

News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

September/October 2019 | Volume LV No. 1



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Fall Book Sale Coming Soon!

The Friends had another successful book sale last May, thanks to the hard work of volunteers and the generous support of the community. We made just over \$15,000 which will go towards the many programs offered by the Library.

The Fall Book Sale is quickly approaching. The sale will run from Saturday, September 28th, from 9 AM to 4 PM, with a bag sale on Sunday, September 29th, from

noon to 3 PM. Don't forget to bring reusable bags on both days. We're trying to phase out plastic bags since they'll be banned in New York starting next March.

Join in the fun of volunteering at the book sale. Most shifts are only 2 hours and will give you a chance to scope out the free book you earn as a volunteer. We need cashiers to collect money and bag books, organizers to fill in boxes on the tables as people buy books, and a

cleanup crew to move any unsold books to the recycling truck. We also need people with strong backs to move books from the second floor to the McChesney Room on Friday, September 27th, starting at 8 AM and for the final setup on Saturday morning at 7 AM.

If you'd like to help, please contact Cheryl Nechamen at cnechamen@msn.com or 518-346-4820.





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Contact Us

friendslibrary12305@gmail.com

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President's Message



Please allow me to offer my congratulations and gratitude to our own Christine Witkowski who graciously stepped up to represent

the Schenectady Library System as a new member of the Mohawk Valley Library System. Chris already shares her time and talents through a variety of initiatives, including spearheading the rebirth of One County, One Book, her work as our Social Platform expert, Whitney volunteer and so many other ways. We all appreciate her willingness to take her involvement to the next level.

It has been a long, hot summer and we've enjoyed a bit of a break from meetings, but that doesn't mean your Friends of SCPL haven't been hard at work. We continue to raise critical revenue to support the many diverse programs offered throughout our library system. I must be honest with you—until

I started reviewing the financials with our treasured Treasurer, Charlie Richardson, I don't think I truly grasped the extent of our outreach. Everyone and anyone who volunteers with the Friends of SCPL, in any capacity, should know your impact is changing our community for the better. More people have access to computers, writing courses, DVDs, museums, creative outlets, stress relievers, — far too many for me to mention here.

Of course, by now we all know our own friend—and Past President of the Friends of SCPL, Hon. Karen B. Johnson, for whom our Main Library is now named, passed away after a lengthy illness. Her influence on a generation of Schenectady's leaders will be felt for years to come. She dearly loved our library system and advocated for its health every chance she could. She taught us by leading us. Karen, we miss you.

And now, Fall is about to roll in. We're ready.

- Madelyn Thorne



600 UNION STREET
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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MON- SAT: 10AM-4PM

(THURS TIL 6PM)

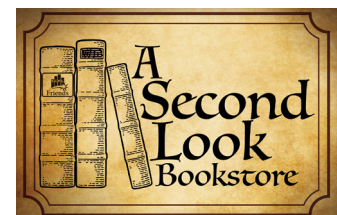
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TUESDAY-SATURDAY

11 AM-6 PM

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September & October Special Events

REPAIR CAFE

September 14
10 am - 2 pm

McChesney Room
Central Library

Skilled volunteers will help you repair your beloved but broken belongings for free. Volunteers can help with mechanical, electrical, and electronic items, as well as jewelry, dolls, and wooden objects. There is also a large fabric station for repairs and alterations to clothing and other fabric items.



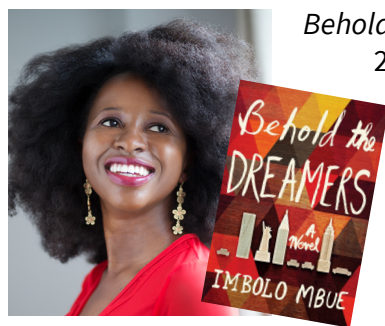
IMBOLO MBUE AUTHOR EVENT

September 19
6:30 pm

Carl B. Taylor Auditorium
SUNY Schenectady County
Community College

Doors open at 6 pm
Seating is first come,
first served

Imbolo Mbue is the author of the New York Times bestseller, winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and an Oprah's Book Club Selection, *Behold the Dreamers*. The story of immigrants from Cameroon working to create a life for themselves in America, the novel is informed by Mbue's own experience of being an African immigrant as well as the experiences of immigrants from around the world who shared their stories with her.



Behold the Dreamers was the runner up in SCPL's 2019 One County, One Book program.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through the support of the Friends of SCPL and SUNY Schenectady County Community College.

There will be a book signing at the conclusion of the program.

FALL BOOK SALE

September 28
9 am - 4 pm

September 29
12 pm - 3 pm

Central Library



Get unbeatable deals on great books while supporting your library. On Saturday all books will be for sale for \$1 or less. On Sunday, each bag of books will cost just \$2.

DAY TRIP TO SHELBURNE MUSEUM

October 8

\$55 - Friends Members
\$65 - Non-Members

Join us on a trip to Vermont to visit the fabulous Shelburne Museum. The museum is an eclectic mix of buildings and exhibits ranging from Monets to quilts, duck decoys to a world-famous circus exhibit, a full-size side-wheeler steamboat to an antique carousel, and so much more.

Complete details and registration forms can be found at www.friendsofscpl.org/literary-trips

HARRY POTTER DAY

October 26
10 am - 4 pm

Central Library

The event is open to all ages, no pre-registration required. Class information and other related events will be posted on the Harry Potter Day listing on the Schenectady Public Library Facebook page.



Books Sandwiched In

A SERIES OF FREE TALKS SHOWN AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM

September 9: *Leonardo da Vinci*, by Walter Isaacson, presented by Rob Dickson.

Leonardo, one of the most gifted and inventive men in history, had the ability to make connections across disciplines. He felt that experience and curiosity were what counted. Isaacson's premise is that Leonardo's technological and scientific interests nourished his art and anticipated the discoveries of Galileo and Newton. The book is intelligently organized, simply written, nicely illustrated, and ends with a suggested mind-improvement program for us that is based on Leonardo's creative life.

September 16: *TR's Last War: Theodore Roosevelt, the Great War, and a Journey of Triumph and Tragedy*, reviewed by the author, acclaimed historian David Pietrusza.

Pietrusza chronicles Roosevelt's final years, as the former president relentlessly pushed for America to prepare militarily for World War I, under the presidency of an indecisive Woodrow Wilson. The author captures both the high points and tragic moments of an American icon's twilight years.

September 23: *John Marshall: The Man Who Made the Supreme Court*, by Richard Brookhiser, reviewed by Schenectady family court Judge Mark Blanchfield.

This book tells the fascinating story of this pivotal chief justice who transformed the Supreme Court, through cases such as *Marbury v. Madison*, into the powerful judicial body that it is today.

September 30: *Washington's Golden Age: Hope Ridings Miller, the Society Beat, and the Rise of Women Journalists*, reviewed by the author, Joseph Dalton, arts reporter and classical music critic for the Times-Union.

Miller, Dalton's cousin, was a trailblazer for women in her profession. Starting in 1934 as the Washington Post society editor, she had a long career reporting on the interconnected world of society and politics, mingling with the most well-known figures of the day.

October 7: *Making Music American: 1917 and the Transformation of Culture*, by E. Douglas Bomberger, and reviewed by Susan Lohnas, Schenectady musician.

1917 saw the release of the first jazz recordings and the creation of landmark classical music recordings. At the same time, some major concert musicians were forced from the stage, and the issues of race and nationality in America were operating within the political context that led the United States to enter World War I. The interwoven narratives of musical lives encourage us to understand how our musical history has been shaped.

October 21: *The Revolutionary Genius of Plants: A New Understanding of Plant Intelligence and Behavior*, by Stefano Mancuso, reviewed by Anita Sanchez, author of *In Praise of Poison Ivy*, and returning environmental educator.

Who thought that plant physiology could be so much fun! Neurobiologist Mancuso considers the fundamental differences between plants and animals and challenges our assumptions about which is the higher form of life. Do plants have intelligence? Do they have memory? They make up eighty percent of the weight of all living things on earth, and are responsible for not only the air that lets us survive, but for many of our comforts: our medicine, our food supply, and our fossil fuels. This is an enlightening and optimistic book.



Note: 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.

REELS

A SERIES OF FREE FILMS SHOWN AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM



September 4: Shazam!

Everybody has a superhero inside of them; it just takes a bit of magic to bring it out. In Billy Batson's case, by shouting out one word, this streetwise fourteen-year-old foster kid can turn into an adult superhero, courtesy of an ancient wizard. Still a kid at heart, inside a ripped, godlike body, he revels in this adult version of himself by doing what any teen would do with superpowers: have fun with them! But he'll need to master these powers quickly to fight the deadly forces of evil.

September 11: The Aftermath

In 1946 postwar Germany, Rachael Morgan arrives at the ruins of Hamburg in the bitter winter, to be reunited with her husband Lewis, a British colonel charged with rebuilding the shattered city. But as they set off for their new home, Rachael is stunned to discover that Lewis has made an unexpected decision: they will be sharing the grand house with its previous owners, a German widower and his troubled daughter. In this charged atmosphere, enmity and grief give way to passion and betrayal.

September 18: Long Shot

When Fred Flarsky reunites with his first crush, Charlotte Field, one of the most influential women in the world, he charms her. As she prepares to make a run for the presidency, Charlotte hires Fred as her speechwriter and sparks fly.

September 25: The White Crow

This film captures the raw physicality and brilliance of Rudolf Nureyev, whose escape to the West stunned the world at the height of the Cold War. With his magnetic presence, Nureyev emerges as ballet's most famous star, a wild and beautiful dancer limited by the world of 1950s Leningrad. His flirtation with Western artists and ideas leads him into a high-stakes game of cat and mouse with the KGB.

