodoos  
Zion National Park  
The Grand Canyon

Price of the tour is \$3,375, per person, double occupancy, \$4,250 single occupancy, and includes transport to and from JFK airport, non-stop round trip flights from JFK to Salt Lake City, accommodations, all meals (with the exception of free days in Las Vegas and Salt Lake City), National Park entry fees, and all gratuities and taxes. Membership in the Friends of SCPL is required. Complete trip details, including registration forms, can be found at [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org). Forms are also available at all library branches and the [Whitney Book Corner](#). Contact John Goldsmith at [musicman1853@aol.com](mailto:musicman1853@aol.com) or 406-5459.





# NEWS OF THE FRIENDS of Schenectady County Public Library

Jan./Feb. 2014

Volume XLIX No. 3

## LIBRARY JOINS DSIC IN HOLIDAY EVENT

As part of the 10th Annual Downtown Holiday Open House, Schenectady County Public Library and the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation partnered together on Dec. 7 to bring fun for the whole family throughout downtown. Participants wrote letters to Santa, played a Holiday Trivia contest, were treated to a Christmas Carol and much more! Drawings for prizes included a Kindle, donated by Director Karen Bradley. Coupons for



*SCPL Sheriff Dan H. and his family participate in the Dec. 7 event.*

a free book to the Whitney Book Corner were given out and over sixty excited children marched right down the street to the store to redeem them. Most of the families visiting the store said they had never been there before, but they would be sure to come again. What a great way to tell the public about the Whitney!

## ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK TITLE ANNOUNCED

SCPL is pleased to announce that the *The Dirty Life: A Memoir of Farming, Food, and Love* by Kristin Kimball will be the 2014 Community Read. A program planning committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8 at 4 p.m. (snow date 1/15) in the Swanker Board Room at the Central Library. All are invited to attend. Anyone interested can e-mail OCOB chair Suzanne Bernadt at [sbernadt@mvl.info](mailto:sbernadt@mvl.info). The author will be speaking at Schenectady County Community College on Thursday, March 27. There will be other theme-related programs. Details to follow.

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### UPCOMING SALES WHITNEY BOOK CORNER



JAN. 4-19  
MYSTERIES  
JAN. 25-26  
LARGE PRINT  
FEB. 1-16  
ROMANCE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



More than a century ago, Teddy Roosevelt described the presidency as a “bully pulpit”. To a slightly lesser degree and with your indulgence, I would like to mount that pulpit to continue to review the situation facing your library today. In earlier newsletters I have described the impact of county budget reductions on the library. I now turn attention to the role assumed by county leaders to usurp the management of the library and, even while we have excellent directors and staff, to control even the most minute of library functions, e.g. scheduling of personnel, dictating awkward procedures in dealing with patrons, etc. The “interference” by county leaders in library management is contrary to New York State Education Law governing municipal libraries. The law gives the power of determining budget allocations and the appointment of library trustees (to 5 year terms) to the county legislature. The trustees appoint a director and deputy director(s) who then have the authority to hire, fire and schedule the other staff personnel as necessary for the successful operation of the library and its branches. (NYS Education Law Chapter 22-City and County Libraries sections 211-227) This authority of the trustees even extends to the acquisition or disposition of property.

In an ideal world, the county leadership would have confidence in its appointed trustees and the management hired thereof, only taking action when there are egregious violations of legal or moral responsibilities. In that same ideal world the government would provide a reasonable budget for the operation of the library. Other libraries in the state, when they have been abandoned financially by their municipality or have been severely hampered in their operation by unfriendly actions of the government, have petitioned the state for the right to form a special legislative district for the library. This would be similar to our volunteer fire departments in that the budget is brought before the voting public annually and a slate of trustees are also voted upon by that same public. Currently, in Schenectady, the public has no say in the library budget nor on the appointment of trustees. Hopefully, in the near future, you, the supporters of our excellent library and its staff, will have opportunities to voice your opinions on these matters. In the meantime, if you feel the need to advocate for the library, you can contact your county representatives and let them know your concerns. You can get contact information by calling the library reference desk at 388-4511 or visit the [Friends website](#).

On a more positive note, the Friends of the Library is entering the new year with high hopes for the future. Your support and the efforts of hundreds of volunteers are making it possible to continue and even expand the program offerings at the library. Plans are being reviewed for a major renovation of the service kitchen in the McChesney Room (it's only 45 years old). Friends funds will play a big role in that renovation. Keep an eye out for information about the Trustees fundraiser this winter and the One County/One Book events, which are provided by funds from the Friends. I hope you are enjoying the new newsletter format as much as I am. Many thanks to Chris Witkowski who, in addition to all of her other responsibilities as our PR person, has updated our communications tremendously. ....John Karl

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Ellie Rowland, 2nd Vice President  
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[friendsofscpl.org](http://friendsofscpl.org)  
[Find Us on Facebook](#)

## JOIN US

The Friends of the Library meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Swanker Board Room, Central Library, on the 4th Tuesday of the following months: August, October, January, March and May. The meetings are open to the public.

# NOON PROGRAMS

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Patricia Rush, Coordinator

January 6

**Flight Behavior**, by Barbara Kingsolver; Melinda Perrin reviews this novel by an acclaimed American writer, who has written one of the more thoughtful novels about the scientific, financial and psychological intricacies of climate change.

January 13

**The Inferno**, by Dan Brown; reviewed by Ricki Lewis. Still on the New York Times best-seller list, *The Inferno* takes us on a tour of Florence, Italy, and also of Dante's epic poem. It is enlivened by the presence of a mad geneticist!

January 27

**The Devil in the Grove** by Gilbert King; reviewed by Gene Rowland, ret. GE Global Research, Friends Noon Programs Coordinator. Drawing on a wealth of never-before-published material, including the FBI's unredacted Groveland case files, King shines new light on this remarkable civil rights crusader, setting his rich and driving narrative against the heroic backdrop of a case that U.S. Supreme Court justice Robert Jackson decried as one of the worst menaces to American justice.

February 3

**Roosevelt's Centurions** by Joseph E. Persico; reviewed by John Karl, retired history teacher. FDR, unlike any other president except for Lincoln, took charge of the war effort against Germany and Japan, 1941-1945. Persico traces the maneuvering FDR had to do to bring his most talented military men to accomplish his plan for victory.

February 10

**Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power** by Jon Meacham; reviewed by Frank Taormina, retired history teacher, Board member of the Schenectady County Historical Society. Touted as the best single volume biography of Jefferson, Meacham explores all the facets of this most brilliant and complex of all of our presidents.

February 24

**The Dirty Life: On Farming, Food, and Love** by Kristan Kimball, reviewer to be announced. In the One County, One Book selection for 2014, the author chronicles how she gave up life as a Manhattan journalist to start a cooperative farm in upstate New York with a self-taught New Paltz farmer she had interviewed for a story and later married.

*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.*

## TELL US YOUR STORY....



From Elsie Maddaus: I grew up in the town of Berlin, New Jersey. During my elementary school days there was no library building. Library books were placed on shelves in the town hall and were available Thursday afternoons and evenings. A local teacher, Miss Norcross, was in charge. When I got old enough I used to help her, checking the books in by hand and returning them to the shelves. Little wonder that when I decided to complete my education – after raising four sons -I graduated from Skidmore College, B.A. 1964, and the State University of New York at Albany, with a Master's degree in Library Science in 1966. I was librarian at Ballston Spa Public Library for 20 years and then, part time librarian at the Schenectady County Historical Society for 8 or 9 years. When I travel I make it a point to visit libraries wherever I go!

