SPOTLIGHT ON MUSEUM PASSES:
The Schenectady Historical Society
Wilma Jozwiak

Just across the river from us lies Schenectady County. You probably know much of Schenectady’s current incarnation, from the popular Proctors Theatre to the Rivers Casino, but you may not know much about the city and county that have had a rich history long before General Electric helped light the factories, homes, and streets of America. Among the museum passes the Friends provide for our Library patrons is one to the Schenectady County Historical Society, one of the most varied that we offer. When you check out this pass, you have a key to an adventure that will appeal to lots of different interests.

Historic Maybee Farm is the oldest farm in the Mohawk Valley, established in 1705, and located at 1100 Main Street (Route 5S) in Rotterdam Junction. With its deep history and riverside beauty, it’s the perfect place to explore Mohawk Valley heritage.

While you are at the Farm, you can explore the home of settlers Jan and Annetje, walking across the weathered pine boards and imagining spending the long winter in front of the fireplace, or examine the 1760s hand-pegged Dutch barn. Then you can stroll through the Farm’s orchards, gardens, and forests trails, and visit the reproduction 28th century bateaux (either tied up at the dock or winter stored behind the Dutch Barn). Permanent historical and archeological exhibits as well as temporary exhibits will intrigue older children and adults.

Check the Society’s website at www.schenectadyhistorical.org to find out about special programs and events (some may require registration and a separate admission fee not covered by the library pass; call the Society at 518-887-5073 for more information).

But we’re just getting started on what the Society offers. A drive to Schenectady’s Stockade Historic District (described by the National Park Service as “the highest concentration of historic period homes in the country”) brings us to the Schenectady History Museum located at 32 Washington

(Continued on next page)
Avenue, and the Grems-Doolittle Library next door. Spend an hour or more visiting the Museum’s interactive exhibits that tell the stories of Schenectady and learning about how the city and the county have changed over the years. An ongoing exhibit, Beyond the Pines: Early Schenectady, explores the early Schenectady: its founding, its people, and what life was like for early Schenectadians.

If you are of a more serious historical bent, the Grems-Doolittle Library adjacent to the museum is the perfect place to dig deeply into Schenectady history.

For more information on current exhibits at the Museum, check the website or call 518-374-0263.

Schenectady Historical Society continued from page 1

Schenectady County Historical Society Festival of Trees

**Dec 1 – Dec 16 from 10 am – 5 pm**

*Two locations: Schenectady County Historical Society and the YWCA of North Eastern NY*

*Adults $6 • Under 12 free!*

Celebrate the season as we fill our galleries with lighted fir trees! Decorated from classic to kooky holiday styles, the trees glow with the enchantment of the season. Join us throughout December for a shimmering, festive celebration of creativity and wonderful sparkling trees.

It’s Time to Deck the Halls!

Junior Friends of the Library co-President, Susan Jeong (left), delivered 99 pairs of jeans to CAPTAIN.

The Junior Friends of Library has kicked off the autumn season with several volunteering opportunities and events for teens. We have participated in several fall themed activities such as pumpkin painting for teens. Many of our volunteers also helped out during the library’s used book sale. We assisted people who were looking for specific books, rearranged books, and helped set up and clean up for the sale. Alongside the book sale was our jean drive. The jean drive was truly successful, as we collected nearly a hundred pairs of jeans for donation. We also sponsored a table at the Library Volunteer Fair. To find out more about the JFOL, visit our website.

May your Holidays be Filled with Good Things!
CROSSING CULTURES
POTLUCK LUNCHEON
WILMA JOZWIAK

The Program Rooms upstairs at the Library buzzed with conversation on October 17 as community members new and old got to know one another. It was another successful Crossing Cultures Potluck Luncheon!

The Friends’ first Crossing Cultures Potluck Luncheon was held in 2013. Judy Lees, a longtime volunteer with the Library’s English language program for new community members from other countries, was searching for a way to bring her students together with established community members. The Friends were interested in ways of serving our new community members. We put our heads together and realized that food is a universal language, one that people enjoy and will always find something to talk about. Over the years, Judy, members of the English classes and some of their teachers and tutors, and other volunteers from the Friends have planned and provided this opportunity. Judy’s beaming smile has always been a fixture!

