

# News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

September-October 2020 | Volume LVI No. 1



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## Friends of SCPL pivots programming during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the Friends to quickly reassess our programming and figure out how we can to continue to serve the community and the library in a safe manner.

Friends of SCPL hosted socially distanced sidewalk book sales at the Karen B. Johnson Library on July 12 (biographies and adult fiction titles) and August 9 (children's books).

Christy Multer was one of the many participants at the July Sidewalk Sale. She said, "It was a great sale! Thank you to all the volunteers who had clearly spent a LOT of time organizing every detail -- even making sure the book titles were all in the same direction in each box for easier reading. My husband and I got

34 books for only \$19, including one of the bags of 20 mystery paperbacks for only \$5. And thank you to the person who selected such a nice variety of mysteries in that bag -- including several authors we've never read before, which will be fun to explore."

In addition to these sidewalk sales, our online bookstores are running again, and our physical bookstores are open with new social distancing policies in place.

Information about our other events and programs is available later in the newsletter.





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Danielle Gray

### Contact Us

[friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com)

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## President's Message



The Friends have been hard at work trying to resume some of our activities. Online has opened back up with some safety restrictions in place. Both stores are operating on limited hours. Hopefully, by September we will be able to start doing some virtual programming.

I want to take this opportunity to mention that Ellie and Gene Rowland are moving out of state.

They have been enthusiastic volunteers for many years. Ellie was co-chair on the book sale committee and served as VP on the Friends Board of Directors. Ellie played a large part in establishing the Whitney Book Corner and was its volunteer coordinator for 15 years. Gene also served on the board, was co chair of Books Sandwiched In and chair of the Annual Poetry gala.

On a personal note, I am actually going to miss Ellie asking me if she can send the Christmas books to the stores in early October. Now who am I going to say 'no' to! I wish both of them safe travels. They will be missed.

- Charlene Roman

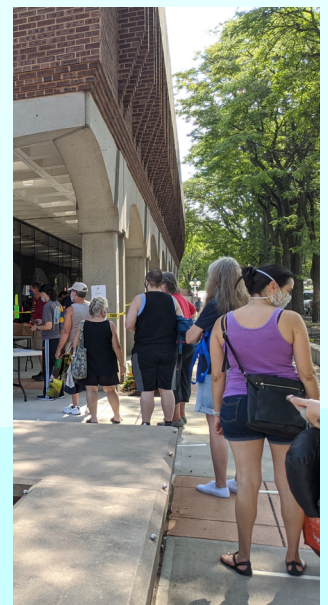
## MORE SIDEWALK BOOK SALE PHOTOS



Individual books and grab bags were available



A bag full of books for less than \$10!



Book sale shoppers in a socially distant queue.



# Noon Programs

## A SERIES OF FREE TALKS — NOW ONLINE!

As with so many things that have had to be adjusted due to COVID-19, the Noon Programs that had been presented at the main library branch in the McChesney room will be presented as webinars for the foreseeable future. This fall we will present several book reviews and history lectures online. There might not be a program every week so I encourage you to check the Newsletter, Event Keeper and the Friends Facebook page for the schedule.

We are currently working with library staff to develop instructions and procedures on how to sign up and join a webinar. These details will be coming through email. Be sure to look for them weekly.

The health and safety of all participants is of utmost concern. Stay safe everyone!



### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

#### **September 14: *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

#### **September 21: *The Hudson Valley: The First 250 Million Years: A Mostly Chronological and Occasionally Personal History***

The mighty Hudson River is the centerpiece of this fascinating collection of essays, ranging from prehistoric times to current life. It touches on a wide variety of topics, including the author's own personal stories of the region. Penned in an enjoyable and sometimes humorous style, Levine offers up an introduction to the fascinating people, places, and events that have helped define this wonderful Hudson Valley that some of us call home.

Book by David Levine; Presented by the author

#### **October 5: *Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1000 World War II Refugees and How They Came to America***

In 1943, FDR decided to admit 1000 war refugees to the U.S. Gruber volunteered to accompany the group from Europe on their dangerous and secret route across the Atlantic. A poignant and engrossing true story.

Book by Ruth Gruber; Reviewed by Susan Lohnas

#### **October 19: *A Woman Condemned: The Tragic Case of Anna Antonio***

A sensational murder, trial, and a young woman's execution in Depression-era New York draws upon newly discovered NY State Police records. In Greiner's description of the trial, he seeks to show how flaws in the judicial system, poverty, and prejudice around the Italian American community in Albany at the time, all played a part in Anna's conviction and death sentence.

Book by James Greiner ; Presented by the author

#### **October 26: *Giants of the Monsoon Forest***

For more than a thousand years, the people and elephants of Burma/Myanmar and India have worked with elephants to log otherwise impassable forests and to move people and goods (sometimes illicitly) under cover of the forest canopy. The relationship between elephant and rider is an intimate one that lasts for many decades. Though not bred to work with humans, these elephants can lift and carry logs, save people from mudslides, break logjams in raging rivers and navigate mountain forests with passengers.

Book by Jacob Shell; Reviewed by Phil Adams

# Membership News

## RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

### Benefactor - \$200+

- Carol Borthwick
- Lawson & Priscilla Harris
- Wayne & Cynhia Schneider
- Samuel Wait

### Patron - \$50-199

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- David & Adrienne Bashe
- Elmer & Olha Bertsch
- Paul & Serena Butch
- Miriam Butzel
- Bob Coppola & Barb Armstrong
- Kernan Davis & Elizabeth Dobson-Davis
- Diane DiMeo
- Fred & Robin Eddy
- Ruth Farrell
- John & Carol Ferlazzo
- Carl Filbrich & Christy Multer
- James & Karen Gonda
- Sylvia Kaarto
- Bob & Karen Kanarkiewicz
- Christine Anne Katchmar\*

- Gene & Susanne Kimura\*
- Bill & Mary Liz Leitch
- Diane Leone & Andrew Wexler
- Connie Liscio
- Virginia & Jeff Newton
- Alice Reed
- Robert & Carol Reid
- Roberta Richardson
- Thomas & Barbara Rider
- Claudia & Keith Rolfe
- Eugene & Eleanor Rowland
- Kathleen Ryan
- David & Indushobha Smith
- Lucy & Gary Sponberg
- Louise Steele
- Helen Steiner
- Verena Takekoshi\*
- Donald Thurston
- Duane & Mary Van Patten
- Anita Walther
- Laura & Carl Wiedemann
- Anne & Robert Yunick

### Supporting - \$35-49

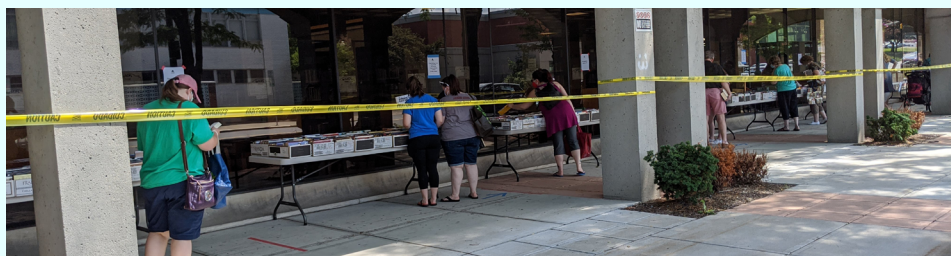
- Sylvia Anapolis
- Wnifred Balz
- Patricia Barker
- Hank & Pat Buczkowski
- Tom & Josie Hefferon
- Ann Parillo
- Harriet Severenko
- Barbara Van Etten
- Maureen Versaci

### New Members

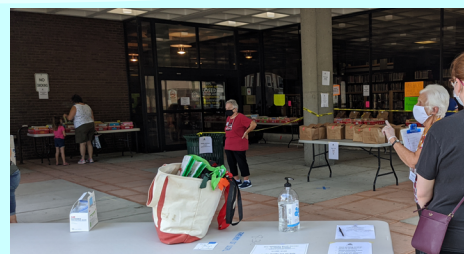
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- Tom & Josie Hefferon
- Ann Parillo
- Harriet Severenko
- Barbara Van Etten
- Maureen Versaci

\*Eligible for Company Match

## MORE SIDEWALK BOOK SALE PHOTOS



Tables covered in books and DVDs wrapped around the side of the library.