*Let us know what your library means to you. Send your stories to Rita Moore at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com). Additional stories and videos can be found at [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org).*

# KEEPING UP WITH THE FRIENDS

## ALA LAUNCHES ITS DECLARATION FOR THE RIGHT TO LIBRARIES

Knowing the power of passionate advocates, the American Library Association launched its effort to articulate all that libraries do and to seek out those in our country and communities who can promote the power of libraries with those who control the purse strings. As a Friend of SCPL and a school librarian, I was proud to add my signa-

ture with those of my colleagues at our national conference last month, and I'm excited to extend that opportunity to all of you. The link to sign online is found at <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/declaration/sign> or, if typing web addresses drives you crazy, simply google "Declaration for Libraries" or "I love libraries." I hope you'll add your voice to

the many who have already signed. With legislators, quantity counts. And I know that all of us bring quality and quantity to the mix—a powerful combination in the contest to be heard by decision-makers.

.....Donna Phillips

## BOOK SALES

What happens when Fiction and Nonfiction merge? Find out on January 25 and 26, when we have our first ever combined winter book sale in the McChesney Room. No longer will we be browsing in the cold lobby and bumping and being elbowed by enthusiastic book lovers. All books will be \$1.00! Large print books will be on sale at the Whitney Book Corner.

Look out for emails from Robin Eddy, our amazing coordinator of volunteers for book sales. She will

be contacting Friends looking for help with this sale. It takes a large number of dedicated Friends to run a successful book sale. Friends have been extremely supportive in the past, as evidenced by the many successful sales and the donations to our wonderful library system. If you have one, two or any hours to join us, please answer her call to help out.

Donations are at an all-time high, which will increase the chances that you will find perfect books to beat the Wintertime Blues.

The Book Sale Committee again thanks all the volunteers who help behind the scenes in the stacks upstairs. We need more help sometimes, so if you are interested in coming in to help occasionally, please email Susie Leon at [sleonread@gmail.com](mailto:sleonread@gmail.com).

....Susie, Rich, Robin, Fred  
& Bob



## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Check out these offerings at the Whitney: Gift Certificates, Foreign Language Books for adults and children, and Large Print titles. Did you know we participate in the "Return The Favor" promotion? This is a discount program for Veterans that provides 50% off all items.

We would like to introduce our new volunteers:  
Monday Shelver - Jane Hendrick  
Wednesday Shelver - Anna Marie McLaughlin  
Children's Book Shelver - Donna Fairlee  
Mini Sales Graphic Designer- Rita Moore

A great big thank you to all of our volunteers for the past 11 years! If it wasn't for you, we would not be in business.

PASS IT ON!

Let people know that we are here and encourage them to join the Friends to support the Library.

.....Gail Karl



# KEEPING UP WITH THE FRIENDS

## GREAT DECISIONS

The Great Decisions discussion series, held on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the McChesney Room, is free of charge and is sponsored by the national, non-partisan, Foreign Policy Association ([www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)). The FPA publishes a discussion guide, which presents a comprehensive balanced review of each topic. The guide is helpful, but not mandatory. A copy of the guide may be purchased by contacting John Karl (393-7590, [jkarl1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jkarl1@nycap.rr.com)) or Fred Eddy (346-1683, [FredEddy7@gmail.com](mailto:FredEddy7@gmail.com)) while supplies last. Topics for the 2014 series are:

Feb. 4	Defense Technology
Feb. 11	Israel and the U.S.
Feb. 18	Turkey's Challenges
Feb. 25	Islamic Awakening
Mar. 4	Energy Independence
Mar. 11	Food and Climate
Mar. 18	China's Foreign Policy
Mar. 25	U.S. Trade Policy

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

Lois Bezio  
Paula Bourgeois  
Peter & Leah Kucera  
Robert Serotta  
Lois Truax

### MEMBER RENEWALS

### SUPPORTING - \$35

Diane & John Goldsmith  
Mrs. Carmel Patrick  
Verena Takekoshi \*  
Jan & Harmon Tunison  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold F. Webster \*

### PATRON - \$50-199

Phyllis & Frank Barbera  
Timothy Coakley  
Anita Paul & David Gerhan  
Andy Shapiro & Betsy Henry\*  
Peter & Leah Kucera  
Denise Murphy McGraw  
Sylvia Raushi

### BENEFACTOR \$200 +

Bob & Joanne Dial

\*ELIGIBLE FOR GE  
MATCH



## BEAT THE SNOW

The Winter Concert series is held on Sundays at 2:30 in the McChesney Room. It's a great way to survive winter in the northeast!

Jan.	5	Dino Cimino Jazz Trio
	12	Dave Lambert & Dan Wancyzk Jazz
	19	Musicians of Ma'alwyck
	26	No Concert- Book Sale
Feb.	2	Route Fifty 5 Brass Quintet
	9	Misty Jazz Project
	16	Cabaret Concert: Mark Tommasone, Guitar with eats!
	23	Singalong! with Patty Bradshaw, Tim Sawicki and Chris Patrick
March	2	SLOC
	9	Hilltown Ramblers Bluegrass
	16	Troy Children's Chorus
	23	Etude Club
	30	Rose Hargrave, Soprano and Michael Clement, Piano

## HELP WANTED



Great volunteer opportunity for someone who enjoys literary and cultural travel to coordinate one day bus trips for the Friends of the Library. Great team support. Fantastic, interested travelers. Contact Lisa Holt at [lahnisky@gmail.com](mailto:lahnisky@gmail.com) or 370-1811.

Volunteers are needed for the Friends Music Committee. Help the committee continue its principal mission of offering a platform for youth in the community and SCCC students by providing the opportunity to give piano and other instrument recitals. The committee also sponsors the Beat the Snow concert series. Contact Walter Grattidge at 882-9156 if interested.

# AROUND THE LIBRARY

## THE POWER OF YOUR LIBRARY CARD

Finally got that new tablet, eReader or other device for Christmas? The library offers two services that provide downloadable ebooks and audio-



books free with your library card. For audiobooks use [One Click Digital](#) from Recorded Books to download books 24/7. Choose from hundreds of high-quality titles that are compat-

ible with virtually all portable players-including Apple devices, Kindle Fire and many others.

For that digital reader, use [OverDrive](#) to download eBooks to your eReader, Nook, Kindle, mobile device, tablet, or computer. Go to [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org) and click on Downloadable Media to get started. Need help? Stop by the Reference Desk or call us at 388-4511.

## IPAD MANIA!

What's all the fuss about iPads? What do you do with one? Do you have an iPad and want to feel more comfortable using it? Do you want to buy one but don't know which iPad to choose? Get the answers at the following programs:

**Get to Know your Ipad** - learn the basics :

Rotterdam Branch -January 15, 10-11:30 a.m.

No registration required

Central - Jan. 22, 9-10:30 a.m. Call 388-4511 to register.