Now Judy is stepping down from her leadership of the luncheon, although she and husband Greg will be there to enjoy the fun. We are looking for an event chair, whose responsibility will be to supervise the planning and implementation, including organizing volunteers. Judy has put together an impeccable planning guide that will provide step-by-step support for the new chair! Contact us at cphfriends@nycap.rr.com if you would be interested or for more information!

LIBRARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS
ALEX GUTELIUS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The 2019 theme for summer reading is a Universe of Stories. Watch for programs focused on space, with a special celebration planned for July 20. August will feature a Woodstock anniversary bash that will be fun for all ages. And in the fall, we are planning a special Masquerade Ball and will challenge you to a 50th Anniversary Literary Bake-off. Pick up a program brochure in January or check our website for more details about the exciting year of 50th Anniversary activities we have planned.

Much has changed about the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library over the past 50 years, but its commitment to connecting our communities and to providing the best possible service remains the same. Join us in 2019 for our year-long 50th Anniversary celebration!

In 1969 there was a lot happening; Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, Sesame Street debuted on PBS, just south of here more than 400,000 music fans attended the Woodstock Festival – and the Shenendehowa Free Library opened for the first time on April 19. Throughout the coming year, we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary with programs, music concerts, authors and displays. In January look for the Library Moon Walk challenge or challenge yourself to read 50 books. In February you can play birthday themed mini-golf in the stacks or get a team together for 1969 Trivia Night. We will be hosting authors Gordon Korman (February), Louise Penny (March) and Lisa Wingate (May), author of the TTOB 2019 book of the year, Before We Were Yours.

We’re Looking for an Event Chair.
Interested? Let Us Know!

Crossing Cultures Potluck Luncheon
Wilma Jozwiak
We’re Looking for an Event Chair.
Interested? Let Us Know!

Library 50th Anniversary Plans
Alex Gutelius, Library Director

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In 1939, as an eighth-grader, a schoolmate told me that money could be made delivering newspapers. The Gannett Press in my hometown published both a morning and an evening paper. The money part interested me so I showed up at a Saturday morning meeting held by the district manager for the paper boys. Serendipity was with me that day as a route in my neighborhood delivering the morning Democrat & Chronicle had just opened up and I grabbed it. I’d be making $2-$3 per week, enough to keep me in milkshakes, candy bars and an occasional cigarette for the week.

I took to the job immediately, reveling in my newfound responsibilities as well as the shiny new coins now jangling in my pocket. Each day’s edition was dropped off, bound with wire, in front of our flat at 4:30 AM. Snipping the wire with pliers, I’d quickly scan the front page for news of the world, and then check the baseball or basketball scores. Folded each paper, stuffed it into my canvass bag, and hoisted the bag into the wire basket on the front of my bicycle.

Off we’d go in the semi-darkness, my dog, Pat, trotting alongside me on the sidewalk as I flung each customer’s copy onto their porch without slowing down. Delivering the day’s news from around the world to the doorstep of my customers and collecting on Friday nights gave me a new sense of pride and entrepreneurship, and was invoking an ardent attraction for the newspaper business.

Later on as a junior in high school, my interest in newspapers flared up again as I learned from a schoolmate that the D & C was looking for a copy boy. After school that day, I ran down Main St. to their offices. The minute I entered the editorial room, I knew that this was the place I wanted to work. Peering through the cloud of cigarette smoke hovering over hazy figures pecking away at typewriters; teletype machines clicking out news stories from around the world; reporters screaming “copy” at the top of their lungs; the loud swooshes as edited copy began its journey by pneumatic tube to the composing room – absolute chaos. Yet here was tomorrow morning’s edition being produced right in front of me. I stood there mesmerized by this scene unfolding before me … straight out of the Hollywood movie, “Front Page.”

