

News of the **Friends** of Schenectady County Public Library

March/April 2026 | Volume LXI No. 4



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Winter Book Sale a Record-Setting Success

Such a success!!!

The book sale made \$10,600. With a few changes to our sale, we made more money than ever before.

The addition of the Members Only sale on Thursday night was so positively received by our members that they spent \$2,142. And we welcomed 10 new members! Actually, the membership increased before the sale, just knowing that there would be a Members Only sale!

The membership spoke to us about wanting the ability to get first dibs on our books, perusing those books without scanners, and in a nice uncrowded, relaxed atmosphere. We delivered that!!!!

The new “no scanners” rule both at the Members Only sale and the first few hours of the sale on Saturday was a great success, according to customer feedback. The new hours on Sunday were a huge help to the book sale team. The help from the Whitney Book Corner to offer book sale prices on children’s books the hour between the sale starting and the library opening to our children’s section was another win/win for us.

Closing the sale two hours before the library closes allows the book sale team the time needed to break



down the sale with the organization we so love and are so known for. This change will carry over to all the sales now. The Spring and Fall breakdown tasks are huge. More time to accomplish this task will make us much happier. And a happy book sale team is a wonderful thing!!!

Thank you to all of our members that showed up to help make this sale so great, and, of course, thanks to our team. We are all great together.

— Robin and Lisa



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Contact Us

friendslibrary12305@gmail.com
www.friendsofscpl.org

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings, Friends Members!

As we reflect on the past year, I'm thrilled to share that our fundraising efforts exceeded the previous year by more than \$30,000! Even more exciting, we saw increases across all of our fundraising areas, from our seasonal book sales, to our online platforms, to both of our bookstore locations.

This kind of growth doesn't happen by accident. It is fueled by the generous donations of our community and the dedication of our members and volunteers.

As a reminder, we gratefully accept donations in good condition or better Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., at the Central Library loading dock. Please check out our website for details around what we accept.

We're also excited to share that we've recently expanded our media offerings in our stores! In addition to DVDs and audio books, we now offer CDs and vinyl records, giving shoppers even more reasons to stop in and explore.

Our continued growth and success are a direct result of your support and participation in the many facets of the Friends organization. Whether you donate, shop, volunteer, or advocate, you are helping us strengthen our library system and serve our community.

With gratitude,
Diane Wilkinson

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Do we have your current mailing and/or email address? Visit the Membership area of the Friends website to submit updated information. Most of our promotion and event information is sent by email, especially member-exclusive events. Don't miss out! Send an email to friendslibrary12305@gmail.com if you have questions or need assistance with updating your information.

NEWSLETTER IN YOUR INBOX

Sign up to receive our newsletter by email! Reading all the news from the Friends of the Library can be just one click away. To change your delivery preference, send an email to friendslibrary12305@gmail.com or visit the Membership area of the Friends website at www.friendsofscpl.org.

APRIL 21: ANNUAL MEETING, DINNER & CELEBRATION

Please join us Tuesday, April 21, as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary Eve! The beautiful view overlooking the Mohawk River will be the backdrop for our Annual Meeting and Dinner, which will be held at The Terrace at Waters Edge, located behind Max 410 and Homewood Suites, 2 Freemans Bridge Rd. in Glenville.

We will begin with a cash bar/cocktail hour at 5:00 with appetizers followed by the election of board members, and a buffet dinner. The member's portion of the costs will be \$30 per person.

Invitation and RSVP link will be sent via email in early March. If you do not receive an invitation, please send an email to friendslibrary12305@gmail.com with the subject line "Annual Meeting & Dinner." Please make checks payable to "Friends of SCPL" and note "Annual Meeting & Dinner" in the memo line. Send payments to: Friends of SCPL, Attn: Hospitality Committee, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305. Payments may also be made in person at either Whitney Book Corner or A Second Look.



BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Mia Gabriel, Director Mia currently serves as a manager of marketing and communications for a media agency, helping lead external communications across paid, owned, and earned channels. She's helped secure top-tier press in Adweek, Ad Age, Variety, Business Insider, Fast Company, Forbes, and more. With a degree in Public Relations, Mia began her career with the NBCUniversal Page Program, kicking off a decade in media, entertainment, and corporate PR. She's worked on publicity campaigns for BBC America's Killing Eve and Doctor Who, AMC's The Walking Dead, and IFC's Documentary Now!, to name a few. Mia's deep love for reading and libraries led her to join the Friends of SCPL after moving upstate from NYC in 2024, volunteering at A Second Look bookstore and with the Friends' social media presence. Outside of her work and time spent volunteering, Mia and her dog Albie enjoy estate sales, baking, and exploring the Capital Region.