**iPad Part 2 – Let the Tips Continue!** Learn how to multitask in iOS7, create a reading list in Safari, and much more!

Niskayuna Branch, Jan. 13, 6-7:30 p.m.

Call 386- 2249 to register.

Bring your own iPad or use one of ours.

## LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Feb. 1 at 10:30 a.m. **Kidnapped! Black New Yorkers Caught in the Slave Trade** David Fiske, author of "Solomon Northup: His Life Before and After Slavery" and "Solomon Northup : The Complete Story of the Author of Twelve Years a Slave ." In the 1800s, free blacks were at risk of being kidnapped and sold as slaves. This happened to Solomon Northup, whose story is told in the film "12 Years a Slave." But several other New Yorkers, from various parts of the state, were also rescued from slavery, and some of the kidnapers were held accountable for their deeds. This presentation will tell the stories of their victims. Call 388-4511 to register.

Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. **She Loves You: The Beatles in New York** Led by musicologist and Beatles scholar Gordon Thompson, the program will explore the impact of the British invasion, led by The Beatles in 1964, their historic concert at Shea Stadium, John Lennon's NYC connection and discuss how their music

continues to be an inspiration to composers and performing artists today. The program is produced by the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center in Albany.

February 15 at 10:00 a.m. **Finding Missing Pieces of the Family Tree** presented by Patricia Walsh and Arlene Loucks. The half sisters will talk about the amazing 70 year search for their birth mother and family that culminated in the discovery of their "missing piece" living 10 minutes away. Their book, *The Pieces Come Together... At Last*, will be on sale at the program.

Save The Date - March 1 from 2-4 pm **Oscars Program** with Ron Edelman and Audrey Kupferberg .

*Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held in the McChesney Room of the Central Library*



## REELS

A Series of Free Films Shown at Noon in the McChesney Room



### JANUARY

### FEBRUARY

Jan. 8 **The Age of Innocence** Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Winona Ryder. 138 minutes

Jan. 15 **Out of Africa** Meryl Streep, Robert Redford 161 minutes; 1985

Jan. 22 **Driving Miss Daisy** Jessica Tandy, Morgan Freeman, 100 minutes; 1989

Jan. 29 **Rush** Chris Hemsworth, Alexandra Maria Lara, Daniel Brühl, Olivia Wilde, Stephen Mangan, Christian McKay 123 minutes; 2013

Feb. 5 **Hearts of Fire** Written and Directed by Maria Riccio Bryce A musical inspired by the 1690 burning of Schenectady by French and Indian soldiers.

Feb. 12 **Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story** Cuba Gooding Jr., Kimberly Elise, Aunjanue Ellis, Jaishon Fisher, Gus Hoffman 120 minutes; 2009

Feb. 19 **All Is Lost** Robert Redford 106 minutes; 2013

Feb. 26 **The Picture of Dorian Gray** Angela Lansbury, Donna Reed, Peter Lawford 110 minutes; 1945



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Happy New Year! We begin 2014 with some exciting changes in our libraries.

Our long awaited self-checkout system (RFID) is being implemented at the Central Library and the tagging of all library materials has spread out to our branch libraries. You will notice major changes in January and we look forward to showing our patrons how easy it will be to check things out and return them in the slot in the wall by the main desk.

In addition, our plans for the merging of the Duane and Hamilton Hill Branch libraries is moving forward nicely as we plan

for a new library and literacy center at 954 State St. Early in the New Year we plan to meet with members of the community who will be served by this branch to get their input on what services and programs the library should provide to best meet their needs.

The beautiful December snowfall reminded me that it is a great time to curl up with a good book. Stop by any one of our branches to pick up a Staff Picks - Best Reads of 2013 for your winter reading!

.....Karen Bradley



*Chuck and Carol Kahn are just two of the many volunteers who have worked on the RFID tagging project. Volunteers are still needed for tagging at the branches; contact Dee Coblish at [dcoblish@mvl.info](mailto:dcoblish@mvl.info) or 388-4513.*



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# BOOK SALE

FICTION & NON FICTION  
JANUARY 25-26, 2014



*McCHESNEY ROOM, CENTRAL LIBRARY*

*SATURDAY 10AM - 5PM*

*SUNDAY 1PM-4PM*

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# NEWS OF THE FRIENDS of Schenectady County Public Library

March/April 2014

Volume XLIX No. 4

## LET US TELL YOU A STORY



When volunteer Geri Mulligan saw the photo that had been tucked away in one of the Whitney Book Corner's books, she knew it was something special. The only notation on it was May, 1940, written in pencil on the back. Geri thought that whoever had placed it in the book would surely want it back, but the question was, how to find the owner? All

of the Whitney's books are donated and there is really no way to discover who the donor is. The book had the name P. Lawson Fleming inscribed inside so Geri put a quick call into Directory Assistance, which provided a number for a Fleming. Not the right family.

Another volunteer, Chris Witkowski, decided to do some further internet searching. She tried looking up a P. Fleming, no hits, but a search for P. Lawson turned up an obituary dated March, 2013 for a Patricia Lawson who had a married daughter with the last name Madden and two sons, surname Fleming. It made sense that the owner of the book was probably the same person in the obituary, especially since the timing worked - most likely the family was cleaning out her home and donated her books to the library. Chris then tried finding contact information for the children named in the obit with little success. A short time later, in talking about her quest to a friend, Chris showed her the photo and obituary. Her friend knew the woman and was able to provide Chris the daughter's name, Patra Madden, and her phone number; when Chris called the daughter and described the photo, it was clear the mystery had been solved. The photo was of her mom, Patricia, age 4, her grandmother, and what appears to be

a cherished doll.

Patra said her mother had had polio as a child and had serious mobility issues and that reading was a great solace to her. She then went on to describe her mom: "She had a very interesting life and overcame substantial obstacles along the way, from not being able to finish school as a child because of polio, to raising 3 children, to getting a GED when her children were nearly grown. We were so proud of her - she lived with chronic pain on a daily basis and was still able to work full time, find time to read to preschool kids and still have time to enjoy what she loved best - books."



Patricia Lawson's photo has found its way back to her family and her story has found its way into our hearts. It proves that many treasures, beyond words, can be found in books!

### ***In this issue...***

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**ANNUAL DINNER** page 7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I recently had a conversation with Chuck Steiner, Executive Director of the Schenectady Chamber of Commerce, and we were discussing the power of volunteerism. I described our book sale this past January. Over 125 volunteers made it happen, raising over \$4,000 for the library. If you compute the total number of hours worked

times a minimum wage, there is no way our sales would be worth having. It's the folks who GIVE of their time and energy because they care enough about the library to do so. Chuck was even more amazed when I told him that over 300 volunteers work our larger sales in the spring and fall. Can't forget the over 100 volunteers who clerk at the bookstore along with the book sorters and book pushers who support them. Because it's impossible to thank each one of the volunteers personally in this article, I want them to know that all their efforts are appreciated. The Friends can't do without you, and the library can't do without you, either. I can recognize the group who did organize the sales: Bob Symons, Rich and Susie Leon, Fred and Robin Eddy along Leah Leonard and her group of workers.