## FRIENDS TRIPS

Due to closures, travel advisories and an abundance of caution, we have canceled the rescheduled fall trip to West Point. We are looking forward to traveling together in the future and hope to schedule the West Point trip for the spring of 2021.

Our “America’s Music Cities” trip scheduled for November is currently still on. We will keep those who are registered updated on any changes as soon as we hear anything.

For those of you who are dreaming of traveling again, we have two future trips scheduled with Collette - Poland for September of 2021 and the rescheduled Tulip Cruise for April of 2022.

Hopefully the world will soon be open again to welcome travelers safely.



## REPAIR CAFE

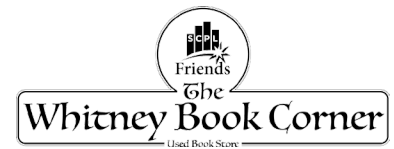
Repair Cafe has been missing the fun and excitement of holding actual events. And we very much look forward to resuming when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, Repair Cafe and other fix-it groups are continuing to help with repairs by teleconferencing with Zoom. Many of our local repair coaches have been participating. The Zoom Cafes could be described as a combination of NPR’s “Car Talk” and PBS’s “Antiques Roadshow”.

Unlike the in-person Repair Cafes, there are no limits on the size or kind of items we try to repair. Everything from dishwashers to lawn mowers to great grandmother’s China hutch are possible!

To participate, check the website created by Repair Cafe in North Carolina:

<https://repaircafe.tv>



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## GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group normally meets during February and March, but for the 2021 season it is doubtful that we will be able to all meet in the same room.

We will try to find the best solution, and will let you know in future newsletters and by email to members. If you want to be added to our mailing list, contact Fred Eddy, (FredEddy7@gmail.com or 518-346-1683).

Last year's meetings had to be canceled in March, but the Foreign Policy Association has made all their videos available on YouTube. Go to [https://fps.org/great\\_decisions/](https://fps.org/great_decisions/) for more information. A link to the videos will be found in the first full sentence on that page.



## VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR ONLINE BOOKS



Online books needs a volunteer shipper for Fridays.

Flexible work hours, mornings or afternoon. The job entails processing orders and walking across the street to the Post Office.

After training, the volunteer will work in our office; there is not a lot of contact with others, aside from during the Post Office run.

Please contact  
BookwormT14@gmail.com

## BOOK DONATIONS ON HOLD

Friends of SCPL is not accepting book donations at this time. Thank you for your patience - especially to those who are still hanging on to the books that you cleaned out over the spring and summer!



## IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN STERN

Lillian Stern, longtime Friend of SCPL, passed away on April 24 at the age of 100. Lillian worked on noon programs back in the 1990's, and later helped with newsletter mailings. She will be missed.

## 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>





## In Memory of John Goldsmith

When the late Lisa Holt, coordinator of the Friends literary day trips, dreamed about expanding the travels to England, she knew just the person to call. Her good friend and fellow librarian, Diane Goldsmith, was married to a man who had conducted tours of his native England. She posed this question to Diane, “would John be interested in designing a custom tour for the Friends?”

The answer was a resounding yes, and John Goldsmith, who died on June 16 at the age of 81, got to work planning a two week excursion to England, with a focus on literary and historical sites. In meticulous detail John created an itinerary that not only included visits to museums, but also to first rate hotels and restaurants. Every single meal was scheduled, every hotel chosen with high standards in mind.

Thus, in May of 2011, two dozen members of the Friends embarked on a multi-day tour that included, among others, stops in Jane Austen’s and the Bronte family’s birth places, Stratford-upon-Avon, Winston Churchill’s home, and the Lake District, the beautiful area of England that inspired the writing of Beatrice Potter and William Wordsworth.

To say the trip far exceeded the Friends expectations would be an understatement. And John didn’t stop there. He planned another trip to England as well as trips to France and Ireland. Throughout the tours Diane was always at John’s side, ensuring that everything transpire flawlessly. The two were a magnificent pair, exuding confidence, calm and humor.

In a recent discussion with Diane she said, “I don’t have the words to describe how much he loved

doing those tours. It was an opportunity to not only show his beloved homeland but he so enjoyed meeting and talking to everyone he met.”

The Friends of the Library are eternally grateful to John and Diane for the efforts they undertook to give our members the wonderful gift of travel. To Diane we extend our deepest sympathies and a heartfelt “thank you, thank you, thank you.”

— Chris Witkowski





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November-December 2020 | Volume LVI No. II



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## Friends of SCPL Advocates for Branches to Open

When it became apparent in late August that many libraries in the surrounding communities were reopening with proper COVID-19 protocols in place, some members of the Friends of the Library began to question why the SCPL system was still closed, except for curbside services.

The subject was discussed at the August Board meeting and it was decided it was time for our organization to begin a movement to urge the County to move forward with reopening.

A committee of several Board directors was formed and they quickly developed a multi-faceted advocacy campaign. An email blast was sent to the entire Friends membership, listing the many ways the public could make their voices heard,

including signing a petition, contacting their local legislators and submitting a comment for Privilege of the Floor at a County Legislature meeting. A link to view the September live-streamed Legislature meeting was posted on our website and [Facebook page](#).

The response to our campaign was immediate and positive, with dozens of people signing the petitions and several submitting comments to the Legislature. The Daily Gazette printed the Board's letter urging the reopening; many people posted messages of support on our [Facebook page](#).

(continued on page 2)





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Danielle Gray

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## President's Message



The Friends are slowly resuming some of our activities. Most of them look a bit different than before but the Friends are not going to let a pandemic stand in our way. Geri Mulligan and Fred Eddy are going to use Zoom for the noon programs and Great Discussions. Jan Walz is working on the Beat the Snow series to be enjoyed from your own home. We have started taking limited donations, both Bookstores are open as is Online. There have

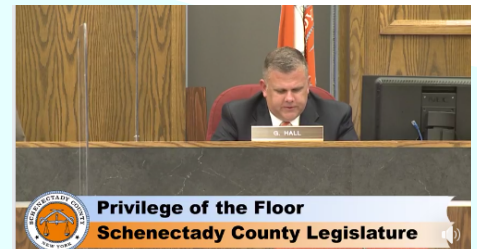
been three successful socially distant sidewalk sales, and all has been done without the library being open.

A committee has been formed to advocate for the libraries opening. As of today the County is opening branches on a limited basis. The Karen B. Johnson Central Library is not opening at this time. This library is very important to the community. It is a hub of downtown activity and its continued closure is a big loss to the area and the people it serves.