October 2: A Dog's Journey

In the sequel to the heartwarming global hit *A Dog's Purpose*, beloved dog Bailey finds his new destiny and forms an unbreakable bond that will lead him, and the people he loves, to places they never imagined.

October 9: All is True

The year is 1613, and Shakespeare is acknowledged as the greatest writer of the age. But disaster strikes when his renowned Globe Theatre burns to the ground. Devastated, Shakespeare returns to Stratford, where he must face a troubled past and a neglected family.

October 16: The Secret Life of Pets 2

Terrier Max is coping with some major life changes. His owner is now married and has a toddler, Liam. Max is so worried about protecting the boy that he develops a nervous tic. On a family trip to a farm, Max gets some guidance from veteran farm dog, Rooster, who pushes Max to ditch his neuroses and give Liam a little more freedom. Can Max and the gang find the courage to face their biggest fears?

October 23: High Life

Monte and his baby daughter are the last survivors of a damned and dangerous mission to deep space. The crew, death row inmates led by a doctor with sinister motives, has vanished. As the mystery of what happened aboard the ship is unraveled, father and daughter must rely on each other to survive as they hurtle toward the oblivion of a black hole.

October 30: MA

Sue Ann, a loner in her quiet Ohio town, is asked by Maggie, a teenager, to buy some booze for her and her friends. Sue Ann sees the chance to make some unsuspecting friends. She offers the kids the chance to avoid drinking and driving by hanging out in her home. Her hospitality turns to obsession, and what began as a teenage dream turns into a terrorizing nightmare.

Membership News

RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

New Members

- Doreen Bozenski
- Marsha Brower
- Sheila Canabush
- Emily Childers
- Fredericka Curran
- Ralph Desorbo
- Anthony Deters
- Reeya Dhinesh
- Molly Domery
- Aneesha Fort
- Margaret Foster
- Celeste Furchak
- Kevin (Bear) Gillen
- Gareth Griffiths
- M. Eileen Mackey & Matt Rector
- Dorothy Mancini
- Jerrod Marl
- Lauren Matarazzo
- Tammy Molina
- Nancy Ortnier
- Scott Rue
- Phil Sheehan
- Kathryn Siciliano
- Terri & David Smith
- Betty Suarez
- Duane & Mary Van Patten
- Cheryl Volpe
- Lee Kenneth-Walsh
- Monica Welshhans

Supporting - \$35-49

- Winifred Balz*
- James & Judith Burns*
- Diane DiMeo
- Eileen & Lyle Eldred
- Bill & Donna Fairlee
- Renie Federighi
- Blanche Fischer
- Joe & Ann Gotwals
- Gerald & Beatrice Hahn
- Tom & Josie Hefferon
- Diane Leone & Andrew Wexler
- Anne McCoy
- Carl & Elizabeth Pieper*
- Ron & Gerri Pinkerton

- Sonia Rubenstein
- Dale Steenburgh
- Owen & Betty Sutton

Patron - \$50-199

- Phyllis Barbera
- Patricia Barker
- Elmer & Olha Bertsch
- Gloria Blum
- Carol Borthwick*
- David & Karen Bradley
- Paul & Serena Butch
- Miriam Butzel
- Alan & Valerie Catlin
- Marian Clowe*
- Roderic Collins & Meisha Rosenberg
- Cheryl Cufari
- Carl Filbrich & Christy Multer
- Debbie & Joel Friedman
- James & Karen Gonda
- Patricia & David Gosda
- Cathy Gruyters & Sean Albert
- Patricia Halsey
- Richard Holt
- Sylvia Kaarto
- Bob & Karen Kanarkiewicz
- John & Gail Karl
- Don & Marilyn Leach
- Helen MacDonald
- Jack & Arlene Maranville
- Patricia & Richard Margas*
- John & Sandra Marshall*

- Rita Moore
- Virginia & Jeff Newton
- Roberta Richardson
- Donald Riggs
- Claudia & Keith Rolfe
- Lynn & Bill Russom
- Kathleen Ryan
- Fouad & Lousie Sattar
- Wayne & Cynthia Schneider
- Marcy Steiner
- Peggy Stringer
- Francis Taormina
- Jon & Nancy Tobriessen
- Dori & Karoline Trela
- Carol Troost
- Barbara Van Etten*
- Barbara Vivier
- Anita Walther
- Barbara & Ernest Walton
- Peter & Diana Weinberg
- Frank & Virginia Wicks
- Laura & Carl Wiedemann

Benefactor - \$200+

- Richard & Susan Baker*
- Florance Bigelow*
- BobCoppola & Barb Armstrong
- Donal Early*
- Lawson & Priscilla Harris
- Kimberly Mastrianni
- Charles Richardson
- Lucinda & Thomas Willemain



DONATIONS

In memory of Joanne Golden:

- Barbara Bradley
- The Dugan Family
- Shelley & Robert Johnson
- Sharon Jordan
- Bruce & Molly, Andrew & Emily, Josh & Jess, and Sarah Kohout
- Andrew & Phyllis Kulmatiski
- Robert J Lang
- Mary & Stephen Lattanzio
- Carmel Patrick
- Sharon & Thomas Reynolds
- Charles Richardson
- Susan & Timothy Sabins
- Twitty & Constance Styles
- Mount Pleasant Staff

In Memory of Marjorie Ruth Natale:

- Eleanor & Robert Belive

For the Literary Landmark Plaque honoring

Arnold Lobel:

- Karen Bradley

For the Niskayuna Library Garden:

- Anne & Robert Yunick

For the Repair Cafe:

- Anonymous
- Marcine L. Rablovsky
- C. Maeve Smith

*Eligible for GE Match

LIBRARY STORY

Libraries have had a very special place in my heart ever since I was a kid growing up on the west coast. They were always a place of sanctuary, especially when I needed it most. By the age of 17, I'd moved 47 times. Each time I moved I visited the local library to see what it might have waiting for discovery hidden in the stacks! One of the first things I did was get a new library card for both the school and the public library and borrow some books. These became my passports to travel the world and the vast oceans of knowledge and imagination. The best part was that they were free!

Very early on I discovered that librarians were keepers of a special kind of magic! It was not the deep dark secret kind, but most kids simply failed to understand how powerful this magic was... If you were a bit of an odd duck like I was, and loved books, and thus libraries, then you found out that librarians had a standardized system that could help you find what you were looking for. Anything might be there from Socrates to science fiction. Finding it usually worked no matter how big or small the library. But it worked best if you could use the card catalog and even better if you knew a little bit about the Dewey Decimal System. Once you had a call number or just the general category you liked figured out, you had magic of your own where other kids were totally lost. Many librarians caught on that I could understand their magic quite quickly. I discovered that we were kindred spirits and I was quite

happy to work in the magic factory, so I learned how to sort and shelve returned books.

When I decided to get a Repair Cafe started in the Capital District I shopped the idea around looking for an appropriate site. At first I was turned away by everyone I approached because it was something new or it didn't fit any of their established program criteria. When I met with the Schenectady County Public Library it was a different story; they were welcoming and even eager to hear about this new idea. After they listened to my explanation of what the program had to offer the community, they fully embraced the idea. We have enjoyed a wonderful partnership with the Friends of the Library who provide financial support while SCPL provides the site and logistical support. This has been an excellent experience for the many volunteers and hundreds of community members simply because of that entirely welcoming beginning.

Dave West
Organizer, Repair Cafe Schenectady

Repair a broken object, help someone today.

Teach them to make their own repairs, help them for life!

COMING IN APRIL!

Delia Owens, author of the bestselling novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*

**Carl B. Taylor Auditorium
SUNY SCCC**

**Thursday, April 16, 2020
time to be announced**

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Online Books

eBay assistant needed for online sales. Very flexible hours & days.

Email Shawn Schultz:
bookwormT14@gmail.com

Fall Book Sale

September 27 - Volunteers needed to set up for the event

September 28, & 29 - Volunteers needed to set up, cashier, organize, and clean up.

Email Cheryl Nechamen:
cnechamen@msn.com

4th Annual Harry Potter Day

October 25 - Volunteers needed to set up for the event.

October 26 - Volunteers needed to work this event, which drew more than 1500 participants last year, and clean up afterwards.

Email Shawn Schultz,
Hogwarts Curriculum Coordinator:
bookwormT14@gmail.com



Duo Pianists
Jing Ci & Wenting Yu



Sunday, September 22, 2 PM
Central Library, 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady
Free Admission
- Follow us on  -



FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARY
99 CLINTON STREET
SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 12305

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FALL BOOK SALE

SEPTEMBER 28 9AM-4 PM — All books \$1 or less

SEPTEMBER 29 12 PM-3 PM — \$2 per bag of books



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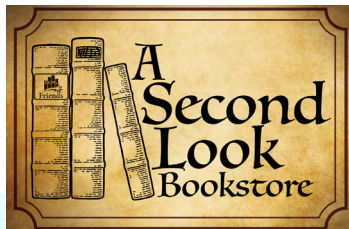
(THURS TIL 6PM)

SUN 1:30PM-3:30PM

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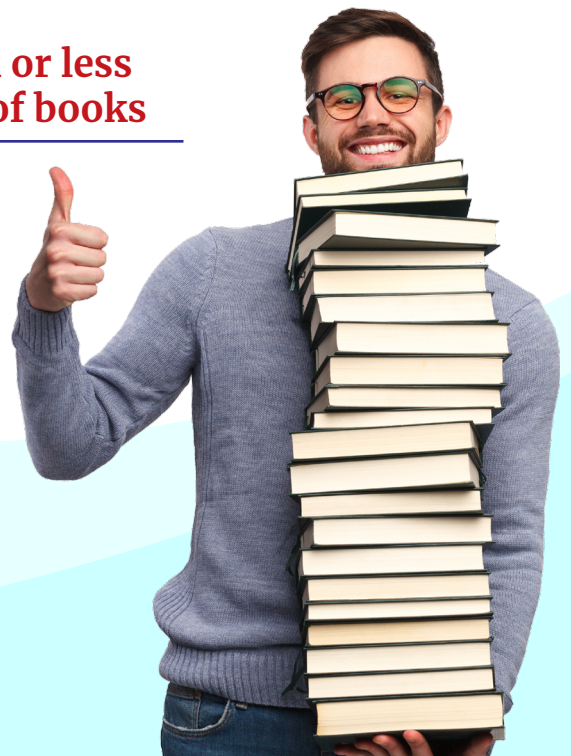
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November/December 2019 | Volume LV No. II



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Imbolo Mbue Wows at Author Event

Imbolo Mbue, award winning author of *Behold the Dreamers*, gave an inspirational, insightful, and at times quite humorous, talk to nearly 300 people on September 19th at the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium, SUNY Schenectady County Community College. Earlier in the day she met with students and faculty from the college, answering questions about her writing journey and her experiences

of being an immigrant. Her novel, recounting the story of a family from Cameroon, Africa, who comes to America in search of a better life, was the runner up in SCPL's 2018-19 One County, One Book program. It was also the SUNY College Presidential Summer Read and a textbook for college composition classes this fall.