Jane Kessler, Director Jane has been a lifelong library user, a librarian, and most recently, a volunteer with the Friends of SCPL. She holds a BS in Business & Economics from Lehigh University, an MBA from Rutgers University, and an MLS from the University at Albany. She retired in 2024 as Director of Collections for the University at Albany Libraries, where she was responsible for the acquisitions budget for three libraries. As a member of the senior administrative group, she shared responsibility for developing and implementing the mission, goals, and broad policy directions for the libraries. She lives in Rotterdam with her husband and has two grown children and one adorable granddaughter.

Katy Peace, Director Katy has been working with nonprofits for more than 15 years — at arts organizations, a park conservancy, and now in historic preservation. She graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Art History from the State University of New York at New Paltz in 2006, followed by a Master of Arts Management degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 2012. She currently serves as the Director of Communications for the Preservation League of NYS, engaging a statewide audience through strategic storytelling and public programming. Katy manages all aspects of the League's external communications, including press, social media, and email marketing. Her work includes the League's Preservation Book Club and Future of Preservation webinar series; programs aimed at exploring the connections between preservation and culturally important topics like planning, housing, diversity, and a sense of place. She serves as a volunteer focusing on promotions and social media for the Friends of SCPL and received a 2024 40 Under 40 Award from SUNY New Paltz. She lives in Schenectady with her husband, daughter, and large orange cat. You can find her on Instagram @katymatic.

Membership News

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Benefactor — \$200+

- Carol Borthwick
- Ted Heisler
- Teresa Kennedy
- Charles Richardson

Patron — \$50+

- Jan Olin Altschuller
- Barbara Armstrong & Bob Coppola
- Winifred Balz
- Gloria Blum
- Karen & Dave Bradley
- Andrew Burns
- Margie & Arthur Coats
- Nancy Curran
- Ralph DeSorbo
- Brian & Toni Doherty
- Susanne & Robert Doyle
- Joan Elliott
- Blanche Fischer
- Mary Fitzgerald
- Jeff & Joanne Gleba

- James & Karen Gonda
- Fran Gross
- Emily Hart
- Judy & Larry Hoff
- Bernice Izzo
- Brian Kelly
- Jane Kessler
- Selwa Khan & Nahla Khafagu
- Allison Lee & John Good
- David Lilienfeld
- Charles & Sharon Maneri
- Paul Matarazzo
- Joseph Nathan
- Sharon Mozzi & Butch Owens
- Paul & Deborah O'Brien
- Scott Oppenheimer
- Cassie Papapandrea
- Roberta Richardson
- Alice Rudnick
- Molly Schaefer
- Lawrence Schmidt
- Mary Scicchitano & Gerry Fuschino

- Delanne Stageman
- Jim & Margo Strosberg
- Karoline & Dori Trela
- Carol Troost
- Harry & Sandra Willis
- Bryant Wood

Supporting — \$35+

- Patricia & Kenneth Bosen
- Joe & Jane Hendrick
- Alanna Hoffmann
- Valerie Kushner
- Peggy & Rick Mele
- Sue Rudzinski
- MaryAnne & Thomas Mangano
- Emily O'Grady
- Susan Savage
- John & Eileen Sowa
- Laura Starrs
- Haley Viccaro
- Kate & John Vrtiak
- Dick & Ann Wyles
- Paul & Sharon Zalewski

DONATIONS & GIFTS

Recurring Monthly Donation

- Anthony Carota III
- Kayla Delano
- Kimberly & Samuel Gonzalez
- Hannah Kapadia
- Katy Peace
- Samhita Vupputuri

Niskayuna Branch Library, in Memory of Susan Vincent (Palermo)

- Karen Connelly
- Maurine Gilbert

Children's Book Week & Other STARS Initiatives

- Megan Levine

STARS Program

- Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY (The Carl Bloomberg Philanthropic Fund), in recognition of Megan Levine's volunteer work at the library

STARS Program, In Memory of Angeline Attanasio

- Donna Attanasio
- Donna Attanasio, in Memory of Angeline E. Attanasio on the 32nd birthday of her youngest grandchild Nicholas Francisci
- Susan & Edward Crawford
- Kenneth & Margaret Hemmeter
- Michele Hermsen
- Jo-Anne Rafalik
- Gerri Renna
- Paul & Diane Thompson

Other Gifts

- Marsha Brower
- Ellen & Ken Carpenter
- David Cheesman
- Indra Watson & Jon Genre
- Jane & Joe Hendrick
- Liz & Brian Yanoff

FRIENDS TRIPS UPDATES

2026 International Trips

A group of 24 Friends will be departing on April 20 for a tour of Scotland. We're looking forward to traveling through the Highlands from Glasgow to Edinburgh as we discover the mystical side of Scotland through its lore and legends.

Join the Friends on a trip of a lifetime to Kenya for a wildlife safari. We have three spots left for our October 2026 trip. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! More information can be found on the Friends website.



Day Trip to the Berkshires May 26

Save the date for our Friends spring day trip. On Tuesday, May 26, we will be traveling to the Berkshires to visit the Hancock Shaker Village for a tour of this living history museum where the story of the Shakers is brought to life. We will also visit the wonderful Clark Art Institute in Williamstown. More information and registration forms will be sent out soon.