A half hour later I was on the payroll.

My days as a copy boy taught me some valuable lessons: that punctuality was expected, how to deal with difficult people, and to learn from the wisdom of the veteran reporters. As a part of an enterprise providing the news of the day to the citizens of my city, I couldn’t wait to get to work when school closed. I just loved this exciting job: accompanying the reporters to high school games as a “spotter;” the deafening roar of the giant presses spitting out the day’s news; writing the Day Book; getting my first byline for a movie review at the age of 17; and mounting prestige from my high school classmates, who perceived me as the ultimate insider, the possessor of all the latest news of the world.

Nostalgically those years have now melted into the past. And though I’ve lived an interesting and gratifying life, I never broke into the newspaper business. In many ways I regret that. Yet the fast moving excitement surrounding me in the editorial room that seeped into my veins many years ago has never left me. Soon I’ll be retiring after 32 years as volunteer editor of a magazine dedicated to veterans of the WW II Amphibious Forces of the Pacific war.

And I still grab for every newspaper, book, and magazine within reach. A love affair that began long ago at the age of 13 with a morning paper route has fortunately culminated in a lifelong passion for reading and writing.
The story of Mott’s Inc. Apple Processing Empire starts right here in Halfmoon, just a bit west of the intersection of Farm to Market & Pruyn Hill Roads. Zebulon Mott was the original owner of the farm deeded in 1795. His son John owned the neighboring farm & together they had extensive orchards. Zebulon taught his Grandson, John’s son, Samuel Rogers Mott, the tricks of the trade in processing the apples for cider and vinegar. That was the start in 1842, when Samuel was 16 years old, of the Mott’s Inc. apple processing empire.

Zebulon served as Halfmoon Town Supervisor from 1801-1817 and was in the NYS Legislature. Samuel left Halfmoon with his wife and 4 children and moved to Brouckville, NY where he purchased a third interest in a vinegar factory. The following year he bought out the other 2 partners. Samuel’s eldest son, John Coon Mott, did not move with the family. He lived in NYC where he opened a cider mill where the Jacob Javitt’s Convention Center is now.

Father and Son merged their companies in 1879 forming the S.R. & J.C. Mott Company. In 1882, the mill in Brouckville was processing 14 carloads of apples, producing 600 barrels of juice per day. A barrel contained 25 gallons, to give you an idea of their production.

Samuel, like his Grandfather Zebulon, was Supervisor of the Town of Madison for 17 years. He also served as a member of the NYS Assembly.

John Coon Mott had a son, Charles Stewart Mott, who also followed in his Grandfather’s footsteps and business. He studied fermentation in France & Germany and became Superintendent of a family business called Wheel Works. He moved the family business from Utica to Flint Michigan. He sold the business in two pieces in exchange for stock in a new business called General Motors in 1913, making Mr. Mott the corporation’s largest single stockholder. He sat on the Board of Directors for 60 years until his death in 1973. He became one of America’s first self-made billionaires.

Mr. Mott believed in doing for others. He often said:

“What I am worth is what I do for other people”.

Charles Mott started the Mott Foundation in 1926 and donated more than $130 million dollars to organizations in his lifetime. He fully exemplified the Mott family motto:

“How Let Us Be Known By Our Deeds”

All of these achievements took place in just 5 generations starting here in Halfmoon.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS AHEAD!

“I would rather be known for doing something in the way of good than for being remembered as a rich man.” - Charles Stewart Mott

Friends Offer Four Scholarships

MARRY DUCLOS

The Friends of the Library, along with much appreciated support from the community, is happy to announce that they will be offering four $1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Spring 2019. Applications will be available in early January at the high school counseling center, at the library front desk, and online.

All graduating high school seniors residing within the library district boundaries are eligible to apply. Questions can be directed to Mary at duclosfol@gmail.com.

Enjoy the holidays ahead!
Susan Jeon, an avid reader and volunteer, visits the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library as much as she can. She loves being a part of the library’s organizations, including the Junior Friends of the Library and the Summer Reading Club. By joining the Social Media Committee, she hopes to promote the amazing programs and opportunities the library has to offer.