Alex Brownstein, who attended the evening program, posted

this remark on Facebook: "It was wonderful to hear from an author whose written work was so engaging and relevant. The thoughts she shared last night from the podium were every bit as thought-provoking as her novel. Thank you for such a great event, folks!"

Mbue's visit was made possible through the support of the Friends of the Library and SUNY SCCC.





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Christine Witkowski

Newsletter Editor

Danielle Gray

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President's Message



Last night, I came home from one of the most interesting presentations I've attended and couldn't wait to start working on my letter to

you. What's all the excitement about? I had the pleasure of hearing Imbolo Mbue, author of *Behold the Dreamers*, speak of her experience as an immigrant, her writing process, her home country of Cameroon, as well as her professional and personal journeys. This captivating presentation, in collaboration with SUNY SCCC, was offered at no charge to the public and to students of SUNY SCCC.

This program and all the programs offered through the Friends of SCPL happen directly because members of the Board of the Friends of SCPL are dedicated to offering enlightening, entertaining and engaging programs to as many people as possible. As is the fact with most successful events, it took many people to volunteer many hours to make it possible. We must thank the organizing committee, led by Christine Witkowski and Cheryl Cufari, for their efforts and the efforts of SUNY SCCC President

Steady Moono, as well as his staff. But, we must also thank every single volunteer who works in Sorting, Online Book Sales, the Whitney Book Corner, A Second Look, our Spring and Fall Book Sales, our smaller Winter and Summer Sales and, of course, all the good people who donate books to our cause. We are fortunate to have a great library staff to work with. Our Library Director, Karen Bradley, sets a tone of openness and collaboration as does her staff. And—let's never forget—all the shoppers. All those people who come to the stores and sales and enjoy the great reads at great prices.

On another note, just as positive and pleasurable, I was able to attend the official renaming of our Main Library to the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library. Karen was a friend, mentor and also a Past-President of the Friends of SCPL. This was and remains a most appropriate honor. Karen was not one to call attention to herself, but I'm sure she would be pleased by this recognition. Karen had a saying "If you're doing it alone, you're doing it wrong." That saying surely fits the Friends. A wonderful group of people who join hands to make our community better.

- Madelyn Thorne

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Due to extenuating circumstances, this edition of the newsletter is shorter than usual. For more information about FSCPL news and events, please visit our website at www.friendsofscpl.org, or find us on Facebook. More information about SCPL events is available at www.scpl.org, in the Chapters newsletter, and on its Facebook page.

Upcoming Special Events

REPAIR CAFE

Saturday, January 11
10 am - 2 pm

McChesney Room
Central Library

Skilled volunteers will help you repair your beloved but broken belongings for free. Volunteers can help with mechanical, electrical, and electronic items, as well as jewelry, dolls, and wooden objects. There is also a large fabric station for repairs and alterations to clothing and other fabric items.



COMING IN APRIL!

Delia Owens, author of the bestselling novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Thursday, April 16, 2020
6:30 PM

Carl B. Taylor Auditorium
SUNY SCCC

FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Great Decisions discussion group on foreign policy and trade will be held in the McChesney room on Tuesday mornings in February and March. Learn more about this year's meetings at www.friendsofSCPL.org/programs/GreatDecisions.

To receive notice with more information in early January, add your name and email address to the mailing list by contacting Tony Mogro (AMogro@nycap.rr.com, 518-374-1377). If you have received our mail in the past, you are already on the list.

Membership News

RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

Supporting - \$35-49

- Hank & Pat Buczkowski
- Anne Marie & David Gray
- June & Vernon Scoville*

Patron - \$50-199

- David & Adrienne Bashe
- John & Lucy Halstead
- Larry & Judy Hoff
- Gene & Susanne Kimura*
- Nancy Walden

New Members

- Krystyna Cardish
- Linda Conlon
- Norah Delaney
- Donna Granato
- Cassandra Kiszkiel

DONATIONS

In memory of **Dr. Edwin Reilly:**

- The Reilly Family

*Eligible for GE Match



VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Online Books

- eBay assistant needed; very flexible hours & days.
- Shipper needed to pack and ship orders one day per week.

Email Shawn Schultz: bookwormT14@gmail.com

Noon Programs

A SERIES OF FREE TALKS ABOUT SCHENECTADY'S HISTORY AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM

October 28: GE Realty Plot in Schenectady

Join Schenectady City Historian Chris Leonard for a lively talk on the history of the General Electric Realty Plot in Schenectady. Leonard will cover the dynamic events and unique cast of characters who have called "The Plot" their home. You'll enjoy stories and anecdotes about GE inventors and executives, Schenectady business and political leaders, entertainers, and other incomparable individuals, as well as the formation of the Plot and ongoing efforts to protect these stately homes. Some of the many luminaries covered include Charles P. Steinmetz, Irving Langmuir, Izetta Jewel Miller and Ernst Alexanderson. Leonard is the author of *Schenectady's General Electric Realty Plot*, which was published in April 2019.

November 4: The Progressive Era in Schenectady

Bill Buell, Schenectady County Historian, will discuss the Progressive Era (1890-1920), an often overlooked time in American history. Those years included a drastic increase in the number of immigrants to the U.S., and Schenectady's population boom was as massive as any across the country. Poles, Italians and Eastern Europeans fled their homelands and headed across the Atlantic Ocean, many of them landing jobs in Schenectady at either the General Electric Company or the American Locomotive Company. It was a time of such unrest that Schenectady, a city of over eighty-thousand people, elected a Socialist mayor and a largely Socialist city council in 1911, creating new schools, free municipal garbage pickup, Central Park and other amenities for all of its citizens. Join us for a look back into Schenectady's historic past.

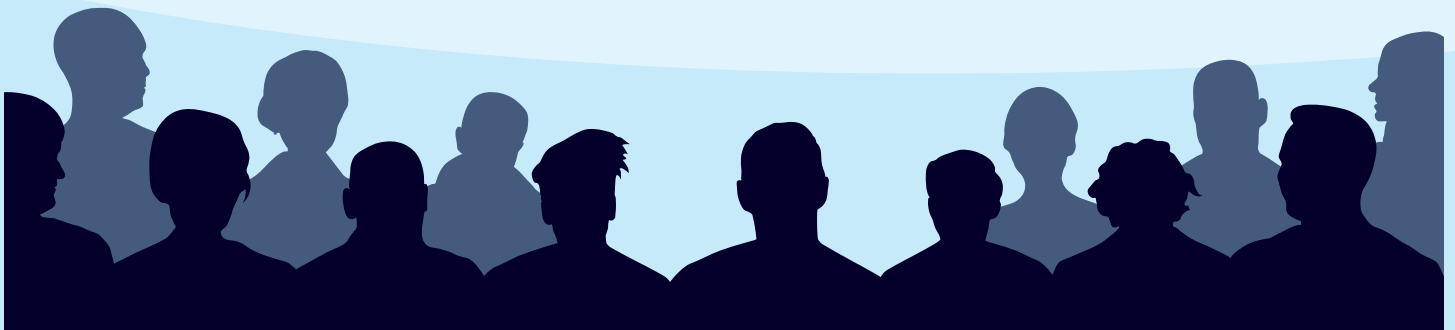
November 18: SUNY Schenectady's Community Archaeology Program

Diana Carter, Adjunct Instructor, Workforce Development and Community Education at SUNY Schenectady County Community College will speak about SUNY Schenectady's Community Archaeology Program (CAP). Following a short presentation of CAP's history and curriculum, she will talk about some of the projects that CAP has done, including the Robert Yates House at 109 Union Street, the Barringer House site in the front lawn of the First Reformed Church, the Schenectady & Saratoga Railway site at 10 Union Street, the French and Indian War site at 32 Front Street, the Rosa House site at 234 Union Street, and the Flint House in Scotia.

November 25: Izetta Jewel

Join author and biographer Anne Rockwood as she discusses the life and career of Izetta Jewel. Jewel came to Schenectady in 1927 after marrying Union College professor Hugh Miller. While here, she became a broadcaster at GE's WGY and later performed in the first ever radio-television drama, *A Queen's Messenger*. Izetta Jewel was active in politics at the Congressional and State levels, and served for a time as Schenectady's Commissioner of Public Works before moving on to serve in FDR's administration. Come and learn more about this amazing, pioneering woman.

