

Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

May/June 2012

Vol. XLVII, No. 5

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

NOON PROGRAMS BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Linda Witkowski, Coordinator

- May 7** **The Swerve: How the World Became Modern** by Stephen Greenblatt; reviewed by Bertrand Fay, adjunct faculty and lecturer at Russell Sage and Union College, performance artist, UCALL presenter. "More wonderfully illuminating Renaissance history from a master scholar and historian."
- May 14** **Critical Children: The Use of Childhood in 10 Great Novels** by Richard Locke; reviewed by Dr. Patrice Kindl, multiple award-winning author of young adult fiction; lecturer, teacher of writing. "...traces the 130-year evolution of these iconic child characters, moving from Oliver Twist, David Copperfield, and Pip in *Great Expectations* to Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn; from Miles and Flora in *The Turn of the Screw* to Peter Pan and his modern American descendant, Holden Caulfield; and finally to Lolita and Alexander Portnoy."
- May 21** **Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour** by Lynne Olson; reviewed by Dr. Thomas Kelly, Professor of History, Siena College, retired; Board of N.Y. State Military History Institute. "...reveals the behind-the-scenes story of how the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain, told from the perspective of three key American players in London: Edward R. Murrow, Averell Harriman, and John Gilbert Winant."

THE BATON IS PASSED.....

Linda Witkowski has coordinated the Books Sandwiched In program at the Central Library for fourteen years. During that time she has organized and coordinated more than 240 book reviews. Linda has devoted countless hours to bringing us interesting and informative programs presented by knowledgeable reviewers. Her efforts have resulted in a faithful audience that looks forward to each Monday noon event. We want to recognize Linda for her dedication and to thank her for the innumerable hours she has devoted to the Friends of SCPL.

Beginning in September, a new team, including Jo Adams, Rich Holt, Patricia Rush, John Karl, Joan Ham and George Wise, will take over the Books Sandwiched In program. Others who will be helping out during the season are Susie Leon and Frank Taormina.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS-SAVE THE DATES

- Tuesday, July 17th, 7:00pm- Book discussion of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, facilitated by Ricki Lewis. This will be followed up by a family health history event, likely in late July.
- Tuesday, July 24th, 7:00 pm, -NYSCA sponsored book discussion of *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese, facilitated by Martha Rozette.
- Monday, August 20th, 7:00 pm-NYSCA book discussion of *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, facilitated by Nate Leslie.
- Tuesday, August 28th, 7:00 pm- NYSCA book discussion of *Gold* by Chris Cleave, facilitated by Rosanne Melita.

Registration for discussions, all held in the McChesney Room, is recommended by calling 388-4511 beginning May 29 or by signing up at the Reference Desk of the Central Library. Questions? Contact Karen Bradley at 388-4533 or kbradley@mvls.info.

EMILY DICKINSON PROGRAM

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring a special program in the McChesney Room on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. on "Emily Dickinson and her Poetry." The presenter is Linda Witkowski, who, in addition to coordinating the noon book reviews, organizes the library's annual Poetry Gala, is a member of Union Colleges Academy of Lifelong Learning steering committee and a retired English teacher from Niskayuna High School. Refreshments will be served. Register by calling the Reference Desk at 388-4511.

REELS

A Free Series of Recent Thought-Provoking Films
Shown in the McChesney Room at the Central Library
99 Clinton Street, Schenectady, New York

May

Wednesday, May 2 at noon & Thursday, May 3 at 7pm

The Help

Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard
DreamWorks Pictures; Directed by Tate Taylor
Rated PG-13; 146 minutes; 2011

Set in Mississippi during the 1960s, Skeeter is a southern society girl who returns from college determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives -- and a small Mississippi town -- upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent southern families.

Wednesday, May 9 at noon & Thursday, May 10 at 7pm

My Week With Marilyn

Michelle Williams, Kenneth Branagh, Eddie Redmayne
The Weinstein Company; Directed by Simon Curtis
Rated R; 99 minutes; 2011
In the early summer of 1956, 23 year-old Colin Clark worked as a lowly assistant on the set of "THE PRINCE AND THE SHOWGIRL" with Sir Laurence Olivier with Marilyn Monroe. 40 years later his diary account was published, but one week was missing. This film is the story of that week: an idyll in which he escorted a Monroe desperate to get away from her retinue of Hollywood hangers-on and the pressures of working.

Wednesday, May 16 at noon & Thursday, May 17 at 7pm

The Iron Lady

Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent, Richard E. Grant
The Weinstein Company; Directed by Phyllida Lloyd
Rated PG-13; 102 minutes; 2011

The Iron Lady tells the compelling story of Margaret Thatcher, a woman who smashed through the barriers of gender and class to be heard in a male-dominated world.

Wednesday, May 23 at noon & Thursday, May 24 at 7pm

One Day

Anne Hathaway, Jim Sturgess, Patricia Clarkson
Focus Features; Directed by Lone Scherfig
Rated PG-13; 108 minutes; 2011
Adapted from the internationally praised and bestselling novel, this film charts an extraordinary relationship. After only one day together in 1989, Emma Morley and Dexter Mayhew cannot stop thinking about one another. Over the next twenty years, key moments of their relationship are revealed on the same day – July 15th – of each year.