Besides the funds raised by your membership, which are used for the purchase of books and media and to provide programming at the library, there are other ways Friends help the library. The small service kitchen in the McChesney Room is as old as the library itself (46 years). It is in need of a total makeover. The Friends Board recently approved funding for that renovation. Programs sponsored by the Friends use the facility weekly to provide refreshments for participants or sustenance for volunteers during sales events.

The annual report of the Friends of SCPL will be available at the Annual Dinner on April 15, and a limited number will be at the Whitney Book Corner. Pick one up to find out the specifics of what the Friends do. Don't forget to sign up for the dinner. Seating is limited and you don't want to miss out. ....John Karl

Friends of the Library Board  
John Karl, President  
Fred Eddy, 1st Vice President  
Ellie Rowland, 2nd Vice President  
Nancy Virkler, Treasurer  
Mary Beth Barbagelata, Secretary  
Bill Leitch, Past President

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Patti Rotunda  
Gene Rowland  
Virginia Thompson  
Tricia Margas  
Bill Ward  
Christine Witkowski  
Gloria Zampini

Editor - Christine Witkowski  
[friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com)  
[www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org)  
[Find Us on Facebook](#)

### BEAT THE SNOW CONTINUES

The Winter Concert series is held on Sundays at 2:30 in the McChesney Room.

March	2	SLOC
	9	Hilltown Ramblers Bluegrass
	16	Troy Children's Chorus
	23	Etude Club
	30	Rose Hargrave, Soprano and Michael Clement, Piano

### COME TO THE 13th ANNUAL POETRY GALA

Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 2:00 PM in the McChesney Room, Central Library. Come hear your friends, neighbors, and colleagues read their favorite poems. If you are interested in reading or reciting a poem, please contact Deborah Noyes at [dnoyes@mvls.info](mailto:dnoyes@mvls.info).

# NOON PROGRAMS

## SCIENCE SERIES

Walter Grattidge, Coordinator

March 3

**How a Control Engineer Regulates a Process, or System, with Some Modern Examples** - Timothy L. Johnson, PhD, GE Global Research (ret)

March 10

**Origin of the Cosmos: Old Questions, New Insights**- Kirk Wegter-McNelly, Wold Visting Professor, Union College

March 17

**The Science of Cities** - George Wise, PhD, General Electric R&D (ret)

March 24

**The Digital Revolution: How Computers and Digital Communications Have Changed the World** - Fred Eddy, General Electric R&D (ret)

## SPRING SPECIAL

Gioia Ottaviano

March 31

**Voices of Today** - Join members of a memoir-writing workshop from Howe Library in Albany for a reading of their work. Listen to a group of men and women who have something funny, poignant and wise to say about their lives. Paul Lamar, College of Saint Rose English instructor, facilitator.

April 7

**Voices of Long Ago**-Bertrand Fay, well known teacher, lecturer and performer presents a program entitled Meeting J: An encounter with one of Western Culture's most imaginative literary voices whose work appears as a narrative strand in the Pentateuch.

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

April 14

**J.D. Salinger by Shane Salerno and David Shields**, reviewed by Rich Holt, retired Niskayuna High School English teacher. A compilation of over 200 interviews with people who knew Salinger provide the reader some insight into one of America's most elusive authors.

April 21

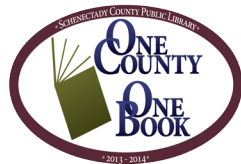
**The Valley of Amazement by Amy Tan**, reviewed by Helen Steiner, retired elementary school teacher, past BSI reviewer. "A sweeping, evocative epic of two women's intertwined fates and their search for identity, "

April 28

Check SCPL Events Calendar for listing.

*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.*

# MEET THE AUTHOR



On Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. at Schenectady County Community College, 78 Washington Ave., Kristin Kimball, author of "The Dirty Life: A Memoir of Farming, Food, and Love" will speak in the Taylor Auditorium. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Registration is required and seating is limited. Pick up an invitation no later than Wednesday, March 19 at one

of the following locations: Central Library and all branches, The Whitney Book Corner, or The Open Door Bookstore. Suggested donation is \$25 to support the Board of Trustees' literacy initiative, but is not required to attend this special One County, One Book event. Everyone is welcome but a reservation is needed. A book sale and signing, conducted by The Open Door Bookstore, will follow the program. Reservations must be mailed to the library. See pages 6 and 8 for additional OCOB events.

# KEEPING UP WITH THE FRIENDS

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

### SOMETHING NEW!

The first Thursday of each month from 4-7 pm, we are selling all books at half price.

### VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTERS!

Did you ever wonder how the better, used books get from the main library to the Whitney? Volunteers Barbara & Roger

Grasier, along with Ron King [substitute] push the book cart on Monday, and Keith Rolfe, our newest volunteer, transports books on Wednesdays. Sometimes they make 3 or 4 trips, braving the cold weather and treacherous sidewalks. Let's give three cheers to these great volunteers!

### VOLUNTEER BOOK SHELVERS

During the week you will see Jane Hendricks [Mondays] and Anne Marie McLaughlin [Wednesdays] shelving books with their new red aprons.

We continue to see solid book sales. Thanks again to all our volunteers! ....Gail Karl

## BOOK SALES

Well, our Book Sale Committee learned the answer to our question, what happens when nonfiction and fiction meet in the McChesney Room for a sale on a cold winter weekend? Success! 10,000 books were offered, and over 4,000 were sold at \$1.00 each. Compared to the hallway wind tunnel shop of the past, the McChesney Room provided a leisurely, warm, and comfortable shopping experience. The shoppers, as well as volunteers, appreciated the change of venue.

Scheduling volunteers is one of the most difficult assignments when planning a book sale. Robin Eddy does an amazing job and always tries to accommodate volunteers' requests, if possible.

The volunteers for sales are hard-working, cooperative, and so helpful

to the patrons.

This combined sale was a brand new venture for the Friends and the volunteers exceeded any reasonable expectations.

Karen Bradley, our Library director, referred to our volunteer force as an impressive well-oiled machine. We also need to thank the weekly volunteers in the stacks, who sort and organize books so they are ready for the sales and the Whitney Book Corner.

Check out the bulletin boards in all branches of the library system for upcoming Friends' events. Dates to remember: Spring Book Sale May 3,4, Fall Book Sale September 27,28

... Rich, Susie, Bob, Fred and Robin

### UPCOMING SALES WHITNEY BOOK CORNER



MARCH 1-16  
PAPERBACKS  
APRIL 5-20  
COOKBOOKS  
1ST THURSDAYS 4-7 pm  
HALF PRICE



The On Line Books team is looking for volunteers to lift boxes of books on Saturday mornings and to do computer entry of books for sale. Our new coordinator, Shawn Marie Schultz would like to have a good group of trained volunteers willing to step in at a moments notice when someone is ill or leaves. Interested? Contact Shawn at 887-5975 or dschultz7@nycap.rr.com.



# KEEPING UP WITH THE FRIENDS

## HOW THIN IS TOO THIN?

There is a term that describes what has been happening to our library in recent years: corporate anorexia. This is the situation when an organization keeps reducing its employees or its means of production to save money to the eventual point when it no longer exists. Large library budget cuts (percentage wise) during the past year have made operations difficult if not precarious. Over the past 7 or 8 years, at least six professional librarians have either resigned or retired from the Schenectady Library. They have not been replaced. A number of clerks and aides have left, also not replaced. From 2008-2012, the library staff (full-time equivalents) went from 69.24 to 57.84

at the time during which demand for services and materials was increasing. By comparison: Bethlehem 46.2 for one building; Clifton Park 47.5, again one building. Schenectady maintains services at 9 locations.