— Charlene Roman

## LIBRARY OPENING ADVOCACY (CONTINUED)

At the September 8 County Legislature meeting, six Privilege of the Floor submissions addressing the issue were read aloud. That portion of the meeting was concluded with a recommendation from Anthony Jasenski, Sr., Chairman of the Legislature, that the County move forward with a plan to reopen the libraries by October 1.



As of this newsletter's deadline, five of the branch libraries were slated to reopen on a limited basis on October 5. Surprisingly, the Karen B. Johnson Library is not one of them; no reopening date has been set at this time. The continued closure of SCPL's largest, most centrally located library, makes no sense. It impacts not only city residents without transportation, but also drastically impedes the Friends ability to resume their fundraising efforts.

The push to get Central reopened soon will be the focus of a continuing advocacy campaign. Updates will be posted on our [Facebook page](#), website, and in email blasts.

— Chris Witkowski



# Noon Programs

## A SERIES OF FREE TALKS — NOW ONLINE!

Find the Zoom links at [friendsofscpl.org/programs/noon-programs/](https://friendsofscpl.org/programs/noon-programs/)

The Fall programs are underway. We have been sharing our book reviews by Zoom this Fall. Starting in November we will again bring a series of history talks that I'm hoping you will join and enjoy. The list of programs can always be found here in our Newsletter, our Facebook page, and by going to the library website under Calendar and Events. The link is always the same and you can find it at those locations and also in the email reminder that the library sends out each week.

I would like to note the following members of the Noon Programs committee:

Diane Leone, Joanne Adams, Bill Buell, Cathy Lewis, Rich Alben, Paul O'Brien, Geri Mulligan. This year a long time member Gene Rowland has retired from the committee. We will miss him, and wish him well.

The Noon Programs committee is looking for interested volunteers to help develop future programs. We need people who are interested in selecting books and finding reviewers who will review those books. Also, we need the help of one or two people who can select science topics and locate people who are able to deliver talks to the general public. If anyone is interested in joining the Noon Programs committee to work on any of these areas please contact Geri Mulligan at [gemu179@hotmail.com](mailto:gemu179@hotmail.com).

— Geri Mulligan

## HISTORY TALKS

### November 2

#### *Schenectady and the 1920 Election: Women Cast Their Vote for President*

County historian Bill Buell will discuss the 1920 presidential election in Schenectady County, when for the first time women in New York had the opportunity to vote for president.

### November 9

#### *How the War Was Won: Schenectady During WWII*

City historian Chris Leonard looks at Schenectady's contribution to the war effort, including the manufacturing prowess demonstrated by General Electric and the American Locomotive Company.

### November 16

#### *Kurt Vonnegut in Alplaus*

Jessica Polmateer, historian of the hamlet of Alplaus, looks at the life and career of writer Kurt Vonnegut, who lived in Alplaus in the 1947-1951 while working for GE.

### November 23

#### *Confronting Contagion in Schenectady, New York: From Smallpox to Covid*

Brothers Martin and James Strosberg discuss their soon to be published book documenting Schenectady's long medical history, including the work of physician and former mayor Charles Duryea in the early 20th century.



# Membership News

## RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

### Benefactor - \$200+

- Richard & Susan Baker
- Mary Cahill
- Kimberly Mastrianni
- Charles Richardson

### Patron - \$50-199

- Lois & Richard Atkinson
- Gloria Blum
- David & Karen Bradley
- Blanche Fischer
- Patricia & David Gosda
- Teresa Kennedy
- Don & Marilyn Leach
- Helen MacDonald
- Jack & Arlene Maranville
- Sean O'Brien

- Donald Riggs
- Harriet Severenko
- Dale Steenburgh
- Francis Taormina
- Jon & Nancy Tobiessen
- Dori Trela
- Carol Troost
- Cheryl Volpe
- Vera & Marvin Weiss
- Lucinda & Thomas Willemain

### Supporting - \$35-49

- Randall & Kathleen Dartt
- Eileen & Lyle Eldred
- Renie Federighi
- Carol & Leo Reynolds
- Ellen Woodzell

### New Members

- Heather & Eric Buskirk
- Barbara Cherubin
- Stephanie Olson
- Candace Wright

## DONATIONS

### Estate of Joan D. Townsend

### In Memory of John Goldsmith

- Anne & Robert Yunick

### In Memory of Elaine Rotman

- Bernard Rotman

## HAPPY CUSTOMERS RETURN TO WHITNEY BOOK CORNER



## CLASSIFIED ADS

### WANTED: Retirees, Homemakers, Students, and Bodybuilders!

Community members sought to support our library system as volunteers with the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library.

Immediate volunteer opportunities include: transporting books, online sales, working at book sales or store locations. Heavy lifting for book transport is urgently needed.

At home and special program volunteer opportunities are available as well.

Please see our website at [friendsofscpl.org/volunteer](http://friendsofscpl.org/volunteer) for more details.

\*Membership is required to volunteer at the Whitney Corner Bookstore and A Second Look for insurance coverage purposes.



## SEPTEMBER BOOK SALE

It was just like Disneyworld! The line was all the way from the front door to the parking lot and it was there for hours. But it wasn't Disneyworld, it was our book sale. Although the fiction sold much better than the non-fiction (there was no line at all for the non-fiction), the sale was a success.

Of course, the main reason we have the sales is to fund library programs. However, during these challenging times, the sale committee is determined to get books into the hands of the community. With the library closed, and the book-stores just barely open, we think we are doing a good job keeping

our community happily reading by offering them great book bargains.

We had so many volunteers that both the set up and break down went smoothly and quickly. It was so good to see some of the library staff help out.

One question was asked over and over at the sale: When will we start taking donations again? Our inventory is low, and our shelves are now open enough to accept donations again. So starting with the staff and the Friends, we are now accepting donations again. Most of our sorting volunteers are not ready to come back to "work"



yet, so we are easing ourselves back into this work to see how we do with a smaller group of volunteers. We will see how it goes and hopefully we will be taking donations from the public soon.

Our next sale will be October 18 and we will have a good selection of both fiction and non-fiction. The Disney-like line will move much faster with our new and improved flow!

— Lisa Esperti

## FRIENDS OF SCPL BIDS FAREWELL TO THE ROWLANDS

There was a large gathering in Niskayuna on September 3 for a car parade to say thank you and farewell to Ellie and Gene Rowland, long time Friends of the Library volunteers, as they prepare for their next venture in life - a move to Virginia.

Words can't express the gratitude the Friends have for the dedication, hard work, and loyalty the two have shown over the many years they have been involved with our organization. We will miss you terribly and wish you all the best. Thank you, thank you, thank you!





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January-February 2021 | Volume LVI No. III



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## Message from Library Director Karen Bradley

2020 is rapidly drawing to a close and everyone hopes that there are brighter days ahead in 2021!

This is often the time of year that we pause to reflect upon all the accomplishments and highlights of the year. Of course, this year has been like no other in our lifetime as we enter the ninth month of the pandemic. It certainly has had an enormous impact on our library system. I am proud of our library staff who have proven to be very resilient and have adapted to many new ways of doing things, and have served the public in a very different way through our Public Health Services Department and the COVID-19 Emergency Response Coalition.

As we are entering a very serious phase of the pandemic, we expect that there could be more changes

ahead. Please visit our website at [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org) for the latest information on our situation.