Questions?

Email us at scplfriendstrips@gmail.com if you have any questions. We hope to travel with you soon!

— Gail & Sue

WHAT'S NEW AT WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

We have lots going on at Whitney Book Corner these days!

This month's featured artist from Oakroom Artists is sculptor Phyllis Kulmatiski, a New York City native who later taught art at Scotia-Glenville High School. Phyllis' sculptures and paintings by Barb Lennox make for a beautiful exhibit.

During our winter hours, "First Thursdays" with 50 percent off continue as "First Saturdays." We have several special sales coming up in March at both Whitney Book Corner and A Second Look:

- March 2: Children's book sale in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday
- March 8-16: Mystery Month sale with items 30, 35, or 50 percent off
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day Sale — If it's GREEN, it's 50 percent off



Vintage vinyl has arrived! We're excited to relive the great days of music through a growing selection of vinyl. You never know what you will find.

If you are a member, make sure we have your current email address! We send out many sale and event notices via email as well as our social media.

March/April Programs & Events

Register for these programs and more on the [Events & Class Registration](http://www.scpl.org) page at www.scpl.org

BEAT THE SNOW CONCERT SERIES

Sundays, 2:00 pm
McChesney Room
Central Library

Our Beat the Snow Concert Series got off to a great start with new performer AZ IS, a one-man band with 51 people enjoying the concert, followed by the Musicats with 54 in the audience and the Musicians of Maalwyck with a packed house of 94. Our concerts continue to be popular. Come and see what others already know — the McChesney Room is a wonderful place to be Sunday afternoons at 2:00!

March 1	Forgettable Four <i>Barbershop</i>
March 8	Rose Hargrave/Michael Clement <i>Sondheim</i>
March 15	The Etude Club of Schenectady <i>Centennial Concert</i>
March 22	Mark Tommasone <i>American Music</i>
March 29	Kingston Czajkowski <i>Marimba & Piano, ESYO</i>
April 12	Michael Benedict <i>Jazz Vibes</i>
April 19	Eileen Mack & The Jazz It Up Players <i>Jazz Appreciation Month</i>
April 26	Laura Meinicoff, Melanie Hardage & Melanie Chirignan <i>AtmoSpirit Trio</i>



SPRING CRAFT WORKSHOPS WITH ARTIST TRACY LORING

Thursday, March 19
5:45 pm
Program Room 1
Central Library

Spring Gel Printing Workshop

Join us for a jam-packed workshop exploring printmaking on a gel plate. Inspired by a Spring palette, you'll learn to create textures and use masks to build unique compositions using acrylic paint. For Adults 18+.

Thursday, April 23
5:45 pm
Program Room 1
Central Library

Floral Mixed Media Collage Workshop

Join us for a floral-themed collage workshop. You'll combine watercolor with collage techniques to create a colorful floral painting. For Adults 18+.



March/April Programs & Events

Register for these programs and more on the [Events & Class Registration](http://www.scp1.org) page at www.scp1.org

ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Thursday, March 12
7:00 pm

"Book Portals & Journeys of Literary Magic" with Kate Quinn

Join us for a virtual conversation with acclaimed author Kate Quinn about her latest fantastical work, *The Astral Library*, which poses the question: Have you ever wished you could live inside a book? Welcome to the Astral Library, where books are not just objects, but doors to new worlds, new lives, and new futures.



Tuesday, March 24
2:00 pm

America's Failed Response to the Opioid Crisis with Author Shoshana Walter & Special Guest Host Barbara Kingsolver

Join us for a special conversation between award-winning journalist Shoshana Walter and bestselling and award-winning author Barbara Kingsolver as they chat about Walter's book *Rehab: An American Scandal*. In this work, Walter, a Pulitzer finalist, exposes the country's failed response to the opioid crisis, and the malfeasance, corruption, and snake oil that blight the drug rehabilitation industry.

FREE CONCERT: YOUNG MUSICIANS FORUM

Sunday, March 29, 2:00 pm
McChesney Room
Central Library

The Young Musicians Forum is pleased to announce this concert that showcases pianist and marimbist Kingston Czajkowski, a member of the Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO). A senior at Cairo-Durham High School, Kingston won the ESYO Concerto Competition, the Capital District Tchaikovsky Competition, and was a recipient of the Uel Eade Music Scholarship. He attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and has been selected to the New York All-State and NafME All-Eastern Symphonic Bands.

His program will include works for piano by Chopin and Rachmaninoff, and works for marimba by Abe, Bach, and Stout.



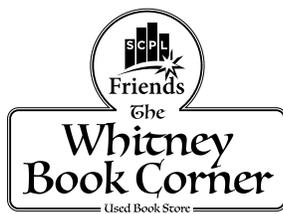


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