Note: You may bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea are available (donations appreciated). The room is equipped with special devices for the hearing-impaired.



REELS

A SERIES OF FREE FILMS SHOWN AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM



November 6: *Rocketman*

Paramount; Rated R; 121 minutes; 2019

Set to his most beloved songs, this epic musical story of Elton John highlights his breakthrough years in the 1970s and his transformation from shy piano prodigy to international superstar.

November 13: *Men in Black: International*

Columbia; Rated PG-13; 115 minutes; 2019

The team has always protected the Earth from the scum of the universe, but in this new adventure they tackle their biggest, most global threat to date: a mole in the organization. French audio description available.

November 20: *Yesterday*

Universal; Rated PG-13; 117 minutes; 2019

Jack Malik is a struggling singer-songwriter in a tiny English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading, despite the fierce devotion and support of his childhood best friend, Ellie. Then, after a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that the Beatles have never existed. And he finds himself with a very complicated problem, indeed.

November 27: *Booksmart*

20th Century Fox; Rated R; 102 minutes; 2019

Told from a wildly original, fresh, and modern perspective, this is an unfiltered comedy about high school best friends and the bonds they create that last a lifetime. Capturing the spirit of the times, it is a coming-of-age story for a new generation.

December 4: *Spiderman: Far From Home*

Columbia; Rated PG-13; 129 minutes; 2019

In the next chapter of the Spider-Man: Homecoming series, our friendly neighborhood Superhero decides to join his friends on a European vacation. However, Peter's plan to leave superheroics behind for a few weeks are quickly scrapped when he agrees to help Nick Fury uncover the mystery of several elemental creature attacks, creating havoc across the continent!

December 11: *Toy Story 4*

Disney; Rated G; 90 minutes; 2019

Woody has always been confident about his place in the world and that his priority is taking care of his kid, whether that's Andy or Bonnie. But when Bonnie adds a reluctant new toy called 'Forky' to her room, a road trip adventure alongside old and new friends will show Woody how big the world can be for a toy.

December 18: *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*

Universal; Rated PG-13; 137 minutes; 2019

Ever since hulking lawman Hobbs, a loyal agent of America's Diplomatic Security Service, and lawless outcast Shaw, a former British military elite operative, first faced off, the duo have swapped smack talk and body blows as they've tried to take each other down. But when anarchist Brixton gains control of an insidious bio-threat that could alter humanity forever, these two sworn enemies will have to partner up to bring down the only guy who might be badder than themselves.



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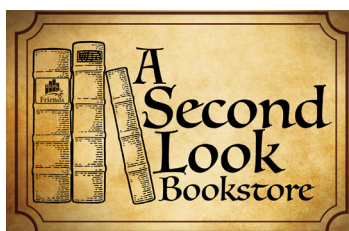
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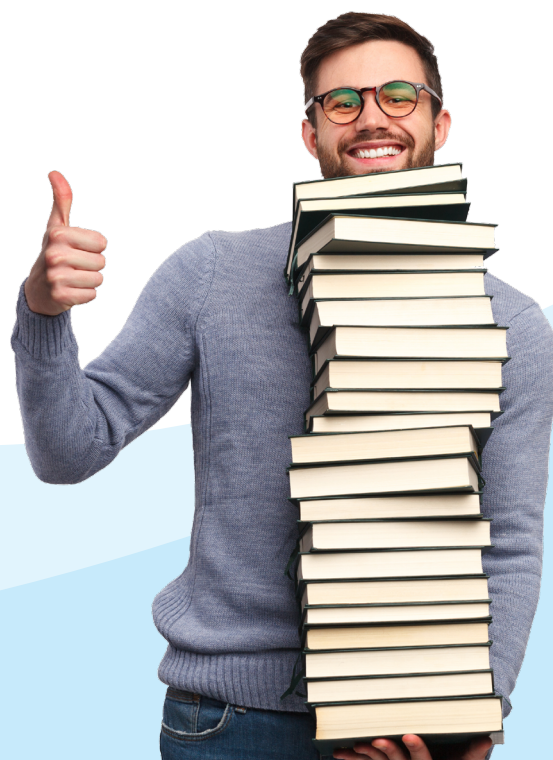
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News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

January/February 2020 | Volume LV No. III



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The Wizarding World Comes Alive at the Library

Another magical Harry Potter Day was held at the main branch of the Schenectady County Public Library on October 26th.

The event was sponsored by Friends and coordinated by Charlene Roman (Professor Sprout) and Shawn Marie Schultz (Professor McGonagall).

Many thanks to Anthony Roman (Dumbledore) and Amanda Schultz Aucompaugh (Bellatrix) for all their efforts. Our Junior friends made a nice profit selling their wands and spell books in Diagon Alley. The Whitney Book Corner did a booming business in Harry Potter Books and other magical tomes.

Favorite classes this year were Potions, taught by our young Friend Shaheen Hassan, assisted by Emily and Melissa Aucompaugh, and Into the Owlery with Whispering Willow Wild Care. The live reptiles and owls were a big draw as usual.

Fortunately, at the end of the day we were able to turn Hogwarts back into the Library!





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President's Message

When you spend time with the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library, you spend time with some of the best and hardest working people around.

Only a few years ago, two volunteers, Charlene Roman and Shawn Schultz, thought it would be fun to hold a Harry Potter Day. From a very small start at the Whitney Book Corner to what is now a major event held throughout the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library and McChesney Room, with multiple programs, vendors and crafts, and attended by hundreds, Charlene and Shawn have given our community another positive, creative opportunity to learn and laugh and just spend time together.

It's important to note, these two women already run our bookstores and on-line sales, directly contributing to the financial stability of the Friends, but they saw an opportunity to reach another population within our community and they made it happen. I applaud their initiative and all they do for the Friends.

I'm pleased to announce a new and exciting step forward for the Board of the Friends of the Schenectady County Library. On November 16th, we held our first Board Retreat, professionally facilitated by Successful Change, with the goal of paving our road for the future. Many questions were presented. How do

we engage more volunteers to keep our programs running smoothly and strongly? How have the needs of our community changed and what further changes do we see coming? How can our partnership with our library system, the Trustees and the County Legislature continue to grow and become even more impactful? Can we continue as an all-volunteer corps or is it time to look to professionals to run the Friends or, at least, some of the functions of the Friends? There is so much to consider and evaluate, but these questions need to be thoughtfully considered—and answered-- as we look to our future.

You should know that the Board of the Friends, volunteers who already devote so many hours to our organization, gave up a Saturday morning to brainstorm, bring creative solutions and ask the hard questions. Our esteemed Library Director, Karen Bradley, also spent her Saturday morning providing her expertise and insight.

Please be assured, the Board of the Friends isn't walking away from that meeting and letting the ball drop. No—a strong team is forming an Ad-Hoc committee to continue these discussions and come to resolutions.

We're looking towards our future and hope you'll be part of it.

- Madelyn Thorne

January & February Special Events

REPAIR CAFE

January 11

10 am - 2 pm

McChesney Room

Central Library

Bring your beloved but broken items for repair with the assistance of our skilled volunteers. You will help during the repair process. Learn to repair clocks, watches, lamps, jewelry, furniture & wooden objects, clothing & fabric, dolls & toys, and small appliances.

The program is free to all and is sponsored by the Friends (donations accepted).

Limit of two items per household, please.



FALL TRIP INFO SESSION

February 11

6 pm

McChesney Room

Central Library

Put on your blue suede shoes and get your groove on with a trip to America's Music Cities! Join us for an informational meeting about an upcoming trip opportunity to New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville, November 8-15, 2020. Our Colette representative, Colby Yeaton, will be here to present information about this trip and answer questions. Hope to see you there!

Questions? Email us at: scplfriendstrips@gmail.com or call Sue at 518-372-1198

Beat the Snow

A SERIES OF FREE CONCERTS
SUNDAYS AT 2:30 PM
IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM

January 5

Bleecker Consort

Music from the Middle Ages & the Renaissance

January 12

Bien Baez, Elizabeth Lehman, and Michael Clement

Opera and Operetta

January 19

Sophia Subbayya Vastek

Piano

January 26

Musicians Of Maalwyck

Well-respected classical players

February 2

Donald Hyman

Feeling Good in the 60's

February 16

Roseanne Hargrave, Michael Clements, and Paul James Quigley

Serenade

February 23

Malcolm Kogut And The Colonie

"Thunder Road" Singers
Sing-Along

COMING IN APRIL!

Delia Owens, author of the bestselling novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Thursday, April 16, 2020

6:30 PM

**Carl B. Taylor Auditorium
SUNY SCCC**

REPAIR CAFES OPEN AROUND THE REGION

The movement is building!

Schenectady's Repair Cafe, the first in the capital region, opened its doors just two years ago. In the intervening months, four other Repair Cafes have opened in the area: Saratoga, Schuylerville, Clifton Park, North Greenbush, and the newest one in Voorheesville will open next year.

Books Sandwiched In

A SERIES OF FREE TALKS SHOWN AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM

January 6: *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*

David Epstein, author of the widely acclaimed book *The Sports Gene*, starts his book *Range* with case studies of two magnificently successful athletes—the epitome of single-minded, focused specialists if we’ve ever seen them, right? Maybe not. Epstein goes on to demonstrate masterfully, and with the help of ample scientific and everyday evidence, using clear and persuasive prose, why he picked the title for the book.

Reviewer Brad Lewis is a Professor of Economics at Union College.

January 13: *The Problem of Democracy: The Presidents Adams Confront the Cult of Personality*

Prolific authors and history professors at Louisiana State University, Nancy Isenberg and Andrew Burstein examine the lives and careers of John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams, rogue intellectuals and unsparing truth tellers who became the second and sixth presidents of the United States.