I am also very proud of our Friends of the Library volunteers who were eager last May and June to get back in to sort and sell books in order to generate much needed funds for our library system. Plans for four socially distanced book sales were put into place and were incredibly well run. Book donations have resumed and a core group of dedicated volunteers are here throughout the week managing those items, running the online store and the two brick and mortar stores.

It is very evident that more help is needed for this very important effort! As has happened at all organizations, not all volunteers have returned due to the

pandemic and there have been long distance moves by some core, long term volunteers with the organization. In order to keep the book sales going, there is a real need for volunteers who can help bring in the books from the loading dock to the upstairs quarantine area and to then move them out for sorting. If you know of anyone who can donate a few hours a week to this effort, please let the Friends know.

Not only have book sales continued but the Friends have mastered virtual programming! If you have not taken advantage of those programs yet, do so.

I hope you can stay healthy and find joy in some of the simpler things in life. I can think of nothing better than stocking up on a pile of books to pass the time in the dark and cold days ahead!



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Danielle Gray

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[www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org)

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## President's Message



The Friends have done a lot to support the library during these past few months. We have managed to have five small book/media sales and the physical and online stores remain open.

The bookstores have expanded their hours to include Saturday and Sunday at the Whitney. They will stay open as long as volunteers are willing to work and the Governor allows us to remain open.

I am very proud of this organization and the willingness to volunteer during these times and to give back to the community in programs or in person in our stores. One of the most important jobs is that of our sorters, who deal with the vast amount of donations. Because of them, Online and the stores have been able to stay open and provide the community with books and the Friends with needed revenue.

It has been a difficult time, but I wish that the new year will bring a more caring, safer, kinder country where we celebrate our differences with our words and actions.

— Charlene Roman

## SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

I would like to thank JoAnne Adams and Diane Leone for their many years of dedication to the Books Sandwiched In fall program. Through their expansive reading interests and hard work, they have brought numerous books and reviewers to our community. At this time, they have both decided to “retire” from BSI and pursue their other interests. I am so appreciative of the work they have done as well as the help and support they have given to me over the years. Now they can just read, read, read!

This puts the Fall Books Sandwiched In series in need of two volunteers who can take charge of finding and scheduling interesting books to be reviewed. Anyone who is interested, please contact me by email using “volunteer” in the subject line. In addition to filling the two vacancies for the Fall BSI series, the Noon Programs needs additional volunteers to help program at other times of the year. Without the participation of new volunteers, it will be difficult to continue programming at the level we’ve been accustomed to.

My sincerest best wishes to Jo and Diane, and peace and joy to all during this holiday season.

— Geri Mulligan, [Gemu179@hotmail.com](mailto:Gemu179@hotmail.com)



# Noon Programs

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN, WINTER 2021 — NOW ONLINE!

Find the Zoom links at [friendsofscpl.org/programs/noon-programs/](https://friendsofscpl.org/programs/noon-programs/)

Coordinated by Cathy Lewis

### **January 4 - *Financial Exclusion: How Competition Can Fix a Broken System***

Wright's synopsis on p. 1 reveals his well-supported but unorthodox view: "This book is about financial exclusion, discrimination, and predation . . . Its main goal is to persuade readers, via an historical narrative informed by economic theory, that the best way to combat financial discrimination is through the encouragement of new entrants, not top-down regulation." After describing the evolution of the complex U.S. financial system, he focuses on four groups discriminated against: African-Americans, our "First Peoples," "White Trash," and women.

**Book by Robert E. Wright, Presented by Brad Lewis**

### **January 11 - *Piglet's Process: Process Theology for All God's Children***

This critique will look at the content of this charming short book and the problems of the use of myth to explain things. This will be a good review for folks unfamiliar with Process Theology and a cautionary tale about the interplay of mythos and logos.

**Book by Bruce G. Epperly,  
Presented by Dr. Bill Levering**

### **January 25 - *Colors of the Mountain***

In writing this memoir, Mr. Chen shares the intimate details of his struggles to succeed while growing up in China during Mao's Cultural Revolution. His words have inspired readers to continue on their own journeys, no matter how difficult the road might be. The review will be presented as a tribute to this beloved Chinese American author.

**Book by Da Chen, Presented by Rosaline Horowitz**

### **February 1 - *The Deficit Myth***

The Deficit Myth is a non-technical presentation of a version of economics called Modern Monetary Theory. That theory makes some very unconventional assertions: for example that "in almost all instances

deficits are good for the economy," that "the idea that taxes pay for what the government spends is pure fantasy," and that, counter to what you may have heard, deficits do not crowd out private investment, do not put the U.S. at the mercy of China, and do not endanger the future of Social Security. The author, Stephanie Kelton, is one of the creators of Modern Monetary Theory, a Professor of Economics at SUNY-Stony Brook, and an economic advisor to the Biden campaign team.

**Book by Stephanie Kelton,  
Presented by George Wise**

### **February 8 -**

#### ***The Reconstruction Presidents***

In this work, author Brooks Simpson, a very well published author on the subject, looks at Reconstruction from the perspectives of Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, and Hayes. It deals with the nearly intractable, hopelessly thorny national problem of just how should America become one country again after a terrible Civil War without carrying the scars forever. Simpson looks closely into the manner in which these four presidents handled the re-knitting of the political and social national fabric and finds that their own personal styles had a great deal to do with their successes and failures. Simpson shines light on a poorly understood, but critical era of American history whose echoes can be heard today.

**Book by Brooks D. Simpson,  
Presented by Rob Dickson**

### **February 22 - *The Searcher***

In this novel, Cal Hooper, after serving twenty-five years on the Chicago police force, begins a new life in Ireland, one he hopes is [will be?] marked by peace and ordinary routines. It is not long, however, before he is caught in a mystery that will test his best detective skills.

**Book by Tana French, Presented by Paul O'Brien**

# Membership News

## RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

### Benefactor - \$200+

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- Donal Early

### Patron - \$50-199

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- Carmel Rose Patrick
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- Austin & Martha Spang
- Alexandria Tamburello
- Francis Taormina
- Kaela Wallman
- Mary White
- Harry & Sandra Willis
- Brian & Liz Yanoff

### Supporting - \$35-49

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- L. Ann Bish

- Carol Cascio
- D Clarke Dimond
- Alden & Gay Doolittle
- Gerald & Beatrice Hahn
- Howard & Emily Hart
- Lois Isles
- Allison Lee
- Anne Marie McLaughlin
- Paul Mitchell
- David & Nancy Stuebner

### New Members

- Victoria Cooper
- Janie & Richard Garnett
- Rosaline Horowitz & Neil Yetwin
- H. Susan Jeffords
- Elaine Kennedy
- Stephanie Long
- Patricia D Mackenzie
- Jessica McDonald
- Elina Sarecha
- Frank Strauss
- Christa & Christian Willman

## BEAT THE SNOW CONCERTS

After much consideration, the Beat the Snow Concert Series will be treated much as we do the lectures at noon. These concerts will be on YouTube and members and the public will be informed on our Friends site and through Friends emails. We have many of the usual groups, but there are always new groups coming into the fold. The concerts will begin in the middle of January.

## NEWSLETTER IN YOUR INBOX

Did you know you can receive this newsletter via e-mail? Reading all the news about the Friends of the Library can be just one click away! If you'd like to change your delivery preferences, please drop us a line at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com) and we will update our records. Thank you!