Jessica Zhang, Jiuhui Zhang, also known as Jessica, is a senior at Shenendehowa High School East. She loves to play the violin, dance ballet, and bake treats for her family. Her involvement with the library began with her strong interest in reading growing up, and her frequently using the library as a quiet place to study. She enjoys working with kids as well as helping organize events for the community and serving on the FOL Social Media team!

Amy Nedeau grew up in Buffalo, NY; then moved to the Capital District to attend SUNY Albany. There she met her future husband and decided to stay in the area. She enjoys day trips to Vermont and Massachusetts and around New York State. She has a cat named Maya who enjoys spending time on Amy’s lap while she is reading. Amy has been a member of the Social Media Committee and Friends of the Library since 2015.

Patty Ruff is a retired school administrator and teacher and currently works with pre-service teachers at Skidmore College in the Education Studies Department. She loves sharing her love of literacy with teachers and students in our area. She is on the board of the Friends of the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library and Chair of the Social Media Committee. “I am always enriched by the interchange among Social Media Committee members and our important work to bring Friends of the Library news to our constituents.”

Would you like to join us? We welcome new Social Media Committee Members!

Email Patty Ruff

LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER PROGRAMS AND APPLICATIONS

For more than a decade, the GCFLearnFree.org program has helped millions around the world learn the essential skills they need to live and work in the 21st century. From Microsoft Office, email and social media skills to how to use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Skype and LinkedIn - just a few of the programs available. They also have tutorials that teach reading, math, and more. In fact, GCFLearnFree.org offers more than 180 topics, including more than 2,000 lessons, 800+ videos, and 55+ interactivies and games, and their tutorials are completely free and easy to use. If you’re willing to learn, they’re ready to teach.

View one tutorial. Complete an entire class. They believe there's freedom in the ability to learn what you want, when you want, regardless of educational background, income or circumstances. They offer tutorials on the subjects you need to continue your education—or get it started, as well as opportunities to simply learn something NEW! And you can learn anywhere, anytime.

Their classroom is online and open 24 hours a day and serves people from around the world. Join the 60 million

(Continued on page 8)
LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES
BARBARA REESE, CPHL YOUTH SERVICES

Take a Book, Return a Book! Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. Little Free Libraries have been around since 2009 and started as a grass roots campaign to share books and provide a sense of community in neighborhoods. While they grew steadily over time, they seem to have become very popular over the last ten years. While traveling around, library staff had seen these Little Free Libraries in different communities and thought this would be a great project to bring to our community.

The Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library began an initiative to install three Little Free Libraries in our community in 2016. Staff members were intrigued by the Little Free Libraries and felt they would foster a love of reading in our local communities. We reached out to the Town of Clifton Park and the Town of Halfmoon to see if they would be willing to locate the Little Free Libraries on Town property. Both towns were extremely supportive and made sure the libraries were installed in a prominent and safe location.

Once we had the green light from the towns, we reached out to the Friends of the Library. The FOL was enthusiastic about supporting this project and getting books out into the community. The books that we use to fill the Little Free Libraries come from the books donated by the community to the FOL. Staff organized a family build, so community members could help us build the Little Free Libraries. Once they were built the JFOL painted them. It was truly a partnership with many groups that made this project possible. Library staff acts as the steward of these local Little Free Libraries and they are officially registered on the map at the Little Free Library website. Staff maintains the Little Free Libraries to be sure they are stocked with books as well as any necessary repairs. The Little Free Libraries now reside in the Halfmoon Town Park and the Kinns Road Park. The third Little Free Library will be installed at the Clifton Commons near the playground in Clifton Park.

Since the Little Free Libraries have been installed we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback on them. Staff regularly checks on each location to be sure there is a variety of books available. We have found the adult selections continue to turn over. We add to the children’s book selections every month and are thrilled that so many of the books are being read and taken home.