Reviewer Bill Buell is the current Schenectady County Historian and an author of several books.

January 27: *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*

Dani Shapiro is a best-selling author of fiction and memoir, and everything she had previously written has led to this book. Shapiro recently discovered through a popular DNA test that the father she loved and still deeply mourned after his untimely death more than 30 years ago was not her biological father. Her parents had kept many secrets from her, but she never imagined their depth. This is an artfully written story of love and acceptance, themes to which everyone can relate.

Reviewer Rosaline Horowitz is a retired Schenectady educator and founding member of The Sisters of the Blue Moon Reading Club, now in its 21st year.

Note: 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.

February 3: *Son of Prince Edward County*

Author Twitty J. Styles, Ph.D. and Emeritus Professor of Biological Sciences at Union College, describes himself as “a motherless child born on a farm 92 years ago, in rural Prince Edward County, Virginia, seemingly destined to live a life of poverty.” During the Depression, he learned from his widowed father the importance of getting a good education, saving his money, not letting anyone take advantage of him, and giving back.

Professor Styles will also be reviewing the book.

February 10: *Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?*

Thirty years after publishing *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben surveys the state of our world and finds that as climate change shrinks the space where civilization can exist, new technologies threaten to bleach away the variety of human experience. *Falter* tells the story of these converging trends, and of the ideological fervor that keeps us from bringing them under control.

Reviewer Pat Rush is an inveterate participant in Books Sandwiched In.

February 24: *The Very Best of the Best: 35 Years of The Year’s Best Science Fiction*

Author Gardner Dozois was an anthropologist who died last year, and this is his swan song. Science fiction is often a reflection of the hopes and fears of the culture. Using Dozois’ book, we will survey some of the trends over the decades and see what the last few years show us about our cultural condition.

Reviewer Bill Levering is Senior Minister of First Reformed Church in Schenectady.



REELS

A SERIES OF FREE FILMS SHOWN AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM



January 8: **The Lion King**

Simba idolizes his father, King Mufasa, and takes to heart his own royal destiny. But not everyone in the kingdom celebrates the cub's arrival. The battle for Pride Rock is ravaged with betrayal, tragedy, and drama, ultimately resulting in Simba's exile. With help from a pair of newfound friends, Simba has to figure out how to grow up and take back what is rightfully his.

Disney, 2019; 118 minutes; Rated PG

January 15: **The Kitchen**

Based on the Vertigo comic book series from DC Entertainment, the mobster husbands of three 1978 Hell's Kitchen housewives are sent to prison by the FBI. The ladies take the Irish mafia's matters into their own hands, proving surprisingly adept at everything from running the rackets to taking out the competition.

Warner Bros., 2019; 102 minutes; Rated R

January 22: **The Farewell**

Chinese-born, U.S.-raised Billi returns to Changchun to find that while the whole family knows their beloved matriarch has been given weeks to live, everyone has decided not to tell her. To assure her happiness, they gather under the guise of an expedited wedding. As Billi navigates a minefield of family expectations and proprieties, she finds there's a lot to celebrate.

Lionsgate, 2019; 98 minutes; Rated PG

January 29: **Blinded by the Light**

Javed is an English teen of Pakistani descent growing up in 1987. Amidst the racial and economic turmoil of the times, he writes poetry as a means to escape the intolerance of his hometown and the inflexibility of his traditional father. When he is introduced to the music of 'the Boss,' Javed sees parallels to his life in Springsteen's powerful lyrics.

Warner Bros., 2019; 118 minutes; Rated PG-13

February 5: **Once Upon a Time in Hollywood**

In 1969 Los Angeles, where everything is changing, TV star Rick Dalton and his longtime stunt double Cliff Booth make their way around an industry they hardly recognize anymore.

Columbia, 2019; 162 minutes; Rated R

February 12: **Ad Astra**

Astronaut Roy McBride travels to the edges of the solar system in search of his father and in effort to unravel a mystery which threatens the survival of Earth.

20th Century Fox, 2019; 123 minutes; Rated PG-13

February 19: **Dora and the Lost City of Gold**

Having spent most of her life exploring the jungle with her parents, nothing could prepare Dora for her biggest challenge yet: high school. When her parents mysteriously disappear while searching for the Lost City of Gold, Dora must swing into action and lead a group of ill-equipped high schoolers on a quest to save them. It is a high-stakes mission as Dora and her new friends navigate the jungle, outrun treasure hunters, and solve ancient puzzles to unlock the mystery of the fabled city.

Paramount, 2019; 102 minutes; Rated PG

February 26: **Judy**

Thirty years after rising to global stardom in The Wizard of Oz, showbiz legend Judy Garland arrives in London to perform a five-week sold-out run at the Talk of the Town. While preparing for the shows, Garland battles with management, reminisces with friends and fans, and embarks on a whirlwind romance with soon-to-be fifth husband Mickey Deans, all while bravely struggling to overcome intensifying anxiety and physical decline.

Lionsgate, 2019; 119 minutes; Rated PG-13

Membership News

RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

New Members

- Mary Abes
- Pearl Albrectsen
- Nancy Calkins
- Barbara Cardwell
- Bruce Connolly & Martha Delmonico
- Aileen Decker
- Beth DeMidio
- Lorrian Gagne
- Heather Lukeski
- Eileen McCabe
- Chad Roberts
- Maureen Rowe
- Janel Schaible
- Richard & Patricia Terry
- John Walsh
- Chris Zeneski

Supporting - \$35-49

- Betty Carol Barlyn
- Marygene Brunner
- Phyllis Budka*
- Carol Cascio
- D Clarke Dimond
- Alden & Gay Doolittle
- Jamie Gearon
- Jane Kessler
- Allison Lee
- Paul & Deborah O'Brien
- Judith Ricci
- Dotty & Pete Sheehan
- Nancy Stopera

Patron - \$50-199

- Charles & Sally Bauer
- L. Ann Bish
- Naomi Bristol
- Wonja & Jeff Brucker
- Timothy Coakley
- Michele DeAngelus & James Rothrock
- Gedia DeMaria*
- Gail Denisoff
- Fred & Robin Eddy
- Donna Esposito
- Donald Gavin*
- Gail Girvin
- Harris & Louise Gregory
- Howard & Emily Hart
- Ted Heisler*
- Analine S. Hicks
- Bernice Izzo
- Stanley & Claudia Jakubowski
- Pat & Chris Jones
- Peter & Leah Kucera
- Lyn & John Kucij
- Ronald & Donna Lagasse
- Holly Loth & Andrew Witney*
- Stephen & Ann Lyman
- Charles & Sharon Maneri
- Suzanne Mason
- Peter McManus

- Paul Meier
- Robert Nottke
- Michael & Susan O'Brien
- Michelle Ostrelich & Howard Schlossberg
- Carmel Rose Patrick
- Anita Paul & David Gerhan
- Bill & Meme Pittman
- Beverly Provost
- Linda & Lawrence Relyea*
- Thomas Robbins
- Allan & Carol Shartrand*
- Oscar Sylvan
- Norrine & Ted Thompson
- Nancy & Wayne Virkler
- Patricia & Robert Wall
- Mary White
- Irene Wickham
- Connie Young*

Benefactor - \$200+

- Wendy & Walnter Berninger
- Susanne & Robert Doyle
- Vivien Zazzau

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In Memory of Simon Weinstein:

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From the Book Swap:

- Kermis Club, Inc.

From the Repair Cafe:

- Milton J Kopcha

*Eligible for Match



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON CHARLENE ROMAN

Charlene Roman has been a stellar volunteer for the Friends of the Library for several years now, managing the Whitney Book Corner, co-chairing (with Shawn Schultz), the wonderful Harry Potter Day, serving on the Friends book sale committee, the Friends Board, and the online sales committee.

But her vision of opening another book store, and her ability to actually make that happen, elevate

her to a whole other level of volunteer. A Second Look Bookstore opened in February, 2019, and it has been an amazing success, generating funds for the Friends of the Library as well as increasing awareness in the community of the Library and the Friends.

The Friends are so lucky to have Charlene as part of our organization!



Charlene Roman (center) with Doug Bixler and Robin Eddy at the opening of A Second Look Bookstore

THE FRIENDS GET FROZEN IN ROTTERDAM

On Saturday November 23rd, A Second Look Bookstore held a very successful Frozen event at Via/Port Rotterdam. The effort was headed up by Jaimie and Marcie, with help from Robin, Molly, Norrine and Charlene.



We had a selfie station, crafts and games, coloring, a make your own sundae station (courtesy of Stewarts), and the cast from Frozen, Jr. at Debuts Theater came in for a meet and greet, much to the delight of the children there.

This event, coupled with the Farmers Market at the mall and the frozen movie opening the night before, drew many new people into our store, giving us the biggest day since opening week!