Where is the point where saving money becomes destructive? Our county leaders can point with pride to the fact that Schenectady has the least costly library system in the area. By comparison again: Bethlehem Library's per capita cost is \$140; Albany Public is \$74; Clifton Park-Halfmoon is \$74; Guilderland is \$117 and Saratoga is \$106. For this same period (reported for 2011) Schenectady's cost was

\$37. Estimated cost per capita in 2014 is under \$30. Looking at the current 2014 budget: Efficiency? But at what cost?

Budget preparation time is coming up. The library director should be planning a budget that reflects the real needs of the library, not the budget cutting needs of the county manager. Urge the county legislators, (contact information can be found on Friends website) who have final say over the budget, to examine carefully the impact that these draconian budgets can have on our fine system.

...John Karl

## DONATIONS

The Friends are grateful to the following:

Alice Reed, and Florence and Edwin Bigelow - In Memory of Jean Rettie  
The Elfun Society and Dental Office of Nott St. - In Memory of Lena Orsino  
Junice Wusterbarth - for the Woodlawn Branch  
John & Susan Hubbard Foundation

## SPRING CONCERT

The Music Committee of the Friends of SCPL, in cooperation with the School of Music of the Schenectady County Community College, will present a musical recital on Sunday April 27th at 2.30 p.m. in the McChesney Room. The concert will feature the Vocal Chamber Ensemble under the direction of Yipung Wu, the School of Music Jazz Combo, directed by Brian Patneaude, and the School of Music Trumpet Ensemble, directed by Allyson Keyser.

## REELS

A Series of Free Films Shown at Noon in the McChesney Room

March 5 **Now You See Me**  
March 12 **Captain Phillips**  
March 19 **About Time**  
March 26 **Under the Tuscan Sun**

April 2 **Promised Land**  
April 9 **Gravity**  
April 16 **Saving Mr. Banks**  
April 23 **In a World Lake Bell**  
April 30 **Dallas Buyers Club**

## NEW MEMBERS

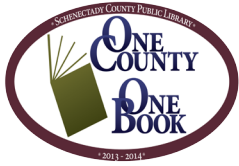
Carl Erikson & Carol Anderson  
Miriam Cajuste  
Roberta Daley  
Donald Hastings  
Jane & Joe Hendrick  
Mindy & Jesse Holland  
Anne M. Mocker  
Donna Nappi

Maia & Jay Newman  
Mike & Suzi O'Brien  
Jeanine Pagnotti  
Sean & Jennifer Regan  
Carol Robitzek  
Allan & Carol Shartrand  
Pete & Dotty Sheehan  
Peggy Stringer

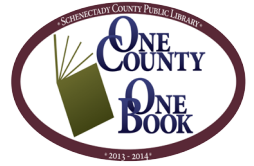
Oscar Sylvan  
Carole White  
Tiffany Williams

*Member recognitions will be published in next newsletter.*

# AROUND THE LIBRARY



## SCPL PRESENTS THE DIRTY LIFE: A MEMOIR OF FARMING, FOOD AND LOVE BY KRISTIN KIMBALL



Tuesday, March 18, April 1, 8, and 22, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Central Library - **The Hero's Journey Writer's Workshop** with facilitator Susannah Risley. The Hero's Journey of leaving the world of the known and venturing into the unknown is the world's ancient myth. Kristin Kimball, author of "The Dirty Life" shares such an experience in her book. Participants in this four-session writing workshop will explore the plot of the Hero's Journey as a way to view and write about their own experiences and the wisdom gained from it. Meeting place TBA. Register\*\*

Wednesday, March 19, 6:30-8 p.m. -The documentary "**Small Farm Rising**"; Mary Anne Mangano will lead a short film discussion afterwards. Special appreciation to Scott Sauer, Executive Vice President, External Affairs and Assistant General Manager at WMHT and the producers of the film for permission to show this.

Saturday, April 5, 11 a.m. Central Library, Slater Program Room. "**Grow your own Salad: Container Gardens for Families**" Marge Rizzo, Master Gardener

from Cornell Cooperative Extension Call 388-4540 to register beginning Saturday, March 22.

Monday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. **Tom Mangano**, a librarian at the Belden Noble Memorial Library in Essex, New York, will lead a book discussion of "The Dirty Life:". Register\*\*

Saturday, April 12 at 2 p.m.- **Ellen Stimson**, author of "Mud Season" . Book sale and signing will take place after the program. Register\*\*

Wednesday, April 16, 6:30-8 p.m.- Panel discussion with Chris Chandler, owner of Mariaville Farms, Christina Davis, Demonstration Coordinator at Healthy Living Market, and Cheryl Nechamen, founding board member of the Schenectady Greenmarket. Register\*\*

*All programs held in the McChesney Room, Central Library, unless otherwise noted.*

*\*\*To register call 388-4511*

## OTHER LIBRARY EVENTS

**Conversations on Giving, Serving, and Leading Facilitated** by Dr. Deidre Hill Butler, Union College Sociology Professor and Director, Africana Studies Program - Wednesdays, April 2 – 30, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. McChesney Room - Why and how do we choose to serve others? What is the nature of the relationship between those who serve and those who are served? Join us for a series of reflective discussions with short readings drawn from world literature, philosophy, and religion. Programs made possible by a grant from the New York State Council for the Humanities. Registration is required by calling 388-4511. **Participants must attend all 5 sessions.**

### **Cabin Fever: Warm Up with a Good Book!**

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:30 a.m.

Whether you are a solitary book lover or are looking for friendly readers to share thoughts with, welcome! Join SCPL librarians Ann Moore and Rob Lang to hear about great book picks for personal or group reading. Learn about the many book groups the library sponsors from Madelyn Thorne of the Tuesday Night Readers and other club members. Enter a raffle to win a "Cozy Up" basket of goodies and fiction and nonfiction book prizes. And -- enjoy light refreshments! Registration is suggested by calling 388-4511.

Friends of Schenectady County Public Library – 48th Annual Dinner Meeting  
Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 5:00 p.m., Van Curler Room  
Schenectady County Community College (SCCC)  
178 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY

Evening's Schedule: 5:00 p.m. – Social Hour (wine, cheese and crackers)  
5:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Musical Interlude featuring SCCC music students  
6:00 p.m. – Dinner

Speaker:  
Michael Della Rocco, III, recently retired Schenectady Fire Chief  
*BEING PREPARED*

## The Menu:

Salad: Raspberry Walnut Salad – red leaf lettuce tossed with candied walnuts and raspberries and raspberry vinaigrette

### Choice of Entrees:

- Broiled filet of salmon, asparagus, crabmeat, served with white wine sauce
- Grilled pork tenderloin, topped with Dijon sauce
- Tortellini with broccoli and pine nuts

Fresh baked (SCCC bakery) rolls and butter

Dessert: Chocolate mousse

Coffee, Tea

The culinary arts students at SCCC prepare each dish, using local ingredients when possible. Both the culinary arts and hotel and restaurant management students provide the dining room service.