So, next time you are at Halfmoon Town Park (photo 1) or Kinns Road Park (photos 2&3), stop by the Little Free Library and check it out. You never know what treasure you may find!

If you know of libraries or other organizations that may be interested in having a Little Free Library or if you want to set up one of your own, visit www.littlefreelibrary.org for more information.

Many Hands and Good Intentions Helped Make This Happen!
people from all walks of life who have discovered their site to learn the essential skills they need to live and/or work in our high tech world. All you need is an Internet connection.

On-line education isn’t new. They’ve been providing on-line instruction for more than 10 years, and today they offer more tutorials than ever. When you take a class with GCFLearnFree.org, you will find that it’s up to date—and that it will be available later when you need to review.

A program of Goodwill Community Foundation® and Goodwill Industries of Eastern NC Inc.® (GIENC®), all GCFLearnFree.org educational content is designed and produced in the GCF Global Learning® building in downtown Raleigh, NC.

GCFLearnFree.org is used in every country in the world. It’s true! People from every walk of life visit their site. From seniors learning computer basics to seasoned professionals brushing up on Microsoft Office to unemployed individuals gaining career skills to students practicing math - everyone can find something useful at GCFLearnFree.org.

Organizations all over the world use this outstanding website, too! You can check out their list of users on their website. All sizes and types of organizations have benefit from GCFLearnFree.org, including K-12 schools, homeschool groups, colleges, libraries, correctional facilities, churches, community centers, employment centers, hospitals, businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits with a variety of missions and populations.

So what are you waiting for? Join the more than 60 million people who have learned for free at GCFLearnFree.org today!

FRIENDS ADOPT A NEW LOGO

WILMA JOZWIAK

We’re saying good-bye to an old friend - or two of them, to be exact. We’ve decided it’s time to update our logo.

You probably know our logo, perhaps from the letterhead on your membership thank you email, or from the bottom of a poster. The “little friends” sitting back to back have graced our logo for many years. This year, when the Library created their own new logo as part of a “rebranding” process, we decided we’d like to integrate part of their logo into ours, and at the same time, upgrade our little readers so they look a little bit more human. Eve Hawkins, our wonderful volunteer graphic artist, did the honors. You will see the new logo on our new canvas totes soon to be available; the new totes will be navy, and thus will be more resistant to dirt and stains than the white with green trim we’ve used for years.

We hope you like our new logo - and don’t worry, the original “little readers” are just retired. They will be living it up on a book-filled island somewhere, with nothing to do but read!

Noses pressed to panes

Neighborhoods covered in white

It’s the first snow day
Voters have spoken and chosen *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate as the 2019 book of the year. This historic fiction novel set in the 1930’s and present day describes the operation of the Tennessee Children’s Home Society in Memphis during the 1930’s. Georgia Tann, the director, stole children from their families and babies from single mothers and sold them to celebrities, politicians and others who could afford them. It was all done under the guise of helping orphaned and abandoned children find good homes, but it was actually human trafficking. The story follows the lives of the Foss children in the 1930’s to the present day through a relative Amy Stafford.

The kick off event is scheduled for Saturday, January 12th at 2:00 PM. The presenter will be Lisa Dougherty. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and has over 20 years experience tracing family histories. Lisa will talk about genealogy and explain how she helped her father find his roots using one of the DNA testing services. Several other programs related to themes of the book are planned for February through May. More details will follow. Check our website, as well.

**Lisa Wingate** is a former journalist, inspirational speaker, and New York Times Bestselling Author of thirty novels. Her work has won or been nominated for many awards, including the Pat Conroy Southern Book Prize, the Oklahoma Book Award, The Carol Award, and the Christy Award. Her blockbuster hit, *Before We Were Yours*, remained on the New York Times Bestseller List for over one year, was Publishers Weekly’s #3 longest running bestseller of 2017, and was voted by readers as the 2017 Goodreads Choice Award winner for historical fiction. *Before We Were Yours* has been a book club favorite worldwide and to date has sold over one million copies.