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Online Books

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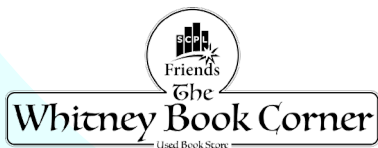


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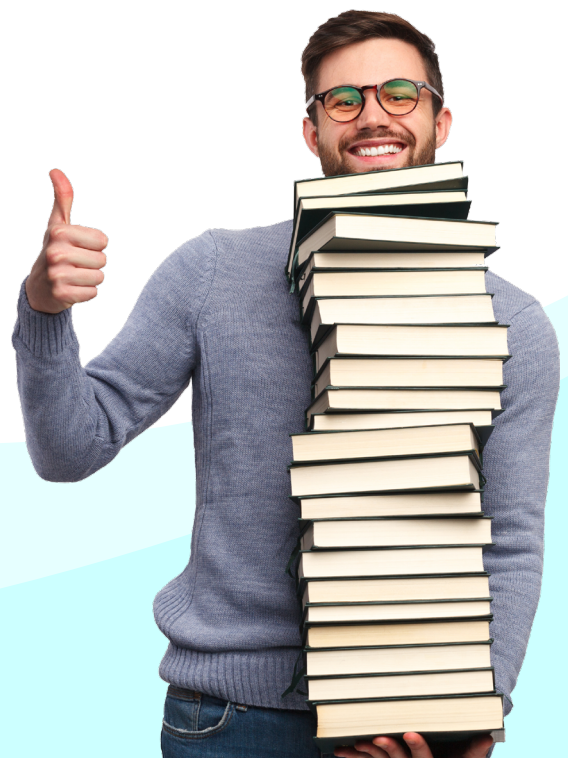
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News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

March-April 2020 | Volume LV No. IV



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An Evening with Delia Owens — April 16, 2020

The Friends of Schenectady County Public Library is pleased to announce an evening with bestselling author Delia Owens on Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 PM at the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium, SUNY SCCC.

Her debut novel *Where the Crawdads Sing* has sold more copies in 2019 than any other adult fiction or nonfiction title as well as being consistently on bestsellers lists and “best of” lists. Ms. Owens spent decades as a scientist living a rather isolated life studying lions, elephants, and hyenas in Botswana and Zambia, around which her past writing has centered.

The evening format will be that of a conversation between Ms. Owens and local author Robyn Ringler, owner, editor, and creative writing teacher at East Line Literary Arts.

Copies of the book will be on sale at the Open Door Bookstore, Jay Street, Schenectady from March 1-April 10 at a 20% discount. Books will also be on sale at full price the night of the event.

The event is free and open to the public; doors will open at 5:30 pm and seating is on a first come basis. A book signing will follow the talk.

Please consider joining the conversation hearing first-hand from bestselling author Delia Owens.



DELIA OWENS AUTHOR EVENT

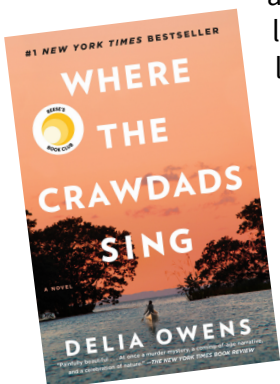
April 16, 2020

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Event begins at 6:30 pm

**Carl B. Taylor Auditorium,
SUNY SCCC**

Book signing to follow





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Bob Symons

Norrine Thompson

Jaimie Williams-Peterson

Newsletter Editor

Danielle Gray

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Beat the Snow

A SERIES OF FREE CONCERTS
SUNDAYS AT 2:30 PM
IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM

March 1

Schenectady Light Opera Company
Musical Theatre

March 8

Mark Tommasone
Guitar & Mandolin Music

March 15

Empire State Youth Orchestra
Sponsored by Young Musicians Forum (details below)

March 22

Douglas Chilton & Kevin Green
Jazz

March 29

Etude Club of Schenectady
Classical Instrumental Ensembles

YOUNG MUSICIANS FORUM PRESENTS FREE CONCERT ON MARCH 15!

At 2:30 pm on Sunday March 15th, in the McChesney Room, the Young Musicians Forum will present a free concert by a few exceptionally talented students who are members of the Empire State Youth Orchestra. The concert is being presented as part of the Beat the Snow Library winter series.

Performers include Trey Coughlin, cello; Will Lauricella, piano; Anna Ryu, oboe and English horn; Patrick Yang, clarinet; Jason Wu, violin; and Ben Yao, marimba.

Highlights will include works by Beethoven, Francaix, Hovahness, Mozart and Lalo.

Join us for the Friends spring day trip!

Join the Friends on Thursday, May 21st as we travel to the Hudson River Valley. We will visit Boscobel, a beautifully restored Federal-style mansion and gardens, tour the United States Military Academy at West Point and enjoy a delicious buffet lunch at the historic Thayer Hotel on the grounds of West Point. This promises to be a wonderful day.

Further information and registration forms can be found at:
<https://friendsofscpl.org/literary-trips/>

Don't miss out – join the fun and register soon!

March/April Special Events & Around the Library

ADULT COLORING

March 11 at 6:30 pm

Central Library

Adult coloring book nights are the perfect opportunity to unwind by yourself or with friends over a cup of coffee and some colored pencils. Bring your own coloring books or use our fun stash of books, pens, markers and colored pencils.

Sorry kiddos, this one is just for the grown-ups! Ages 14+



ONE COFFEE BREWED FOUR WAYS

March 21 at 11 am

Rotterdam Library



Using one of Electric City Roasters' fresh roasted single origin coffees, you will get a chance to taste how four different brew methods change the flavor profiles.

REPAIR CAFE

March 28

10 am - 2 pm

McChesney Room
Central Library

Bring your beloved but broken items to be fixed by skilled volunteer repair coaches. You sit with the coach and watch and learn while your item is repaired.

"This is a very valuable service - and fun too!" said one happy customer.

Types of items: small mechanical or electric appliances, dolls & toys, lamps, clocks, electronics, wooden objects, clothing and fabric items, jewelry. Limit of 2 items per household please.



BRUSHING UP ON GARDENING BASICS

April 1 at 6 pm

Mont Pleasant Library



Come join a solid basics class that is beneficial for all gardeners. Everyone can contribute and gain some practical knowledge on how to have a plentiful harvest this growing season.

Taught by Capital Roots Garden Educator Amanda Vrsalovic.

DELIA OWENS' *WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING* BOOK DISCUSSION

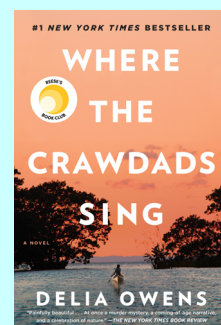
April 6 at 6:00 pm

Glenville Library

Registration begins
March 1 at 1:00 am
on the scpl.org event calendar

Join us for an in-depth discussion of the bestselling novel *Where the Crawdads Sing* in anticipation of Delia Owens' author visit.

Facilitated by James Crews. James is the author of four collections of poetry, including *The Book of What Stays*, winner of the 2010 Prairie Schooner Book Prize, and *Telling My Father*, winner of the 2017 Cowles Prize. His work has appeared in numerous literary journals. He's a regular contributor to *The (London) Times Literary Supplement*. He currently teaches at the University at Albany. This program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



Noon Programs

A SERIES OF FREE TALKS AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM

SCIENCE TALKS

March 2: Celebrating 20 Years with the Hubble Space Telescope

Since its launch in 1990, astronomers have used the Hubble Space Telescope to make discoveries related to stars, galaxies, exoplanets, and the early Universe. There have been over 10,000 scientific papers published using Hubble data, making it one of the most prolific astronomical endeavors in history. We'll cover a brief history of the Hubble Space Telescope and explore some of Hubble's most amazing recent discoveries.

Dr. Valarie Rapson, Dudley Observatory

March 9: Save our Species, Save our Planet: How Research in Space Benefits Humankind

People have been living and working continuously aboard the International Space Station (ISS) since November 2000. Removing the lens of gravity that is always present on Earth allows researchers to learn something new about the systems that they are studying and apply that back on Earth to make better products – from body wash, to golf clubs, to medications!

Dr. Molly K. Mulligan, Space Commerce Matters

March 19: Bats of New York: Their Darkest Hour

The first serious effort to monitor bat populations began in the late 1970s. Trends for all species were positive, until March of 2007 when the DEC survey crew reached the entrance of Hailes Cave in Thatcher Park. Although they did not know it as they turned on their helmet lights, they were about to be the first witnesses to what may be the largest, and most rapid, die-off of wild mammals ever recorded.

Alan Hicks, Retired specialist for DEC

March 23: The Art and Science of Display Pyrotechnic

This slide and video presentation explores a rarely seen behind-the-scenes look at how pyrotechnics function and are safely used to create a professional fireworks display. It demystifies the physical science and artistic creativity of fireworks, and presents information about relevant chemistry, special effects, choreography to music, the use of computers, and numerous other topics. Some demonstration items are shown.

Bob Saltzman, member of the Pyrotechnics Guild

Note: 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.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

March 30: *The Inscription in the Window*

Sylvie Briber and her husband, Bob, found an inscription etched in a front parlor window of their Schenectady Stockade home. In very tiny lettering, it reads: "Grace T. Watkins, April 22nd, 1883." Wondering "who is this Grace" and "what happened on that date," Sylvie started researching at the Schenectady County Historical Society and talking with neighbors, discovering many fascinating coincidences.

Reviewed by the Author, Sylvie Briber

April 6: *Sapiens*

From a renowned historian comes a groundbreaking narrative of humanity's creation and evolution - a number one international best seller - that explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be "human".

Book by Yuval Harai; Reviewed by Richard Alben

April 13: *Giants of the Monsoon Forest*

High in the mountainous rainforests of Burma and India grow some of the world's last stands of mature, wild teak. For more than a thousand years, people here have worked with elephants to log these otherwise impassable forests and move people and goods (often illicitly) under cover of the forest canopy. Jacob Shell takes us deep into this strange elephant country to explore the lives of these extraordinarily intelligent creatures.

Book by Jacob Shell; Reviewed by Phil Adams

April 27: *Hillbilly Elegy*

#1 New York Times Bestseller, named by the Times as one of "6 Books To Help Understand Trump's Win" And Soon to be a Major-Motion Picture directed By Ron Howard. J.D. Vance grew up in the Rust Belt city of Middletown, Ohio, and the Appalachian town of Jackson, Kentucky. A graduate of the Ohio State University and Yale Law School, he has contributed to the National Review and is a principal at a leading Silicon Valley investment firm.