ELECTIONS - the nominating committee will present the following persons for Officers and Directors:

Officers: President: John Karl; 1st Vice President: Fred Eddy; 2nd Vice President: Ellie Rowland; Secretary: Mary Beth Barbagelata; Treasurer: Nancy Virkler

Directors: Sandy Marshall, Madelyn Thorne, Patricia Rush, Bob Symons

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

Reservations Must Be Received By Monday, April 7, 2013 (**no exceptions**) Please Use Form Below.

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library    Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation  
Tuesday, April 15, 2014 @ 5:00 p.m.    Van Curler Dining Room

Number attending\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed\_\_\_\_\_@ \$25.00/person

Attendee names (Please print)

Circle one choice of entree

Salmon	Pork	Tortellini
Salmon	Pork	Tortellini

Please make check payable to Friends of SCPL and mail to:

Nancy Virkler, Treasurer c/o FSCPL

99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305



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**TRAVEL WITH US  
TO ESSEX FARM  
MAY 31, 2014**

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ONE COUNTY/ONE BOOK PROGRAM  
THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ARE SPONSORING A TRIP  
TO ESSEX FARM, ESSEX, N.Y.

PRICE \$75 MEMBERS, \$85 NON-MEMBERS  
REGISTRATION MARCH 8-APRIL 24

COMPLETE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORMS  
WILL BE AVAILABLE MARCH 1 AT ALL LIBRARY BRANCHES, WHITNEY BOOK CORNER  
AND ON [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org)

PUT ON YOUR STURDY BOOTS, ROLL UP YOUR PANTS AND  
JOIN AUTHOR KRISTIN KIMBALL FOR A TOUR OF ESSEX FARM  
FEAST ON A DELICIOUS LUNCH MADE FROM FARM FRESH INGREDIENTS  
ENJOY AN INFORMAL WALK OR WORK SESSION AFTER LUNCH





# NEWS OF THE FRIENDS of Schenectady County Public Library

May/June 2014

Volume XLIX No. 5

## FAREWELL TO A WONDERFUL VOLUNTEER



The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library mourn the loss of Leah Leonard, a beloved and dedicated member, who passed away on March 23, 2014 after a brief illness.

Leah served on the Board of Trustees for the library for over a decade and will be fondly

remembered for her dedication to the Friends, where she served as a Board member for nearly five years. As a zealous member and volunteer for more than 25 years, she dedicated thousands of hours sorting books and was a major organizer for the annual book sales. An avid reader with a passion for non-fiction, novels and mysteries, she had an uncanny ability to direct customers to the exact location for a desired book during a sale.

“Leah’s fierce dedication to the Library and our endeavors to help fund library programs prompted her efforts that helped the Friends raise roughly \$1.5 million since 1992,” said John Karl, Friends of the SCPL President.

Leah was also a driving force in the creation of the Whitney Book Corner as a legacy to her beloved sister Patricia Whitney. According to Leah’s family, Pat started a cycle of love and support for the library that Leah carried over by inspiring dozens of family members to join the Friends, reaching down to four generations of volunteers for the book sales.

Her recruiting efforts didn’t stop at her friends and family. She truly believed in the Friends and all they stand for and although she spoke with a soft voice, her determination to spread the word was robust. Her heartfelt belief and genuine demeanor resulted in countless new members.

“I never met a more ardent or dedicated supporter of the Schenectady Library system. I would watch her go up to a total stranger and in her very quiet voice, convince them to join the Friends of the Library. She was amazing,” said Chris Witkowski, a fellow member and volunteer.

That commitment didn’t end with the Friends. She was also a very vocal, albeit soft spoken, advocate for the library when talking with politicians and community leaders. “She was not afraid to let them know that the Library deserved their support,” Karl said. “Her enthusiasm, quiet determination and the example she set for all of us will never be forgotten.”

- Cori Lombardo

### ***In this issue...***

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**TELL US YOUR STORY** page 3

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**AROUND THE LIBRARY** page 6

**REELS** page 7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I write this, there is a promise of spring in the air. We are looking forward to another

successful round of events and the hard work that goes with them. Fortunately, there are enough dedicated Friends to make the work easy. The May book sale is upon us as you read this newsletter and the plans are in place for the fall and winter sales. There is, however, a potential sour note as we await the county's budget plans for the library. As you may recall, there was a major hit for 2014 that forced the trustees to take on the role of fundraisers. The library is the only county agency that has been required to raise funds from outside the county budget. The Friends, thanks to its expertise at fundraising, will continue to provide for all of the programming carried out at all of the branches as well as at Central.

We are awaiting finalized plans for the new Phyllis Bornt Family Literacy Center. The groundbreaking was originally supposed to take place in April, but plans have not progressed as quickly as was hoped. The center is to be built on a vacant lot in the central State Street neighborhood and will serve patrons from the former Hamilton Hill and Duane branches. The new branch will share the lot with a commercial

enterprise, the identity of which has not been revealed.

While visiting my daughter and son-in-law in Maryland last month, my wife, Gail, and I had the pleasure of observing a branch library and a central library in Anne Arundel County. Like Schenectady, their library is funded by taxes to the county. When I asked how the funding was going, I was told that they received a large increase in their budget which will allow all 12 branches and the three main branches to add more hours, especially evenings and weekends, to provide for increased literacy training programs. I came away wishing that our county had the same ambitious budgeting.

By now, the 48th Annual Dinner and Friends meeting is history and we look forward to the Volunteer and Staff picnic. It's always a great time, as we acknowledge the many folks who work so hard to make the library a great asset in our community.

Beginning with the May Friends Board meeting, a committee will be formed to plan for a year long celebration of the Friends 50th anniversary. If you would like to be involved in the planning, check our website in early summer for information about how to sign up.

- John Karl

### Friends of the Library Board

John Karl, President  
Fred Eddy, 1st Vice President  
Ellie Rowland, 2nd Vice President  
Nancy Virkler, Treasurer  
Mary Beth Barbagelata, Secretary  
Bill Leitch, Past President

### Directors

Bob Coppola  
Rich Leon  
Tricia Margas  
Sandy Marshall  
Joan Molloy  
Rita Moore  
Dottie Potochnik  
Patti Rotunda  
Gene Rowland  
Patricia Rush  
Bob Symons  
Virginia Thompson  
Madelyn Thorne  
Bill Ward

Editor - Christine Witkowski  
[friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com)  
[friendsofscpl.org](http://friendsofscpl.org)  
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### COMING UP AT THE WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

ON SALE  
MAY-TRAVEL  
JUNE-FICTION  
JULY-PAPERBACKS  
AUGUST-RECORDS

MERCHANT MASH UP-  
MAY 15  
STREET FAIR - JUNE 15

1ST THURSDAYS 4-7 pm  
HALF PRICE

# NOON PROGRAMS

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Susie Leon and George Wise, Coordinators

May 5

**Moral Man and Immoral Society: A Study in Ethics and Politics by Reinhold Niebuhr**, reviewed by Jim Miller, retired clergyman. In this book Niebuhr, a theologian, served “as a philosopher of public life, bringing insights of biblical truth to bear on the great issues of politics and social ethics.”