## WANTED: Retirees, Homemakers, Students, and Bodybuilders!

Seeking community members to support our library system as volunteers with the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library.

Immediate volunteer opportunities include: transporting books, online sales, working at book sales or store locations\*. Heavy lifting for book transport is urgently needed.

At home and special program volunteer opportunities are available as well.

Please see our website at [friendsofscpl.org/volunteer](http://friendsofscpl.org/volunteer) for more details.

\*Membership is required to volunteer at the Whitney Corner Book Corner and A Second Look for insurance coverage purposes.



## GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

Great Decisions is a series of group discussions about recent foreign policy issues. We meet on Tuesday mornings in February and March from 9:30 to 11 am. This year, due to Covid-19, we will use Zoom teleconferencing to meet remotely. As we have discovered in the Friends' Monday Noon Programs, Zoom allows audience participation, so we can have a highly interactive discussion as usual.

Great Decisions is sponsored by the national, non-partisan, Foreign Policy Association ([www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)). The FPA provides a video introducing the main issues, which is played during the first half hour of each meeting. The FPA also publishes a discussion guide, which

contains a comprehensive, balanced 10-page review of each topic. The published guide is helpful, but not mandatory. Normally the guide is available for purchase in mid-January but we are not sure how we will distribute the book this year. More information will be made available by email and at <https://FriendsofSCPL.org/programs/Great-Decisions/>

Previous members will be contacted by e-mail with details.

If you wish to be added to this mailing list please contact Fred Eddy - [FredEddy7@gmail.com](mailto:FredEddy7@gmail.com) or 518-346-1683

Topics for the 2021 series are:

- Global Supply Chains and National Security
- Persian Gulf Security Issues



- Brexit and the European Union
- Struggles Over the Melting Arctic
- China's Role in Africa
- The Korean Peninsula
- Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic
- The end of globalization?

## FRIENDS TRIPS

We're starting to think of travel again with two trips scheduled for the fall of 2021.

In September we plan to travel to the beautiful and surprising country of Poland. Our Collette representative offered a Zoom presentation describing the trip and answering questions in October.



Links to that presentation, as well as one with detailed information about the trip, can be found on the Friends website: <https://friendsofscpl.org/literary-trips/explore-poland/>

In November we will offer the postponed trip to America's Music Cities (New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville). Information about that trip can be found at: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1044318> . A Zoom presentation for this trip will be scheduled soon.

Registration is now open for both trips. Feel free to contact us with questions about either trip at: [scplfriendstrips@gmail.com](mailto:scplfriendstrips@gmail.com)

We are hopeful that we will be able to resume Friends day trips at some point in 2021.



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# News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

March-April 2021 | Volume LVI No. IV



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Friends Trips - P5

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## A Second Look Bookstore Celebrates Two Years!

On February 12th, A Second Look Bookstore marked our second year at ViaPort Rotterdam.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to celebrate so we had

a one-day sale to show our appreciation to our customers. They are the ones that turned our six-month trial into a successful store.

A Second Look has been a great companion to our first store, the Whitney Book Corner, that has been on the corner of Clinton and Union for almost 19 years and is still going strong.



Cutting the ribbon at A Second Look in 2019



Robin, Charlene, and Chris at the store opening



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Charlie Richardson

Norrine Thompson

Marcine Wielt

Jenn Wood

### Newsletter Editor

Danielle Gray

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[friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com)

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## President's Message



As we start the new year it has been good to see that the Friends have continued to keep offering quality programs to the community.

Geri and her team have done a great job doing the Noon programs via Zoom.

Jan Walz, with Doug Bixler's assistance, provided a very professional and entertaining concert on YouTube with the musicians of Ma'alwick.

The Great Decisions discussion group is to begin again by Zoom on Tuesday mornings in February and March.

This organization has been able to continue to provide thought-provoking and entertaining content outside of the library for all.

The stores are open and doing well. We will stay open as long as we have books to sell. Hopefully the library will be open to us in the near future. There is more stock at A Second Look that will be distributed evenly to both stores.

Thanks to the store volunteers, we are weathering this pandemic. Their willingness to work during this is to be commended. They are not our frontline workers or first responders but they are volunteers who are willing to work with the public to get books into the community and to help fund the library programs and for that I thank them.

— Charlene Roman

## BEAT THE SNOW CONCERTS

The Beat the Snow concert series continues thanks to all of our local performers giving of their time and talents.

View the schedule and get the link to view the concerts at <https://friendsofscpl.org/programs/winter-concert-series/>

- March 7 SUNY SCHENECTADY ALUMNI PLAYERS
- March 14 MUSICIANS OF MAALWYCK
- March 21 EMPIRE STATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA
- March 8 QUINTOCRACY WINDS
- April 4 MALCOLM KOGUT AND SOPRANO -Easter music



# Noon Programs

Find the Zoom links at [friendsofscpl.org/programs/noon-programs/](http://friendsofscpl.org/programs/noon-programs/)

## SCIENCE TALKS

Coordinated by Geri Mulligan

### March 1 - Why on Earth, go to Space

The International Space Station (ISS) has been continuously inhabited by astronauts for over 20 years. What do the astronauts on the ISS do all day? They exercise a lot! They do science - to help us get to the Moon and Mars, but also to benefit people on Earth. From 3D printers, to pharmaceutical research, to studying showerheads, astronauts are working on things to help improve our everyday lives. Recently, they also got to start having a little fun by working on photoshoots of products for advertisements for major companies!

**Presented by Dr. Molly Mulligan of Space Commerce Matters**

### March 8 - Bats of New York: Their Darkest Hour

Although there have been bat researchers in NY since the 1930s, the first serious effort to monitor their populations began in the late 1970s. All trends for all species were positive, until that snow covered day in March of 2007 when the DEC survey crew reached the entrance of Hailes Cave in Thatcher Park. Little did they know, 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. Join us for the ongoing story and for the lessons it teaches us.

**Presented by Alan Hicks, retired specialist for DEC**

### March 22 - Celebrating 31 years with the Hubble Space Telescope

The Hubble Space Telescope, NASA's first Great Observatory, launched in April of 1990 and has been going strong ever since. Astronomers from across the globe have utilized Hubble to make discoveries related to stars, galaxies, exoplanets, and the early Universe. To date, there have been over 10,000 scientific papers published using Hubble data, making it one of the most prolific astronomical endeavors in history. This talk will cover a brief history of the Hubble Space Telescope and explore some of Hubble's most amazing and recent discoveries.

**Presented by Dr. Valerie Rapson of SUNY Oneonta**  
**Please note: This talk will run from 11:55-12:50**

## BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

Coordinated by Richard Alben and Paul O'Brien

### March 29 - *Moby Dick*

Find out why Moby Dick is on every list of the 10 best novels of all time. This fascinating adventure story puts you aboard a ship with a cast of colorful well-drawn characters you will grow to love, hate and never forget. The themes of duty, ego, cowardice, and friendship resonate and endure.

**Book by Herman Melville,**  
**Reviewed by Bob Wakeman**

### April 5 - *How to Hide an Empire : a History of the Greater United States*

This fascinating book traces the history of the United States' influence from its colonization of overseas possessions to a new sort of influence, post World War II, based on culture and innovations. The book reveals forgotten episodes that cast American history in a new light.