Book by J.D. Vance; Reviewed by James Gonda

REELS

A SERIES OF FREE FILMS SHOWN AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM



March 4: *Downton Abbey*

The worldwide phenomenon *Downton Abbey* becomes a grand motion picture event, as the beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit from the King and Queen of England will unleash scandal, romance, and intrigue that will leave the future of Downton hanging in the balance.

Universal; Rated PG; 121 minutes; 2019

March 11: *Joker*

The film centers around the iconic arch nemesis and is an original standalone story not seen before on the big screen. Phillips's exploration of Arthur Fleck, a man disregarded by society, is not only a gritty character study but also a broader cautionary tale.

Warner Bros.; Rated R; 122 minutes; 2019

March 18: *The Good Liar*

Career con artist Roy Courtney can hardly believe his luck when he meets well-to-do widow Betty McLeish online. As Betty opens her home and life to him, Roy is surprised to find himself caring about her, turning what should be a cut-and-dry swindle into the most treacherous tightrope walk of his life.

Warner Bros.; Rated R; 110 minutes; 2019

March 25: *Ford v Ferrari*

The remarkable true story of visionary American car designer Carroll Shelby and fearless British-born driver Ken Miles, who together battled corporate interference, the laws of physics, and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary race car for Ford Motor Company and took on the dominating race cars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966.

20th Century Fox; Rated PG-13; 152 minutes; 2019

April 1: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

After a jaded magazine writer is assigned a profile of Fred Rogers, he overcomes his skepticism, learning about kindness, love, and forgiveness from America's most beloved neighbor.

Columbia; Rated PG; 109 minutes; 2019

April 8: *JoJo Rabbit*

A World War II satire that follows a lonely German boy named JoJo whose worldview is turned upside down when he discovers his single mother is hiding a young Jewish girl in their attic. Aided only by his idiotic imaginary friend, Adolf Hitler, JoJo must confront his blind nationalism.

20th Century Fox; Rated PG-13; 108 minutes; 2019

April 15: *Harriet*

Based on the thrilling and inspirational life of an iconic American freedom fighter, the movie tells the extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.

Universal; Rated PG-13; 125 minutes; 2019

April 29: *Queen & Slim*

While on a forgettable first date together in Ohio, a black man and a black woman are pulled over for a minor traffic infraction. The situation escalates, with sudden and tragic results, when the man kills the police officer in self-defense. In fear for their lives, the man and woman are forced to go on the run. But the incident is captured on video and goes viral, and the couple unwittingly becomes a symbol of trauma.

Universal; Rated R; 133 minutes; 2019

Membership News

RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

New Members

- Elizabeth Cole
- Jennifer DeMarco
- Jill DeMaria
- Annie Friderici
- Devon Hedges
- Cindy Jones
- Joy Nyman
- Kaela Wallman

Supporting - \$35-49

- Stephen & Roberta Berk
- Thomas Mangano*
- Donna Pace
- Harald Pels
- Jennifer M. Wood
- Ellen Woodzell

Patron - \$50-199

- Philip & JoAnn Adams
- Bill & Mary Jane Beaulieu*
- David & Stacy Cohen
- Edith Cumini
- Brian & Toni Doherty
- Lisa & Robert Esperti
- Mary Fitzgerald
- Danielle & Steven Gray*
- Brian & Roberta Kelly
- Scott Kilbourn & Diane Bengtson-Kilbourn
- Joy Nyman
- Sylvia Raushi
- Carol & Leo Reynolds
- Joan & Frank Scheib*

- Karen & Joseph Schell
- Lawrence & Jennifer Schmidt
- Leslie Thiele & Ken Larsen
- Kathryn Ylvisaker

Benefactor - \$200+

- Charles & Debra McCambridge
- Kristina Philip
- Cynthia & Herb Shultz
- Lisa Reynold & Bart Zabin

*Eligible for Match



DONATIONS

In memory of Karen Johnson:

- Kent Johnson

John C. & Susan K. Hubbard Foundation:

- John C. Hubbard Jr., President

In Honor of Ken Jones:

- Kathleen Jones

From the Repair Cafe:

- Anonymous
- Stanley & Ellen Strauss
- Kathryn Ylvisaker

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EVENT COMING SOON!

Are you a young professional interested in expanding your network? Want to hang out with other young professionals who love the library? Just moved here for school or a new job and looking to make electrifying new friends?

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates about a kickoff event for a new Young Friends group within the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library.

Hope to see you there!



Friends of SCPL Annual Dinner Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM • DINNER 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

GLEN SANDERS MANSION

1 GLEN AVE • SCOTIA, NY 12302

Speaker: Willie Deane

Willie Deane is the author of the children's book *LOVE*. International champion, former professional basketball player, Schenectady Hall of Fame inductee in 2019, and Purdue University Graduate, Deane is President and CEO of ANC, LLC in Schenectady, NY. Family is the most important aspect of Willie's life.

Menu

Social Hour

Cash bar, Appetizers

Dinner

House Salad

Choice of Entree:

- Potato Crusted Salmon with Mango Chutney, Basmati Rice Pilaf, Stir Fried Carrots & Peppers
- Sliced Bistro Sirloin, Rosemary & Garlic Seasoned, Mushroom Demi, Roasted Seasonal Vegetables, Whipped Potatoes
- Butternut Squash Gnocchi, Mascarpone Garlic Cream, Fried Sage, Pistachio Pesto, Asiago

Dessert

Chocolate Flourless Cake, Raspberry Coulis, Whipped Cream

Elections

Officers

- President - Charlene Roman
- 1st Vice President - Norrine Thompson
- Secretary - Chris Witkowski

Directors (for an initial three-year term)

- **Jenn Wood**
Whitney Online volunteer. Hailing from southern Ohio, she has made a career in NY in Restaurant and Customer Service Management since 2005. Always looking for an adventure in concerts, sports, travel, and the outdoors. Life long enthusiast of reading, friends, and cats.
- **Marcine Weilt**
Whitney Book Corner & A Second Look Volunteer. Marcine is Children's Director at Awaken Church in Niskayuna. Her favorite pastimes include hiking, fishing, camping, traveling, visiting museums, attending cultural events, bird watching, watching movies, gardening, visiting with her nieces and nephews, writing her first novel, and, of course, reading.

FRIENDS OF SCPL ANNUAL DINNER MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Tuesday, April 7 @ 5:30 PM - Glen Sanders Mansion

Number attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____ @ \$38/person

Attendee Names (Please Print)

Circle one choice of entree

Salmon	Sirloin	Gnocchi
Salmon	Sirloin	Gnocchi

Please make check payable to **Friends of SCPL** and mail by March 30 to:
Charlene Roman, c/o FSCPL • 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, NY 12305



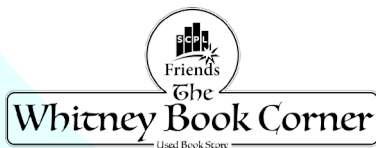
FRIENDS OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY PUBLIC
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SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 12305

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Bee Friendly!

**Join the Friends of the
Library and Volunteer.**

Volunteer opportunities include:

Book Sales

Clerk/Shelver in Whitney and
Second Look Bookstores

On-Line Support

Sorting of Books Donated

Membership events

<http://friendsofscpl.org>

News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

May-June 2020 | Volume LV No. V



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COVID-19 Update from Karen Bradley — March 28, 2020

Our County libraries are closed to comply with Governor Cuomo's 100% reduction in the workforce to try to "flatten the curve" in order to prevent a crushing of the resources of our NYS hospitals and first responders. Our library staff has been asked, along with other County departments, to step in and help wherever we are needed.

Our first assignment was to the Public Health Department, assisting with daily wellness calls to community members who were in quarantine. This amazing undertaking was set up over a few days and involved so many people.

Next, I received a call from our County Manager, Rory Fluman, asking if I could head up to the new Boys & Girls Club where the Schenectady County COVID-19 Emergency Response Coalition was

being set up. This coalition was rapidly put in place to respond to the urgent demand for food and other supplies needed by those in quarantine, the elderly or immune compromised, the homeless, the suddenly unemployed - anyone in need, no questions asked.

I was put in charge of organizing the Call Center part of the operation with our library staff, just one part of an enormous undertaking organized by County Leadership and led on site by Jason Lecuyer and Keith Brown. Our library staff were manning the phones as hundreds and hundreds of residents called in over the past three days with urgent needs. We were able to set up our operation in space that allows for social distancing. Sanitizer is available to clean work surfaces before each shift, and we brought our own

pens. Never in a million years could one have imagined this fabulous new facility being used in such a manner. Thank you Shane Bargy and your Board for allowing us to share this beautiful space!

Our County Facilities, Highway, Finance, IT, Sheriffs, Special Patrol Officers and our wonderful Auxiliary led by Ray Feurstein, Senior and Long Term Care Services, Board of



continued on page 3



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Charlene Roman
President

Norrine Thompson
1st Vice President

Jaimie Williams-Peterson
2nd Vice President

Shirley DeBono
Treasurer

Christine Witkowski
Secretary

Madelyn Thorne
Past President

Directors

Barbara Armstrong

Sara Carey

Val Catlin

Robin Eddy

Lisa Esperti

Danielle Gray

Shaheen Hasan

Vicki Hoshko

Chris Makofski

Joan Molloy

Geri Mulligan

Charlie Richardson

Norrine Thompson

Marcine Wielt

Jenn Wood

Newsletter Editor

Danielle Gray

Contact Us

friendslibrary12305@gmail.com

www.friendsofscpl.org

[Find Us On Facebook](#)

President's Message



These are unprecedented times and I want to thank Chris Witkowski for the job she did giving the membership the chance to vote on the new slate of board members. We will do whatever is necessary to try to assist the library during this quarantine and work as an organization in preparing for whatever lies ahead. I will keep the membership updated when something changes within the organization. I am available by email if anything comes up, at scplfriendspres@gmail.com.