According to author Haddon, “Curious Incident is not a book about Asperger’s....if anything it’s a novel about difference, about being an outsider, about seeing the world in a surprising and revealing way.”

May 19

**Biographies of Emily Dickinson-** Linda Witkowski, retired English teacher, past coordinator of Books Sandwiched In and the annual Poetry Gala, will discuss how one can learn more about this great poet.

May 12

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in Night-Time by Mark Haddon**, reviewed by Janine Kruiswijk, Executive Director of the Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region and the parent of a young adult with autism. The novel is narrated in the first-person perspective by Christopher John Francis Boone, a 15-year-old boy who describes himself as “a mathematician with some behavioral difficulties” living in Swindon, Wiltshire.

*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.*

## TELL US YOUR STORY....



From Keith Cash: Growing up in Rotterdam, my bicycle rides to your library made my heart sing. I read above and below my reading level with no one looking over my shoulder. I asked too many questions to patient, brilliant humans with access to the world. The Schenectady County Library and the kind humans within taught me to be curious. It and they strengthened my wonder-muscles and stretched my considerable imagination.

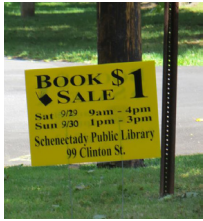
Your library prepared me for the fantastic roller coaster that is the Internet. Siri is my library information desk... on steroids. When I was little, I carefully thought out my questions before presenting them to the smiling staff. This simple exercise taught me that the fastest way to the best answer is to ask the RIGHT question. POW! Today, because of those lessons, the Internet is a hyper-powerful, thought-controlled tool... but without the smile.

When I visit the library now I'm so impressed with how beautifully technology and the Internet have been embraced and encouraged. I do, however, miss the excitement of shuffling through the card catalog.

Let us know what your library means to you. Send your stories to Rita Moore at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com). Additional stories and videos can be found at [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org).

# KEEPING UP WITH THE FRIENDS

## BOOK SALES



Now that spring has arrived, all book lovers should be looking forward to our semi-annual Book Sale on May 3 and 4. Saturday's shopping hours are 9-4 and Sunday 1-3 is our famous \$2 Bag Sale. A book sale of this magnitude is an awesome responsibility and it is extremely necessary to have a

great number of volunteers. Robin Eddy has been contacting those who volunteered in the past, but would welcome any new people that would like to join us. Email her at [rjeddy321@gmail.com](mailto:rjeddy321@gmail.com) to volunteer.

We also have other needs before each book sale occurs and we are looking for help. Beginning with the September sale we are looking for volunteers to coordinate the

distribution of sale flyers and the yellow yard sale signs, our main advertising tool. Interested? Email Susie Leon at [sleonread@gmail.com](mailto:sleonread@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for all your support of the book sale and our committee's efforts.

-Susie and Rich Leon, Bob Symons, Robin and Fred Eddy

## WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Spring has sprung! The Whitney Book Store is getting a new facelift. Thanks to Metroplex, the exterior of the building will be power washed and painted.

Our patrons have been commenting favorably about our store. Shari said, "Today was my lucky day, buying 9 books. Love it." Tina said, "Very nice selection and nice people." Ceara said, "I love your shop and books and your friendly spirit."

We continue to reach out to the community. Brown School received children's books for a promotional fundraiser. Union College received a gift card for their Empty Bowls project. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children [WIC] had a "Read Across

America" event to which we contributed children's books. The Rose Garden Restoration Committee collected garden books for their fundraising auction.

Gift Cards are always available. They make great gifts for graduates.

We have two events coming up for visitors to Historic Lower Union Street: "Merchant Mash Up" will be Thursday, May 15, 5-8 pm., where we are paired with a local restaurant and "Summer Street Fair" is Sunday, June 15, 11-4 pm. This event will coincide with the weekly Schenectady Green Market and Father's Day. We are making plans to participate. - Gail Karl

## VOLUNTEER PICNIC JUNE 6



5 p.m.-Dusk  
Niskayuna River Road  
Park  
Sign up sheets -Whitney  
Book Corner and all library  
branches.  
New\*\*Barbecue Chicken  
from Giffy's Catering  
Volunteers eat for free  
Non-volunteer guests -  
\$10.00

LITERARY DESTINATIONS  
TRAVEL WITH THE FRIENDS  
TO ESSEX FARM - MAY 31  
DETAILS AND REGISTRATION  
[www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org)





# KEEPING UP WITH THE FRIENDS

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Friends welcome the following new members:

Josephine Massaro, Bill & Edna Gosier, Phil & Marcia Davis, Patricia Voorhis, Catherine Brodie, Dick & Susan Brainard, Gloria F. Conde, Anne & David Gray

Frank & Dorothea Potochnik, Bruce Northrup, Gloria Zampini, John & Gail Karl, Rita Moore, Alice Reed, Friends of Farley, Robert Coppola, Timothy & Laurie Jacobson, Earl & Jean Molloy, Bill & Mary Liz Leitch, Werner Feibes, Christine & Bernard Witkowski and Cheryl Cufari.

## DONATIONS

We have received a donation from Richard and Margery Elwell for the McChesney Room Kitchen Renovation project.

We have received gifts from the following in memory of Leah Leonard: Lyn Tatrot, Fred & Virginia Thompson, Div. of Military & Naval Affairs, William Barr, Raymond and Leslie Senecal, Susan & Michael Farber, Joan Sant, Michael Smith, MAC Golf League, Philip & Kathy Oliva, Giannina McCadden, John Molloy, Edward & Marilyn Nolan, Schenectady Floor Covering, Joseph & Annette Anderson, Junice Wusterbarth, Josephine Shelley, Ellie & Gene Rowland,

## HONORING WBC VOLUNTEERS

Each year at the Annual Dinner we honor those volunteers who have achieved certain milestones in the number of hours they have worked at the store. This year we honor the following: Ten Years of Service - Naomi Bristol, Tricia Margas, Bobbi Richardson, Max Richardson and Alice Tepper; 1,000 hours or more - Jean Johnson; 500-750 hours - Barbara Grasier, John Karl and Janet Patterson; 400-500 Hours - Catherine Brodie, Lynn Lucas, Marian Clowe, Therese Giana, Emily O'Grady, John O'Grady and Marilyn Soffer; 300-400 Hours - Maragret Bauer, Phyllis Gaumond, Ginny Golden, Marilyn Leach, Don Leach, Maureen Versaci, Hazel Wilson and Lorene Zabin. Congratulations for a job well done!

## HATS OFF TO OUR RETIREES

Over the past few years a number of our key volunteers have "retired" from their commitments but, for the most part, continue to work just as hard for the Friends.

*George Gould* was one of the original managers of the Whitney Book Corner and, more recently, founder of the Friends On-Line-Book Sales program. George continues to volunteer at the book store and, though he has turned over management of On-Line sales to Shawn Schultz, he continues to work the computer.

*Joyce Parry* was the other original co-manager of WBC and, when she "retired" from that, she continued on as banker for the store until 2012.

*Bill & Mary Jane Beaulieu* managed all of the Friends mailing for many years including the record keeping that went along with it.