Wednesday, May 30 at noon & Thursday, May 31 at 7pm

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close

Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, John Goodman
Warner Bros.; Directed by Stephen Daldry
Rated PG-13; 129 minutes; 2012

A nine-year-old amateur inventor, jewelry designer, astrophysicist, tambourine player and pacifist, searches New York for the lock that matches a mysterious key left by his father when he was killed in the September 11 attacks.

June

Wednesday, June 6 at noon & Thursday, June 7 at 7pm

J. Edgar

Leonardo DiCaprio, Armie Hammer, Naomi Watts
Warner Bros.; Directed by Clint Eastwood
Rated R; 137 minutes; 2011

As the face of law enforcement in America for almost 50 years, J. Edgar Hoover was feared and admired, reviled and revered. But behind closed doors, he held secrets that would have destroyed his image, his career and his life.

Wednesday, June 13 at noon & Thursday, June 14 at 7pm

If a Tree Falls

Documentary
Oscilloscope Laboratories
85 minutes; 2011

The remarkable story of the rise and fall of the Earth Liberation Front, a radical environmental group that the FBI calls America's 'number one domestic terrorist threat,' told through the transformation and radicalization of one of its members, Daniel McGowan.

Wednesday, June 20 at noon & Thursday, June 21 at 7pm

Coriolanus

Ralph Fiennes, Gerard Butler, Brian Cox
The Weinstein Company; Directed by Ralph Fiennes
Rated R; 122 minutes; 2012

Martius 'Coriolanus', a revered and feared Roman General is at odds with the city of Rome and his fellow citizens. Pushed by his controlling and ambitious mother Volumnia to seek the exalted and powerful position of Consul, he is loath to ingratiate himself with the masses whose votes he needs in order to secure the office. When the public refuses to support him, Coriolanus's anger prompts a riot that culminates in his expulsion from Rome. The banished hero then allies himself with his sworn enemy Tullus Aufidius to take his revenge on the city.

Wednesday, June 27 at noon & Thursday, June 28 at 7pm

War Horse

Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, David Thewlis
DreamWorks Pictures; Directed by Steven Spielberg
Rated PG-13; 146 minutes; 2011

Set against a sweeping canvas of rural England and Europe during the First World War, *War Horse* begins with the remarkable friendship between a horse named Joey and a young man called Albert, who tames and trains him. When they are forcefully parted, the film follows the extraordinary journey of the horse as he moves through the war, changing and inspiring the lives of all those he meets.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Annual Meeting for the Friends of the Library was held at Schenectady County Community College on April 10th with a record attendance of 119. We welcome four new Board members: Tricia Margas, Kathy August, Patti Rotunda and Rich Leon. We say goodbye to three members who have completed their six year term: Val Catlin, Sally Magid and Debbie McCambridge.

Please review our 2011 Annual report, available on our web site www.friendsofscpl.org

–Bill Leitch

WHITNEY BOOK CORNER

Our 10TH Anniversary Open House will be on May 3. The first 100 customers will receive a coupon for a free book to be used at the Semi-Annual Book Sale at the main library on Saturday, May 5. At the Open House there will be remarks at 4 p.m. and a drawing for a four drawer cabinet at 7 p.m. Look for Jeff Wilkin's feature story on the WBC in the Gazette the week of April 30. As you drive down Erie Blvd. the week of April 30 be sure to notice the marquee!

Each month during this anniversary year you may enter a drawing to win a themed gift basket. Winner of the Romance basket was Sandra C.; Cindy K. won the Gardening Basket. Look on our website www.whitneybookcorner.org for upcoming specials.

When visiting the WBC, look for the new Patricia Whitney memorial plaque created by the architect, Werner Feibes. –Gail Karl

BOOK SALES

The Friends were busy during the winter with successful hall sales. The January fiction sale made \$1,958, the February sale sold over 3,500 books, and the new Audio Book sale in March netted \$661. Our thanks to all those who worked so diligently.

We are looking forward to our huge semi-annual spring sale on May 5 from 9:00 to 4:00. The Bag Sale follows on Sunday, May 6 from 1:00 to 3:00. Y'all come!

–Ellie Rowland and Virginia Thompson



If you have experience in Excel spreadsheets, Lisa Holt, our trip coordinator, is looking for someone to assist her. Contact Lisa at lahnisky@yahoo.com or 370-1811.

GIFTS RECEIVED

The Friends are grateful for gifts received from The John C. and Susan K. Hubbard Foundation Inc., and NALC 358 Northeastern New York (National Association of Letter Carriers).

DISTRIBUTION

Thank you to Kathy August, Bill and Lois Isles, Bill and Mary Liz Leitch, Anne Yunick, Rudy Dehn, and John Karl for help with the March newsletter mailing.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have entered the renewal period and you should be receiving a renewal form soon. Please fill out the information and return it to the address shown with a check payable to the Friends of SCPL.