I would like to welcome the new executive committee:

- Norrine Thompson, 1st VP
- Jaimie Williams-Peterson, 2nd VP
- Chris Witkowski, Secretary
- Shirley DeBono, Treasurer

And our new board members:

- Jenn Wood
- Lisa Esperti
- Marcie Wielt

I am looking forward to working with all of you.

I want to give my thanks and respect to Charlie Richardson, our outgoing Treasurer, for all the exceptional work that he has done. Personally I have given him so much extra work with the new store, gift cards, etc.; he never seemed to get upset and handled all the problems that arose with grace and professionalism.

Also to our outgoing board members, Bob Symons, who spends countless hours sorting and overseeing the book sales and Shawn Schultz, who runs our Online sales.

Last but not least to Madelyn Thorne, who dedicates herself to the betterment of the community through her volunteer work. She has represented the Friends well and has made a large difference in this organization.

Until we meet again in person, stay home, stay safe and take care of one another.

- Charlene Roman
April 3, 2020

BOOKSTORES TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Whitney Book Corner and A Second Look will be closed until further notice. When the library opens back up and the Mall gives us the okay, we will let everyone know of our reopening date. Updates will be posted on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. For now please stay home and stay safe.

Past President's Message



Just one month ago, we were making plans for our Annual Dinner. So much changed so fast, it's hard to process. But, it's important to remember that

the Friends have been around for over 50 years and we will get back on track when it's safe to do so.

Although our library has had to close for the safety and health of all, which means the programming supported by the Friends has been suspended, the Friends is still able to make a positive contribution to our community. Working through SICM, the Friends is providing books to be included in the lunch bags now being distributed to children.

It has been a pleasure to work with the talented and dedicated volunteers who work so hard to keep the funding coming in for our many library programs. The Friends continue to be financially stable with a good, strong path for the future. Thank you for allowing me to serve as President of the Friends. It has been my honor.

- Madelyn Thorne
March 30, 2020

COVID-19 Update from Karen Bradley 3/28/20 (continued)

Elections and others have jumped in to unpack food and supplies, pack bags, and deliver all over Schenectady County. Whatever these families desperately needed, they said we will get it to them right now! It was wonderful to have our Special Patrol Officers there overseeing operations and the Schenectady City Police Officers stopping by to help with deliveries.

I am proud of our library staff who have stepped in to help. It was hard

to leave our books and programs behind; we were in the middle of many important initiatives. And we were worried about what would happen to the patrons who depended on us so much - whether it be for our library materials, computer access, cultural and recreational programs, or as a safe haven and human connection that many don't otherwise have. It took just a few phone calls for each of us to know that this is another form of

public service, very much like what we do each day. Most of our staff has been through the Bridges Out of Poverty training, and it was very easy to put our Bridges hat on and get to work.

Thanks to the Friends of SCPL - the library outreach bags you enable us to buy for outreach programs were needed for this operation, in addition to all the County Census bags and a donation from NYSUT.

County residents are fortunate to have this tremendous group of County leaders and staff, community foundations, non-profits, and volunteers pitching in to help, whether it be at Public Health Services or with the food distribution undertaking.

I feel blessed to have my dedicated staff and my Board of Trustees behind me. Life as we knew it is over as we all head into uncharted waters together. We don't know what life on the other side of COVID-19 will look like but I hope

continued on page 4



COVID-19 Update from Karen Bradley 3/28/20 (continued)

that some good will come out of these challenging times - families spending a lot more time with each other, finding new ways to occupy time, playing old-fashioned games, taking leisurely walks, getting long awaited projects done around the house, or learning a new skill such as Zoom, which is on my agenda tomorrow.

For those who are still employed, have a comfortable home to come home to and food on the table, let us not forget those who will be severely impacted, and step up to do whatever we can to help.

My motto has been to "Keep Calm and Carry On."



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ONLINE BOOKS

Online Books is on vacation until it is safe to return to work. Our eBay and Amazon stores can be back up and running with a click of the mouse.

We do need a new Friday shipper, so please contact BookwormT14@gmail.com.

Training is provided. Everyone please stay safe and we are looking forward to the day the library reopens.

Shawn Schultz
Director, Online Books

SPRING TRIPS CANCELLED

The Tulip Cruise and the day trip to Boscobel and West Point were both cancelled due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Stay tuned for a new fall date for the day trip!



TRAVEL WITH THE FRIENDS

It's not too late to join the friends for a trip to America's Music Cities!

Put on your blue suede shoes, get your groove on and be part of the fun as we tour New Orleans, Memphis, and Nashville November 8- 15, 2020.

Find detailed information at:

<https://friendsofscpl.org/literary-trips/>

In Memory of Joyce Parry

Joyce Parry, longtime Friends volunteer and one of the original co-managers of the Whitney Book Corner, passed away on Friday, March 6, 2020. She was 90 years old.

Ellie Rowland relayed the following:

"[Joyce] was one of the most selfless people I have ever known. She was very quiet, but very friendly when you came to know her. She was very, very intelligent. She did all her volunteering jobs to the fullest.

I started volunteering a couple years after I retired. At that time she was alone, so I helped her doing the fiction donations. Sally and Simon did the non-fiction. George Gould and Phil Adams also helped sort. I'm sure there were others, but can't remember. Those were the days someone had to cut down regular wine boxes to store the books in! And we were at the other end of the 2nd floor storage area. Leah Leonard and others joined sorting after a couple years.

When the board decided to try a book store in the present location, George said he would co-chair, organizing the store, if Joyce would handle the finances. They realized that the Friends treasurer couldn't also handle the Whitney. I did the volunteers. Joyce clerked in the store, too and would sub when needed."

We are lucky to have such dedicated volunteers!

Special Events & Around the Library*

COZY CRAFTERS

June 9, 1:30-3:00 pm

Woodlawn Branch

Bring your current craft project to this social group and complete new items, meet new people and even learn new skills. From knitting to quilting and everything in between we can help each other start and complete your craft projects. Stop-in and get crafty with us.



STITCH & SHARE

June 9, 5:30-7:45 pm

Niskayuna Branch

Are you a knitter, crocheter, sewer, quilter, or fiber artist? Don't know how? Join us at our monthly meetup with other fiber enthusiasts. Each month we will have a different artisan teach the group a new fiber related skill. Bring your ideas, tools, current project and materials.

Ages 14+ and all skill levels.

LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S FOR CAREGIVERS: EARLY & MID-STAGE

June 23, 2:00-3:30 pm

Scotia Branch

This program is designed to help provide optimal care along the continuum of the disease in order to maintain quality of life. It will provide care partners with the knowledge, tools and strategies needed to cope with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. In the middle stage of Alzheimer's, gaps in memory and thinking become more noticeable and individuals begin to need help with day-to-day activities

Appropriate Audience –Friends and family members who care for someone with Alzheimer's Disease

Facilitated by Meagan DeMento of NENY Alzheimer's Association

REPAIR CAFE

July 25

10 am - 2 pm

McChesney Room
Central Library

Bring your beloved but broken items to be fixed by skilled volunteer repair coaches. You sit with the coach and watch and learn while your item is repaired.

"This is a very valuable service - and fun too!" said one happy customer.

Types of items: small mechanical or electric appliances, dolls & toys, lamps, clocks, electronics, wooden objects, clothing and fabric items, jewelry. Limit of 2 items per household please.



REELS*

A SERIES OF FREE FILMS SHOWN AT NOON IN THE MCCHESENEY ROOM

June 3: CATS

June 10: The Song of Names

June 17: Little Women

June 24: Queen & Slim

*Event schedules and plans are continually evolving in light of the COVID-19 health crisis. Please check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, and the [library website](#) for updates.

Membership News

RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

Benefactor - \$200+

- Donal Early*
- George & Joan Gould*
- Joan Ham & Don Gavin
- Jeffrey Peil

Patron - \$50-199

- Shelly & Shell Abelson*
- Philip & JoAnn Adams
- Eleanor & Jesse Aronstein
- Bryant & Casey Bigelow
- Patricia & Thomas Brady*
- James & Judith Burns*
- Rachel Cameron
- Anne Christman
- Ilene R. Freidman & Keegan Bailey
- Fran Gross

- Andrew & Phyllis Kulmatiski
- Edward & A. Moy
- Nancy & Michael Ottati
- Johanna Petersen
- Frank & Dorothea Potochnik*
- Linda & Lawrence Relyea*
- Barbara Vivier*
- Barbara & Ernest Walton

Supporting - \$35-49

- Marilyn Anderson
- Ruth Bonn
- Katherine Hagert
- Paul Kenny
- Jane McCloskey & Charles Carson
- Robbie Roessle
- Nancy & Glen Slack*

New Members

- Beth Dorn
- Charles & Linda Becker
- Deb & Jorge Escobar
- Herman Andrea
- Karen Giyzio
- Tina Koehler
- Judith Massaro
- June McGarry
- Misir Family
- Carolyn Montorio
- Donna Richards
- Kathleen Sullivan
- Irene Turvey
- Rori & Kim Wood

*Eligible for Match



DONATIONS

In Honor of Dorothea Trela:

- Dorothy & Naomi Myer

From the Repair Cafe:

- Christine Lambert

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EVENT COMING SOON!

Are you a young professional interested in expanding your network? Want to hang out with other young professionals who love the library? Just moved here for school or a new job and looking to make electrifying new friends?

Keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page and website for updates about a kickoff event for a new Young Friends group within the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library.

Hope to see you there!