*Junice Wusterbarth* served as treasurer for the Friends board for many years. She kept those books in tip top order, making it easier for our Nancy Virkler to take over.

*Fred Thompson* lugged crate after crate of LP records for the book sales. No one knew records better than Fred.

*Ellie Rowland and Ginny Thompson* organized the book sales for many years and continue to serve on the Friends board.

*Rich Holt and Renie Federighi* managed the book store for several years and continue to volunteer

there.

*Linda Witkowski* coordinated the Books-Sandwiched-In noon programs and also the poetry gala each spring. It has taken more than 7 of us to do the work she did alone.

*Lisa Holt* started our terrific Literary Destinations trips in 2008, and since then the Friends have traveled far and wide. The trips have been a great source of new membership. Kathryn Quick has volunteered to carry on this program.

All of these folks and the many other volunteers who work tirelessly to provide for our library's needs deserve much thanks for their service.

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## SUPPORTING - \$35

Roberta & Stephen Berk  
Johanna Bull\*  
Anne Christman  
Gedia Demaria\*  
Virginia Rae Forster  
Gail Girvin  
Anne & David Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris R.  
Gregory, Jr.  
Marion Grimes  
Jane & Joe Hendrick  
Mindy & Jesse Holland  
Donna & Ronald Lagasse  
Virginia Laumeister  
Patricia Mion  
Paul E. Mitchell\*  
Thomas & Michelle Moran  
Virginia & Jeff Newton  
Robert & Carol Reid  
Joan Terwilliger

## PATRON - \$50-199

Sheldon & Rochelle Abelson\*  
Joanne & Hendrick Arnold  
Doris Clark\*  
Nancy Curran\*  
Phil & Marcia Davis  
Toni & Brian Doherty  
Robert Donovan  
Fred & Robin Eddy  
Richard Elwell\*  
Blanche Fischer  
Russell Fricke, M.D.  
Paige Gauvreau  
Donald Gavin\*  
Dr. Walter Grattidge\*  
Joan Ham\*  
Donald & Shirley Hirshorn  
Larry & Judy Hoff  
Robert & Catherine Hoffman  
Cathy & Jack Hooley  
John & Janet Hutchison  
Rohinton & Priti Irani\*  
Patricia Jones  
Brian & Roberta Kelly  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew  
Kulmatiski

Robert Lang  
Susan Leach\*  
Ling Ling Lee  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert M.  
Liebers  
David Lilienfeld  
Helen MacDonald  
John & Sandra Marshall\*  
Christine Matthews  
Annemarie McLaughlin  
Nancy W & Michael A.  
Ottati  
Jeffrey Peil  
William & Meme Pittman\*  
Roy & Nancy Primus\*  
Francis & Mary S. Reed\*  
Sean & Jennifer Regan  
Edwin & Jean Reilly  
Thomas Robbins  
Carol Robitzek  
Charlene Roman  
Gene & Eleanor Rowland\*  
Jennifer & Lawrence  
Schmidt  
Dr. & Mrs. Alvin D.  
Schwartz  
Gillian V. Scott

Austin & Marti Spang\*  
Jane B. Stewart\*  
Peggy Stringer  
Dr. & Mrs. Clifford M. Tepper  
Shirley Thomas\*  
Joan & Robert Townsend  
Ted & Raquel Vinick  
Ernest & Barbara Walton  
Mary Ann Warner  
Diana & Peter F. Weinberg  
Kathy S. Whitaker  
Mary E. White  
Laura Wiedemann  
Herman & Holly Wiegman\*  
Ms. Barbara Zabiegala\*

## BENEFACTOR \$200 +

Debra & Charles  
McCambridge  
Brock & Maryann Osborn\*  
Samuel & Carol Wait  
Sally & Simon Weinstein

\*Eligible for GE Match

# AROUND THE LIBRARY

## Genealogy Programs May 17

9:15 am **Preserving Family Photographs and Documents** - Melissa Tacke, Librarian/Archivist at the Schenectady County Historical Society. This informational session will explore the factors that speed deterioration of historic materials and provide guidance on how to store, display, label, and handle family photographs and documents to ensure their longevity for generations to come.

10:15 am **Documenting Your Ancestry** - Bette Bradway, Co-Historian of the N.Y. Mayflower Society. For family historians, this is an overview of published and unpublished genealogical resources including vital records, census records, family bibles, cemetery records, gravestones, probate, land and military records.

## Meet the Authors

May 8 6:30 pm - **Meet Anne Blankman**, Niskayuna High School graduate and author of *Prisoner of Night and Fog*.

June 7 10 am - **Meet Robert C. Connor**, author of *General Gordon Granger: The Savior of Chickamauga and the Man Behind Juneteenth*.

All programs held in the McChesney Room; registration suggested in person or by phoning 388-4511.

## Computer Classes

Ranging from instruction for beginners to more advanced classes, learn how to navigate the digital world! Check events calendar at [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org) for dates and times.

# REELS

A Free Series of Films Shown at Noon in the McChesney Room



## MAY

May 7 **The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler**  
Anna Paquin, Goran Visnjic, Marcia Gay Harden

May 14 **The Butler** Forest Whitaker

May 21 **Still Mine** James Cromwell, Genevieve  
Bujold, Campbell Scott

May 28 **The Monuments Men** George Clooney, Matt  
Damon, Bill Murray



## JUNE

June 4 **Blue Jasmine** Cate Blanchett, Alec Baldwin,  
Directed by Woody Allen

June 11 **12 Years a Slave** Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael K.  
Williams, Michael Fassbender, Lupita Nyong'o.

June 18 **The Invisible Woman** Ralph Fiennes,  
Felicity Jones

June 25 **Wadjda**  
Reem Abdullah, Waad Mohammed, Sultan Al Assaf

Detailed movie information can be found on the Events calendar at [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)



The On- Line Books team is looking for  
someone to work Fridays posting and  
shipping books. Knowledge of digital  
photography a plus. Interested? Contact  
Shawn at 887-5975 or  
[dschultz7@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dschultz7@nycap.rr.com).

Those wonderful folks who bring us the  
Beat the Winter concerts are looking for  
people to join the Music Committee to  
ensure the continuance of these great mu-  
sical offerings. Contact Walter Grattidge  
at [wgrattidge@aol.com](mailto:wgrattidge@aol.com) or 882-9156.

A committee will be formed to begin  
planning for the Friends of the Library's  
50th Anniversary; details will be posted  
on the website in early summer. We'd love  
to have you join us!

## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!



*Hazel Wilson helps patrons  
navigate the new self-check  
out machine at Central*



*Janie Hayner works with  
the On-Line Books team.*

.....  
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• [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org).  
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*The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library*

**semi-annual**  
**BOOK SALE**

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**  
**9 am - 4 pm**

**\$2.00 Bag Sale**

**Sunday, May 4, 2014**  
**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Most Books \$1.00**

**Children's Books 25¢ & 50¢**

**Romance (trade & hardcover) 2/\$1.00**

**CDs & Audiobooks**

**Paperbacks 3/\$1.00**

For year-round deals on quality used books, visit the Whitney Book Corner on the corner of Clinton & Union Streets. [www.whitneybookcorner.org](http://www.whitneybookcorner.org)  
**May 3 - May 18: Travel Books \$1.00**

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