**A BLOCKBUSTER HIT**


“A [story] of a family lost and found . . . a poignant, engrossing tale about sibling love and the toll of secrets.”—*People*

“Sure to be one of the most compelling books you pick up this year. . . . Wingate is a master-storyteller, and you’ll find yourself pulled along as she reveals the wake of terror and heartache that is Georgia Tann’s legacy.”—*Parade*

“One of the year’s best books . . . It is impossible not to get swept up in this near-perfect novel.”—*The Huffington Post*
UPCYCLED BOOK CRAFTS
JAMIE HANLEY

What could be more fun than finding another great read (and at a great price!) at one of the Friends Used Book Sales - upcycled book craft!

We are excited to offer a variety of new and unusual items handcrafted from books that would otherwise be discarded. By rescuing these books, and using a little elbow grease and ingenuity, we are able to give them a new life and new purpose; the result is the PERFECT GIFT for the book lover in your life!

As we continue on our journey of discovering what these books can be in their new lives, we will share them with you at our Used Book Sales throughout the year. As always, the proceeds will go towards the many wonderful programs that the Friends support at our library.

VOLUNTEER FAIR 2018
SHEILA MORRONI, VOLUNTEER

The Friends and Junior Friends were among more than 20 local organizations that recently gathered at the Library to engage with those interested in sharing their volunteer time. The steady stream set a brisk pace throughout the two hours and many stopping by made good connections with worthy opportunities.

The Library plans to host these fairs every two years in November. You don’t need to wait for then if you are interested in volunteering with the Friends. Download our handout. We’d love to have you.

JOURNALING WORKSHOP
DECEMBER 5 AT 6:30 PM

Whether it’s in a notebook, blog or sketchpad, journaling can help you lead a whole and fulfilling life, as well as be a way to keep track of goals, your life activities, and dreams.

Local author Janine De Tillio Cammarata will share the many ways to express yourself through writing! For a full description of journaling programs, age group, and time, please click on the link below:

Register for Journaling Workshop.

Registration is required.
PLEASE ✓ THE FRIENDS ON YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT LIST

Giving Tuesday – Or Any Day!
See what your memberships and donations have done for our Library.

Help Us Award Additional Scholarships to deserving students.
We’re 87% toward another scholarship! More.

Bring another Member on board.
Memberships start at just $5! Great stocking stuffer. More.

Consider an Engraved Paver as a Lasting Lifetime Gift.
Library Entrance or Reading Garden. You choose! More.

Buy gifts through AmazonSmile and Giving Assistant.
Support the Friends at no cost to you. More.

Give the Gift of your time and talents.
Everything we do supports our Library. What else can we say! More.

Checks may be made payable to: Friends of CPH Library and mailed to 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065 or dropped off at the Welcome desk of the Library. If you wish to designate an area to support, write this on the memo line of your check.
Or Use PayPal in Any Amount.

FEBRUARY 3, 2018 IS TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY!

Nadine Lipman, the retired Head of Children’s Services at the Waterford (CT) Public Library, came up with the idea for the day. Take Your Child to the Library Day was first held in 2012, and thanks to librarians across country, the idea took hold. The day was first celebrated in New York in 2014.

Regardless of population or economic status, your library serves children in your community. Step up and celebrate the great opportunities available at our wonderful library by taking your child, your grandchild or a neighbor child to the library that day. Make sure they have their very own library card and help them to find books or media to take home. Regular visits to the library helps to build literate adults.

BECOME A LIBRARY ADVOCATE

It takes less than two minutes to send your message supporting NY’s Libraries!

In order to facilitate library advocacy, NYLA provides a quick and easy means of showing your support. NYLA’s Online Advocacy Center allows you to edit pre-drafted advocacy messages as you like, enter your name and address, and hit ‘Submit’. The messages will be automatically delivered to your NYS Senator and Assembly-member. Get started now, click below.