**Book by Daniel Immerwahr, Reviewed by Fred Eddy**

### April 12 - *Baseball in Schenectady*

For a city that has never had an MLB team, Schenectady has a rich and storied baseball tradition. Join Schenectady City Historian Chris Leonard as he traces the highs and lows of professional baseball in Schenectady from rounders in the early 19th century, through the Schenectady Dorpians, the Mohawk Giants, the Schenectady Blue Jays, and MLB players from Schenectady County.

**Presented by Chris Leonard**

### April 19 - *Lights Out: Pride, Delusion and the Fall of General Electric*

Lights Out explores GE's "swift and sudden fall from grace." Hunter will add insight and historical context gleaned from his experience as curator of the GE collections at MiSci.

**Book by Thomas Gryta and Ted Mann,**  
**Reviewed by Chris Hunter**

### April 26 - *Say Nothing : A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*

This book is an epic account of the conflict in Northern Ireland between the Catholics and Protestants from the 1960s through the 1990s. The complexities of

(continued on page 4)



## NOON PROGRAMS (CONT)

the times are illustrated through history, politics, and biographies of people on all sides showcasing complicated moral dimensions.

**Book by Patrick Radden Keene,**

**Reviewed by Patti Rand**

### **May 3 - Looking Back Looking Beyond**

This collection of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry looks at the past and at the guides, communities, and art that helped provide light for the road ahead. You will learn what serendipitous event allowed the author to overcome his fear and see the movie "Silence of the Lambs," the four films that he would choose to be on his Mt. Rushmore of films, and how eight golfers in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, narrowly managed to escape Hurricane Florence.

**Book and review by Paul O'Brien**

## GREAT DECISIONS

The 2021 season of the Great Decisions Discussion Group is halfway over, but it's not too late to join. Contact Fred Eddy for more information (FredEddy7@gmail.com), or visit the Friends of SCPL website.

## FRIENDS TRIPS

We have two trips scheduled with Collette for the fall:

- Poland, September 18-29 and
- America's Music Cities (New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville) November 7-14.

We had a Zoom presentation on February 11 with our Collette Representative, Colby Yeaton, to update us on Collette's commitment to safe travel, present an overview of both trips and answer any questions you may have about either trip.

You can find a link to the Zoom presentation on the Friends website: <https://friendsofscpl.org/literary-trips/>

Feel free to email us at [scplfriendstrips@gmail.com](mailto:scplfriendstrips@gmail.com) with any questions you may have about either trip.

We are hoping to resume our Friends day trips as soon as we can safely travel and venues have reopened.

- Gail and Sue

## Membership News

### RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

#### **Benefactor - \$200+**

- Wendy & Walter Berninger
- Gail Girvin
- Charles & Debra McCambridge
- Cynthia & Herb Shultz

#### **Patron - \$50-199**

- Stephen & Roberta Berk
- Wonja & Jeff Brucker
- Meisha Rosenberg
- Lisa & Robert Esperti
- Jamie Gearon
- Bernice Izzo
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- Michelle Ostrelich & Howard Schlossberg
- Anita Paul & David Gerhan
- Kristina Philip
- Beverly Provost
- Sylvia Raushi
- Norrine & Ted Thompson
- Donald Thurston
- Irene Wickham

#### **Supporting - \$35-49**

- Alex & Walda Chestnut Brownstein
- Julia Eddy & Dan Mayer
- Paul & Deborah O'Brien
- Alexandra & Stephen Schmidt
- Nancy Stopera

#### **New Members**

- George Thomas Braden
- Pamela Madej

## DONATIONS

**Jean & John Churchill**

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**Benjamin & Meena Lee**

**Rotterdam Branch Library**

**In Honor of Scott Filer**

- Suzanne & Douglas Babcock

# Friends of SCPL Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2020 AT 6:30 PM

Join us for our first ever virtual Annual Meeting! Pour yourself a favorite beverage, gather a few appetizers, and click on or call in! We'll have a short business meeting to elect a new slate of Directors and then socialize a bit! It will be great to "see" our Friends again!

## Elections

### Officers

- President - Charlene Roman
- 1st Vice President - Norrine Thompson
- 2nd Vice President - Jamie Williams-Peterson
- Secretary - Chris Witkowski
- Treasurer - Shirley DeBono

### Directors (for an initial three-year term)

- **Andrea Herman**  
Andrea started at Crandall Public Library in the Reference Department in 1989 and was promoted through the years to the Head of Adult Services. She felt it was time to retire in 2019 with the plan to spend more time with her grandchildren and travel. COVID changed her plans but she found a great place to use her skills at the Whitney Book Corner and as a shipper for online book sales. She also volunteers at Young Families, an organization that provides support for parents with young children.

- **Emily Hough**

Emily started volunteering at her local library when she was twelve, and there she convinced the head librarian to start a young adult book collection. After graduating from St. Thomas Aquinas College in 2012, she joined the Peace Corps. She lived for two years in an Indonesian village, teaching high school students confidence as much as she taught them English. Emily is a storyteller who loves adventures, art projects, geocaching, and recommending a good book. She is a volunteer at the Whitney Book Corner and A Second Look Bookstore.

- **Janice Walz**

Jan is a retired teacher of the gifted. She has always been involved in the arts of the Capital Region, serving on the boards of many of the local leagues of arts. She has sung with the Octavo Singers, SLOC, Classical Theater Guild, Not-So-Common Players, OPPS (Our Own Productions), and various church choirs. Walz has also been very active in local church and civic organizations. She has participated in the Friends Beat the Snow Concerts for Octavos and SLOC and took over the programming for the series in 2015.

## Join the Annual Meeting on your computer or mobile device:

The direct link to the meeting will be available at [www.friendsofscpl.org](http://www.friendsofscpl.org). You can also access the meeting via the Zoom app or [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join), using **Meeting ID 340 506 1738** and **Passcode 682539**.

## Join the Annual Meeting by phone:

**Call +1 929 205 6099\*.**

You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID. **Enter 340 506 1738, followed by #.**

If the meeting has not already started, you will be prompted to enter the host key to start the meeting, or to press # to wait if you are participant. **If you get this prompt, press #.**

You will be prompted to enter your unique participant ID. This only applies if you have already joined on the computer or a mobile device or are a panelist in a webinar. **Press # to skip.**

You will be prompted to enter the meeting passcode. **Enter 682539, followed by #.**

\*This is the call in number for NY and the surrounding region. If you will be dialing in from out of the region, you can look up your local dial-in number here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kb2luuSv16>



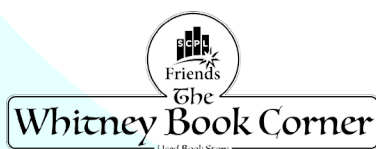
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# News of the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library

May-June 2021 | Volume LVI No. V



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## The Friends get together while staying safely apart

The Friends of SCPL had its first ever virtual annual meeting via Zoom on April 6. Friends President Charlene Roman welcomed everyone attending the meeting on their computers and by phone. Library Director Karen Bradley and SCPL Board of Trustees President William Levering presented remarks lauding the Friends for the amazing work that the organization has done to continue to raise funds for the library and safely provide programming for the community despite the barriers that the pandemic has thrown at us all.

The Friends had a spectacular year of online programming, socially distanced booksales, and running the bookstores and online stores with modifications to keep volunteers and shoppers

safe. Learn more about everything that the Friends accomplished in 2020 in the Annual Report on the Friends website.