Did you know the first Friends newsletter was published in September of 1966 and read by its 163 members? Today we have approximately 1,071 contributing members. How far we have come! Almost 200 new members have been added in just the past 15 months, an indication of how important Schenectady residents think their library is. If you know someone who is not a member but would join you in support of the library, suggest that they get a membership form at any branch or at the Whitney Book Corner. Membership applications may also be accessed online at www.friendsofscpl.org. Beginning with your renewal for the 2012-2013 period, a membership card will be sent to you indicating your membership number and the period of your renewal (e.g. June 2013). Benefits of membership will be explained with the receipt of the membership card.

Welcome to the following new members: Donna Benequisto, Anne Christman, Amy Davis, Loretta Gallagher, Karen Hess, Patricia Jones, Miriam Katz, Edward H. Miller, Marsha Mortimore, Catherine Paupst, Marsha Pompilio, Linda Tannatta, Tina Versaci, Midge Bonacquist, Dee Ann & John Coniglio, Anthony M. Gaddy, Sondra Grady, Marlene Paccico, Margaret Vrooman, Kate Vrtiak and Vera Weiss. –John Karl & Rita Moore

VOLUNTEER PICNIC

If you are a volunteer through the Friends and/or the library itself, let us treat you to the annual library volunteers' picnic, June 8 from 5 pm until dusk at the River Road Park in Niskayuna. Non-volunteer guests are welcome for \$5. Signup sheets will be available at the library reference desk and the Whitney Book Corner.



- The Central library hosted a performance of "Androcles and the

Lion" by the Schenectady Theater for Children during the April spring break. They performed for two shows, fully funded by the Friends.

- Two early literacy stations have been ordered for the new children's area, courtesy of the Friends.
- In response to a suggestion from Carol Raphael, the Friends purchased small "shopping" carts to assist patrons who may be in need of additional assistance as they maneuver through the library. Carol is temporarily living in the midwest and she was impressed by this service offered at her local library.

THE FRIENDS ARE ON THE WEB

Visit our new site at www.friendsofscpl.org. Be sure to "like" us on Facebook and email us at friendslibrary12305@gmail.com with questions, concerns and/or to receive our newsletter.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WHITNEY AND A BIG THANK YOU!



Ed Reilly realized the potential for the Friends to have a used book store on the corner of Union and Clinton when he saw the “For Rent” sign on the building. The bequest of Patricia Whitney, past book sales chairman, gave the Friends the courage to proceed. Ultimately, very little money was used due to all volunteer labor and donations. The people who renovated the space to turn a rundown antique store into the Whitney Book Corner were Phil Adams, Bern Allanson, George Gould and Fred Thompson. Wonja Brucker, assistant director of the Schenectady County Public Library, found all the furniture, bins and shelving needed and borrowed it from the county to make the newly refurbished space into a book store. Ed Reilly created the first Whitney web site.

Management

Joyce Parry and George Gould managed the store for four years. Renie Federighi and Richard Holt served for two years. Gail Karl is in her fifth year as manager and will continue into the future. She is ably assisted by Christine Witkowski, who does publicity and Roberta Richardson, who periodically keeps the schedule and does many other odd jobs. Ellie Rowland does the scheduling of volunteer workers for a total of 18 shifts per week. Fred Thompson organized and shelved all the media for seven years. Now four people do that job - Bruce Northrup-records, Rich Holt-audio books, Nancy Virkler-movies, and Bern Allanson-music CDs and cassettes. Fred Marx handles the paperbacks, Sylvia Curley does the children’s books, and Joyce Parry is the financial manager.

Bouquets to You!

Throughout the store's history the library staff has given invaluable help and support. The Friends heartfelt gratitude goes to all of you. A special thanks goes Sandy Andersen, who does the graphics and to all of the custodial staff, who daily bring in the donated books from the loading dock and take them to the second floor for sorting. The key ingredient of the Whitney's success is the wonderful, helpful, cheerful and loyal volunteers. They give the store a homey atmosphere that makes it a welcoming place for all who enter the door.

Our inventory is totally dependent upon the books the citizens of Schenectady County donate, along with library discards, which are then sorted and categorized. The sorters work diligently weekly to choose the books for the Whitney Book Corner, for online sales and for the large book sales. Bob Symons and Alice Reid do the original sort, Leah Leonard heads up the fiction books, and non-fiction books are directed by Sally and Simon Weinstein. The Friends wish to thank all who contribute time, talent and books, so that the Whitney can continue to be an outstanding place to shop.

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**semi-annual
BOOK
SALE**

Saturday, May 5, 2012
9 am - 4 pm

\$2.00 Bag Sale
Sunday, May 6, 2012
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Most Books \$1.00
Children's Books 25¢ & 50¢
Paperbacks 3/\$1.00
Romance (hard & paperback) 2/\$1.00

Records...DVDs...CDs...VHS...Audiobooks

For year-round deals on quality used books, visit the Whitney Book Corner on the corner of Clinton & Union Streets. www.whitneybookcorner.org

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