“Take Action Now!”
AUTHOR LOUISE PENNY COMING IN MARCH!
JO ANNE ROBBINS

We’re excited! Canadian mystery writer Louise Penny, author of the Inspector Gamache mystery novels, will be speaking at our library on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019**. Her next Gamache novel is called *KINGDOM OF THE BLIND* and will be coming out November 27th.

As you might know, *GLASS HOUSES* was released at the end of August 2017 and hit #1 on the New York Times Best Seller List, making it one of the most popular books in North America! *GLASS HOUSES* won the Agatha Award for Best Novel in the US. It has also been awarded the Best Novel prize by Left Coast Crime, and been nominated for two Audie Awards.

If your book club is reading Glass Houses, you will find some good discussion questions on the [Penny Website](http://www.pennywebsite.com).

So mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 7:00pm and plan to meet Louise Penny in person at our library. Registration for this event will begin on 1/2/2019.

Louise Penny is Coming!

OUTREACH SERVICES
KATHY ADAM-BROWNE

For almost 25 years the Friends of the Library have been involved in a partnership with the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library which supports bringing library materials and programs to community residents who have limited or no ability to get to the Library on their own. Whether to homebound individuals living in their own homes or residents of senior housing, the Friends bring the Library to those who cannot get there on their own.

Gently used books have been provided to members of our community through the Jonesville Food Pantry, CAPTAINT and other organizations over the years. Library staff has also provided book discussions and book talks to residents of Coburg Village, Shen Village Apartments and other area complexes as well.

Adult Services Librarian Alison Starkey selects books and other materials that are then delivered by many dedicated FOL volunteers to the various locations.

An exciting new initiative involves one-on-one reading to residents of Peregrine Senior Housing, a memory care facility in Clifton Park. That program may extend to other kinds of facilities in the future and new ways of reaching out are always being considered.
The National Park Service is one of the United States' leading agencies for history and culture. In addition to preserving important historic sites within national park boundaries, the National Park Service works beyond those boundaries to ensure that everyone's history is saved. Whether you want to visit an iconic historical park, discover American stories, or find assistance to preserve the places that matter to you, you will discover something new about our history during your visit to this excellent website.

When you visit, you will be able to explore the cultural history of America! The National Park Service website provides information on thousands of places significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. Some are owned and operated by the National Park Service; some participate in the National Heritage Areas Program; and many are properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

If you are planning a trip to one of these national treasures, the NPS will help you plan your travels.

There are a number of historic parks, sites or monuments that are near the capital district that you may not be aware of or haven’t visited including:

**Castle Clinton National Monument, New York, NY**
Located at the southern tip of Manhattan Island, Castle Clinton stands where New York City began, and represents not only the city’s growth, but also the growth of a nation. Initially intended to prevent a British invasion in 1812, the fortification has transformed over the years to welcome theatergoers, immigrants, sightseers, and now, millions of visitors to New York Harbor.

**Federal Hall National Memorial, New York, NY**
Here on Wall Street, George Washington took the oath of office as our first President, and this site was home to the first Congress, Supreme Court, and Executive Branch offices. The current structure, a Customs House, later served as part of the US Sub-Treasury. Now, the building serves as a museum and memorial to our first President and the beginnings of the United States of America.

**Fort Stanwix National Monument, Rome, NY**
For centuries, the Oneida Carrying Place, a six mile portage connecting the Mohawk River and Wood Creek, served as a vital link for those traveling by water from the ocean to the Great Lakes. When Europeans arrived, nations fought for control of the carry, the homelands of the Six Nations Confederacy, and the rich resources of North America. In this struggle, Fort Stanwix would play a vital role.

**General Grant National Memorial, New York, NY**
The final resting place of President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia, is the largest mausoleum in North America. It testifies to a people’s gratitude for the man who ended the bloodiest conflict in American history as Commanding General of the Union Army and then, as President of the United States, strove to heal a nation after a civil war and make rights for all citizens a reality.

**Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, Auburn, NY**
Harriet Tubman was guided by a deep faith and devotion to family, freedom, and community. After emancipating herself and members of her family, she moved them from Ontario, Canada to Fleming and Auburn, New York in 1859. Central New York was a center for progressive thought, abolition, and women’s suffrage where Tubman continued to fight for human rights and dignity until she died in 1913.

**Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, Kinderhook, NY**
Politics before the Civil War was a whirlwind of opposing interest groups. Martin Van Buren was able to unite those groups becoming president in 1837. As frustration and violence over the extension of slavery grew in the 1840’s, Van Buren ran for the presidency twice more from this house. He hoped to unite sectional interests but failed; ultimately so did the union.

**Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater, NY**
Here, in 1777, during the American War for Independence, American troops battled and beat a British invasion force, marking the first time in world history that a British Army ever surrendered. This crucial victory secured essential foreign recognition and support, instigated worldwide wars, affirmed United States independence, and changed the face of the world.

Continued on page 15
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WE ARE THANKFUL FOR ALL OF OUR FRIENDS!

“Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.”
- A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” - William Arthur Ward

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The annual Friends of the Library membership drive is in full swing as we enter the home stretch of 2018, and we encourage you to join or renew now in order to boost our numbers. As you know, monies raised from membership dues go toward the many valuable programs the Friends help to support at our library. Without members like you, we would not be able to provide as great a level of support, so please accept our heartfelt thanks for your renewals.

Need help with your holiday shopping list? Still trying to figure out a gift for that hard to buy for person in your life? A friend or new neighbor? Your child’s teacher or tutor? Consider a membership to the Friends! For as little as $5 you can provide that special someone with a year-long gift and feel good about helping to support our library. And remember, renew now to get early admission to the first Used Book Sale of the year on January 25-27. Join!

Bring Another Member Onboard!

Author, Craig Grossi and Fred, Well Received!

Craig Grossi, author of the book Craig & Fred: A Marine, A Stray Dog, and How They Rescued Each Other (and his faithful dog, Fred) entertained an enthusiastic crowd of patrons in October.

Craig, an eight-year Marine Corps veteran and a recipient of the Purple Heart, worked for the United States Defense Intelligence Agency and attended Georgetown University.

When not travelling with Fred, he works intensively with veteran organizations. You can find Craig and Fred online at:


Thomas Cole National Historic Site, Catskill, NY

In 1825, America was still a new nation, just forming its own unique identity and traditions. Thomas Cole invented a new style of art, one that Americans could call their own. His landscape paintings launched the art movement known as the Hudson River School. His groundbreaking achievements took place here in Catskill, New York -- in the "peaceful shades" of his beloved home, Cedar Grove.

Check out the NPS website for additional details and plan a trip with your family or friends to visit one of these interesting national treasures.
BOOK REVIEW: MEM, BY BETHANY C. MORROW
WILMA JOZWIAK

I picked up a slim book from the new fiction section this month, unsure about what I was getting but intrigued by the description. MEM, by Bethany C. Morrow, is her debut novel. The whole concept of memory has always fascinated me, and now, with the quickly accelerating development of artificial intelligence, the concept takes on many new angles. Set in an alternative past in the early part of the 20th century, this book explores memory from a very different and enchanting perspective.

MEM has been chosen as Buzzfeed’s #1 Book to Read this spring, a Best Book of the Month at The Washington Post, Bustle, and Chicago Review of Books. To quote Amazon’s review, the “novel may be small, but an amazing amount of emotion is packed in. Following the story of Elsie is like listening to a song, and while the concept is brilliantly new, the story is familiar; who owns us, our memories defining our past, or our current state choosing our actions despite our pasts? The way Ms. Morrow tackles identity and identity politics will open new, more nuanced avenues of discussion today. Mem is also a beautiful love letter to our memories, good and bad, and no matter how badly we fear or hate them, even if we've already forgotten them, they make us, us, and that's something to cherish.

Not only is this an engaging and enchanting novel, but Bethany is almost a local - her biography on her website, bethanycmorrow.com, says “Bethany is a recovering expat recently returning from six years in Montreal, Quebec, to live and write in north country New York - yet another foreign place.” I encourage you to explore this novel!

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