The membership approved the annual report, the nominated slate of Officers and Directors, and the non-Board members to

the nominating committee. After adjourning, many of the members stuck around to catch up. While we look forward to seeing each other in person when it's safe to do so, it was still amazing to see so many friendly faces on the computer screen.





## 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

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Andrea Herman  
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## President's Message



Happy spring!

I'm sure everyone is anxious to move forward from winter toward a spring renewal.

The library and branches have reopened again. The stores are restocked and doing well. Online sales is up and running. So there are plenty of books available to read while enjoying the spring and summer weather.

We have experienced a year of firsts for the Friends. All of our adult programs have been offered virtually. They all seem to be having great success using Zoom or YouTube. All of our board meetings have been through Zoom. Though I am looking forward to having board meetings in person. I truly miss the personal interactions of face to face meetings.

I hope by late summer, we will be able to get back to some of the things that we did before and do them even better. Enjoy your summer and stay well.

— Charlene Roman

## BOOK DONATIONS RESUME

Friends of SCPL is once again accepting book donations at the KBJ Central Library loading dock 9 am to noon Monday to Saturday.

## NEWSLETTER IN YOUR INBOX

Did you know you can receive this newsletter via e-mail? Reading all the news about the Friends of the Library can be just one click away! If you'd like to change your delivery preferences, please drop us a line at [friendslibrary12305@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary12305@gmail.com) and we will update our records. Thank you!

## WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Please let us know about any change of address or email by emailing [folmembernotice@gmail.com](mailto:folmembernotice@gmail.com) or mailing your updated info to:

Norrine Thompson  
Membership  
Friends of SCPL, Karen Johnson Library  
99 Clinton St  
Schenectady, NY 12305

# Programming Updates and Recaps

## SPRING BOOK SALE COMING SOON

**Not as Big as in the Past, but LOTS of Books!**

With more and more people getting vaccinated against COVID, the Friends of SCPL are ready for a slimmed down version of our popular Spring Book Sale. We'll follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing, with face coverings required at all times. Check the Friends' website at [friendsofscpl.org](http://friendsofscpl.org) for any last minute changes.

The sale will run on Saturday, June 5 from 9 AM- 2 PM, with a half-price sale on Sunday, June 6 from 10 AM- 2 PM. Don't forget to bring your reusable bags. On Saturday, adult, young adult and children's hardcover books

will be \$1; children's paperbacks and board books will be \$0.50. Grab 'n Go bags filled with 4"x 7" paperback books (labeled by category) will also be for sale for \$5. All books will be half-priced on Sunday.

We'll be expanding the sale into the McChesney Room and lobby, in addition to the outdoor tables around the library, so that we'll be able to offer fiction, nonfiction and children's books. There will be fewer tables set up in order to maintain social distancing which means fewer books for sale than at our pre-COVID book sales.

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. If you'd like to help, contact Cheryl Nechamen at [fscplvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:fscplvolunteer@gmail.com). Because of Dave Bradley's exceptional organizing skills, we can skip setup on Friday. We do need help bringing books down from the 2nd floor and setting up on Saturday morning from 7-9 AM and volunteers to be cashiers and to monitor customers on Saturday and Sunday and for cleanup on Sunday (2-3 PM).

## FRIENDS TRIPS

by Gail Denisoff and Sue Crawford

With vaccines becoming more available and restrictions easing, we hope to resume Friends day trips in 2021 as venues begin to open to groups. In the meantime, we have three trips currently scheduled with Collette Tours. Collette monitors guidance provided by the CDC, WHO and the US Department of State daily so as to operate within the most current guidelines to ensure safe travel.

Information for all three trips can be found on the Friends website (<https://friendsofscpl.org/literary-trips/>) and below.

- Discovering Poland - September 18-29, 2021. Complete information and itinerary can be found at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1027657>
- Discover America's Music Cities (New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville) - November 7-14, 2021. Complete information and itinerary can be found at: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1044318> This trip was rescheduled from 2020 but open to all.
- Springtime Tulip River Cruise through Holland and Belgium - April 21-29, 2022.

We will be scheduling a Zoom presentation for this trip soon. Complete information and itinerary can be found at: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1035319>. This trip was rescheduled from 2020 and open to all.

Collette provides a complete refund for any trips that are cancelled. Cancelled trips will be rescheduled.

If you have any questions please contact Gail and Sue at [scplfriendstrips@gmail.com](mailto:scplfriendstrips@gmail.com).



## SCIENCE TALKS

Coordinated by Geri Mulligan

The science talk that was cancelled on March 8 has been rescheduled for May 10. Please join us for the last Noon Program of the season. We will return in September with more book reviews and talks.

### May 10 - Bats of New York: Their Darkest Hour

Although there have been bat researchers in NY since the 1930s, the first serious effort to monitor their populations began in the late 1970s. All trends for all species were positive, until that snow covered day in March of 2007 when the DEC survey crew reached the entrance of Hailes Cave in Thatcher Park. Little did they know 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. Join us for the ongoing story and for the lessons it teaches us.

**Presented by Alan Hicks, retired specialist for DEC**

**Find the Zoom link at**  
[friendsofscpl.org/programs/noon-programs/](https://friendsofscpl.org/programs/noon-programs/)

## ZOOM SAVES GREAT DECISIONS!

by Fred Eddy

The Great Decisions Discussion Group on foreign policy met each week in February and March this year, in spite of the pandemic! We used the subscription to Zoom provided by the Friends of SCPL and were able to play videos and conduct a discussion with full audience participation. Snow days and cold weather didn't pose a problem, and the attendance reached a record of 49 participants in two of the meetings!

We had great conversations about Globalization, China in Africa, Brexit, the two Koreas, and much more! Participants shared experiences in other countries and we even had one attendee currently living in Denmark! In future months, we hope to have additional meetings on topics of our own choosing. Look for notices in the Friends' email blast, or at <https://friendsofscpl.org/programs/great-decisions/>.

## END OF THE YEAR THOUGHTS ON NOON PROGRAMS

by Geri Mulligan

This year has been a year of growth and surprises. In September we began providing our programs via Zoom. The coordinators and presenters all learned as we went along. The stabilizing force that made everything run smoothly was Doug Bixler at the library. Doug managed our technology and took part in moderating the question and answer portion of our programs. At first, many of our reviewers and speakers were unfamiliar with presenting through Zoom. It didn't take long before most everyone became familiar with interacting virtually as this seems to be a way of life now. I am grateful to the members of the Noon Programs committee for their commitment to our library community, and their hard work in putting together these programs.

I want to give special thanks to JoAnn Adams and Diane Leone for the many years they planned the Fall BSI series. These two wonderful Friends are now moving on to other projects. I will miss them.

I am pleased to say however, that additional members have joined the committee. We look forward to scheduling more book reviews as well as history and science talks starting in September.

The following people make up our committee for the next year (and longer I hope):

- Bill Levering and Jack Rightmyer, Fall BSI
- Bill Buell, November history month
- Cathy Lewis, Winter BSI
- Bill Burdick, March science month
- Rich Alben and Paul O'Brien, Spring BSI
- Geri Mulligan, programming occasional weeks

Thank you to everyone who generously gave their time and talents as presenters. Also, thanks to the Friends for their support and participation. We hope to get back to the McChesney room and be together again. When that happens, we will try to provide a hybrid program so we can be live and on Zoom for those who prefer that model.

# BEAT THE SNOW CONCERT SERIES RECAP

By Janice Walz

Incredible. Teamwork. Amazing. All words that describe this year's Beat the Snow Concert Series sponsored by the Friends of SCPL and presented on YouTube on Sunday afternoons. First off, it was incredible that we were able to offer the three month concert series under such difficult circumstances. No one was allowed in the McChesney Room and all performers had to record themselves and send the material to Doug in a timely manner. Sometimes, this meant gathering several players in a large enough space to play wind instruments and not put anyone in danger.

The Teamwork between all those involved was smooth for the most part. Once in a while, we were not sure which concert was going to play on Sunday as a technical glitch

had happened, but then things straightened out. We were able to run all the concerts with the support of Doug Bixler and the musicians. Another part of the team were Charles Richardson and Shirley DeBono watching the paperwork and finances since this was the first year—and what an appropriate year—that we paid the musicians a small honorarium for their efforts.

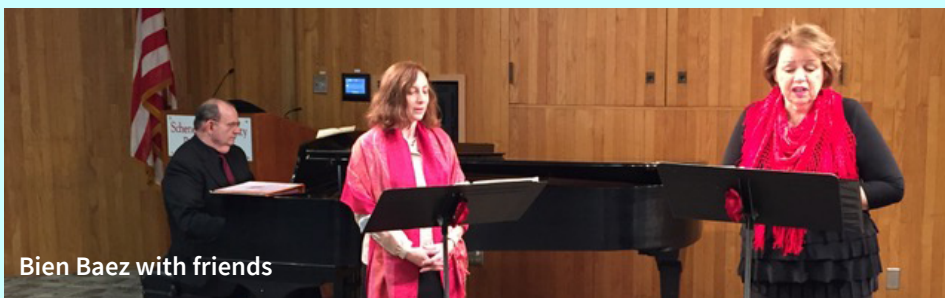
And, finally, Amazing. Our concerts are always good, but this year some of them were outstanding. New material from Musicians of Ma'alwyck about the Suffrage movement in this celebratory year of women's voting. The Quintocracy Winds performing background music to a new book by John Gray. New music from the Etude Club and music to calm our frayed nerves by Bien Baez and Roseanne

Hargrave. And closing the series, Easter music with newcomer, Linda Cramer, and Malcolm Kogut. I could, and probably should, mention each and every player who supported this program. But I would ask you to go to the Friends' Beat the Snow site and listen to the performers. That is a better tribute to their good work. Although we usually have on average 70+ people for each concert, with the ability to put the concerts on YouTube for weeks, we have had viewings of 153, 176, and even 245. Amazing.

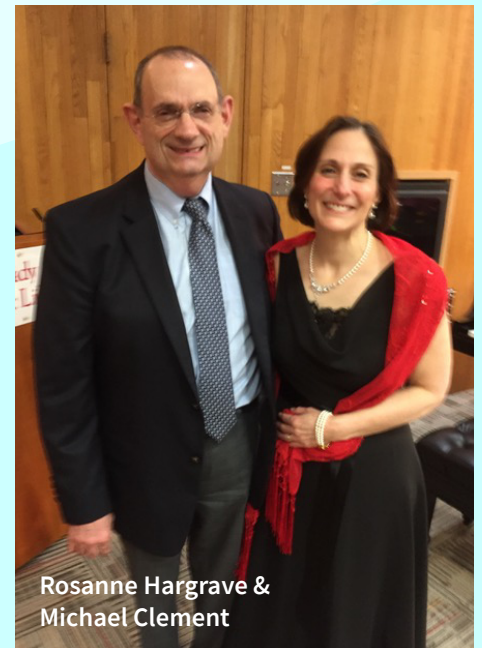
How does this change what we do for next year? We hope to continue the taping of the concerts from the McChesney Room using appropriate equipment to do a proper job. We hope to continue bringing events that brighten people's days during the mid-winter and offer opportunities for local players to meet their audiences.



Musicians of Ma'alwyck



Bien Baez with friends



Rosanne Hargrave & Michael Clement

# Membership News

## RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS

### Benefactor - \$200+

- George C & Joan Gould
- Leonard Herman & Guido Loyola
- Wayne & Cynthia Schneider

### Patron - \$50-199

- Tina Chericoni-Versaci
- Art & Ruth Clayman
- Tim Coakley
- Cheryl Cufari
- Nancy Curran
- Maya Dhinesh
- Brian & Toni Doherty
- Randy Fine
- Jo Freedman
- Danielle & Steve Gray
- Christine Anne Katchmar
- Scott Kilbourn & Diane Bengtson-Kilbourn
- Isabel & Steven Krempa
- William Levering
- Julie B. McDonnell
- William McColl

- Robert Nottke
- Donna Pace
- Carmel Patrick
- Johanna Petersen
- Karen Schell
- Lawrence & Jennifer Schmidt
- Shawn Shultz
- Debra Story
- Peter & Diana Weinberg
- Carol Wilber
- Harry & Sandra Willis
- Kathryn Ylvisaker

### Supporting - \$35-49

- David & Carol Furman
- Sandra Kaminiski
- Harald Pels
- Dotty & Pete Sheehan
- Jack Underwood
- Holly Vellano
- Kate & John Vrtiak

### New Members

- Portia Alston

- Carol Atkins
- Marsha Brower
- Janice Brownell
- David Cheesman
- Michael Diffley
- Melissa Engler & Howard Halstead
- Matthew Fitzpatrick
- Heather Gray
- Carol Hyde
- Burk Ketcham
- John & Latefa Lang
- Barbara Lewis
- Veronica & Dan May
- Steven McCutcheon
- Lois Radke
- Jeannette Robb
- Brenda Schworm
- Twila White

## DONATIONS

**Eric & Georgiann Holm**  
**Network for Good**



## HELP WANTED

Seeking community members to support our library system as volunteers with the Friends of Schenectady County Public Library.

Immediate volunteer opportunities include: transporting books, online sales, working at book sales or store locations\*. Heavy lifting for book transport is urgently needed.

At home and special program volunteer opportunities are available as well.

Please see our website at [friendsofscpl.org/volunteer](http://friendsofscpl.org/volunteer) for more details.

\*Membership is required to volunteer at the Whitney Corner Book Corner and A Second Look.



## IN MEMORY OF SAM WAIT

by Christine Witkowski

The Friends of SCPL first learned of Sam Wait's love of the library several years ago when he answered our call for personal stories of library memories (Tell Us Your Story, Nov./Dec. 2013 Newsletter). But it was when Friends president Charlene Roman received a call from a financial advisor telling her of Mr. Wait's death on January 23, and his wish to remember the Friends with a bequest, that we suspected his appreciation for our library might be expressed a little more than through fond memories.

Mr. Wait was an Associate Dean of Science at RPI and served as Acting Dean of Science on three separate occasions. He received numerous honors from the college, including the Outstanding Faculty Award in 1988. His wife, Carol, shared his love for libraries; having earned a master's degree in library science, she became the Serials Librarian at the Capital District Library Council. The two were long time members of the Friends, joining as benefactors in 1971.

Sam's library story, reprinted below, will now be expanded to include a whole new chapter for the Friends. His very generous donation will firmly memorialize his devotion and appreciation for the library he loved so much.

### Sam's Library Story

"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 (Hopefully I have her name correct.) 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."





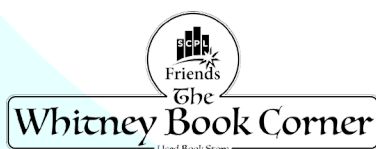
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