

BOOKWORM

Fall 2007

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN

FALL 2007

October 19th

Off the Map by Fergus Fleming features forty-five gripping accounts of some of the most amazing feats in the history of exploration. These are summarized between three “ages of exploration.” *From the Renaissance golden age of Columbus, da Gama, and Magellan to the twentieth-century heroics of polar explorers such as Peary, Scott, and Amundsen, this is an unforgettable journey into the annals of adventure* (amazon.com). The reviewer is Frank Gudas, physician, world traveler and former president of the Friends.

October 26th

The Dangerous Book for Boys by Conn and Hall Iggulden. *Equal parts droll and gorgeous nostalgia book and heartfelt plea for a renewed sense of adventure in the lives of boys and men... The Dangerous Book is a guide book for dads as well as their sons, as a reminder of lore and technique that have not yet been completely lost to the digital age... you get the sense that by learning how to place a splint or write in invisible ink, a boy might be prepared for anything...* (amazon.com). Reviewed by Jim Gray, librarian and former president of the Friends.

November 2nd

Dry Manhattan: Prohibition in New York City by Michael A. Learner. *In his evocative history, Lerner reveals Prohibition to be the defining issue of the era, the first major "culture war" of the twentieth century, and a harbinger of the social and moral debates that divide America even today* (amazon.com). Our reviewer is Mike Horigan, educator and author.

November 9th

The Wedding of the Waters by Peter Bernstein. *This thoroughly absorbing book... describes in vivid detail how the Erie Canal helped to shape the United States into a great nation by connecting the eastern seaboard and western expanses of America, as well as propel the Industrial Revolution and stimulate global trade, economics, and immigration* (amazon.com). Reviewed by Alan Parsons, lawyer, philatelist and former president of the Friends.

All reviews are held Fridays from 12:00 - 1 PM in the Steele Memorial Library Auditorium.
A light sandwich lunch may be purchased for \$3.50, or you may bring your own.

Join us online at <<http://www.steele.lib.ny.us/friends.htm>>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back from summer 2007. I enjoyed an exciting summer with travel in our region and visits with family and friends.

Pat Mix, a long time member of the Friends of the Steele Memorial Library Board, died this past summer after a battle with cancer. Pat was particularly involved in selecting books and reviewers for *Books Sandwiched In* over the years. Her energy, experience and enthusiasm are greatly missed by all of us.

Welcome to our new Board member, Lynne Rusinko, and welcome back to the Board to Bernadette Drew who has been on a sabbatical. Mary Jo Mahoney is currently at Allegheny College as a Writer in Residence.

Enjoy the colors of fall!

Best Wishes,
Charles A. Paone, President

BOARD MEMBERS

Due to a number of resignations and sabbaticals of Board members, we find ourselves "thin" for Board membership for 2007 -2008. We ask any member of the Friends of the Steele Memorial Library interested in Board membership to contact Charles Paone, President, at 734-7846; Suzy Smith, Secretary, at 732-1585; or Marie Finnerty, Membership, 734-7396. The Board is very active and needs members who can commit to actively work on programs. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

MEMBERSHIP

The annual membership drive for the Friends of the Steele Memorial Library is off to a fine start. As of October 1, 2007, the Friends has received over \$5,925 in dues and contributions from 230 Friends, some of whom are new members, some renewing members. These membership dues and contributions directly benefit the Steele Memorial Library and all of its branches, including the Bookmobile, through materials and programming. If you have not yet become a member for this year, we invite you to do so and become a Friend of the Library.

R. Marie Finnerty
Membership Chair

READ OUT LOUD

Read Out Loud is now in its third year. On 9/12/07, we shared a variety of summer readings. Included in these readings were Tedd Arnold's Rat Life, Lisa Lee's Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, Jhumpa Lahiri's Namesake, and readings on baseball greats Roberto Clemente and Joe DiMaggio.

Join us from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Library's conference room on the following dates:

10/07/07 - *Reader's Choice*
11/07/07 - *Mystery*

12/12/07 - *Holidays*
01/08/08 - *Children's Literature*

Charles Paone, Chair

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The real library heroes, the real winners

The Chemung County Library District has a familiar but also foreign ring to it. Established by the voters in November 2005, the Library District has adopted policies, created a strong committee structure, assumed ownership and responsibility for library buildings, prepared and passed budget proposals, won grant awards, and been validated by the New York State Board of Regents with its permanent charter. By now, this qualifies as old news. What shouldn't get lost in the mix of organization-building are the real library heroes: the staff members of each of our neighborhood libraries. Here are a few of my library heroes: Janet & Cassie, at the Big Flats Library, plan and conduct regular story hours, as do Dianne and Ahnece at the West Elmira Library, Glenice at the Horseheads Free Library, and Chris and Michelle and Tami at Steele. Bill makes sure the Bookmobile is on the road, meeting its customers at regular stops throughout the County, just as Bonnie opens the doors for public library patrons in Van Etten every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Owen conducts classes on searching the Internet at Steele, when he's not busy answering questions from the reference desk or maintaining the Library District web page. To these and every other Library District staff member, providing public library service is more than a profession and a career: it's a calling to participate in public education, to provide information to the public when they need it and where they need it. These and every other Library District staff member are the real library heroes, and my sincere "thank you for a job well done" goes out to them.

Jim Sleeth

Treasurer's Report – A Banner Year

The Friends of the Steele Memorial Library donated a total of \$27,475, in 3 rounds of giving, since September of 2006. A newly appointed Allocations Committee spent much time exploring needs with library staff, and endeavored to be responsive. The West Elmira Library and the Big Flats Library each received \$8875: \$5750 for special programs and \$3125 for materials. \$1375 was earmarked for the Bookmobile to enhance its programs and materials for children. The Steele received \$7375 to support additional programming for children and adults. Finally, in an effort to enhance the access to library services for children on the south side of Elmira, we gifted the Southside Community Center with \$975 to underwrite 10 trips to the Steele, once each month during the school year, for children who attend the center. An additional 3 trips were scheduled so that those children can attend special programs at the Steele.

Diane M. Winer

KINDERBOOK REPORT – OCTOBER 2007

The 2007 *Kinderbook* program is progressing as planned. The program, in its fifth year, attempts to introduce kindergarteners to the county public libraries. The program encourages parents to sign their children up for public library cards and to visit public libraries with their children to borrow books and learn about the available children's programs.

This year, members of the Children's Committee visited Chemung County schools at both kindergarten registration and orientation to encourage parents to complete library card application forms for their children. To date library card application forms have been completed for 531 kindergarteners – up from 453 in 2006.

This year, for the first time, kindergarten field trips are being planned to introduce kindergarteners to public libraries. The field trips will include a special story presentation, a tour of the library, and stickers for all. Kindergarteners will receive a gift book from the Friends along with their library card.

We continue to look for ways to improve the *Kinderbook* program. We hope the addition of public library field trips will result in more kindergarteners receiving and using their applied for library cards.

Ralph B. Moore
Children's Committee

Not yet a *Friend* of the Steele Memorial Library? Here's your chance to become one!

I would like to become/remain a **Friend of the Steele Memorial Library**.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

I can help on Book Sale Publicity Newsletter Other _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dickenson \$5.00 *Austin* \$10.00 *Twain* \$25.00 *Joyce* \$50.00 *Shakespeare* \$100.00

Mr. _____ Telephone _____
Mrs. _____

Miss _____

Ms. _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to:

**Friends of the Steele Memorial Library
101 East Church Street
Elmira, New York 14901**

Dues and contributions to the Friends are tax deductible.

Join us online at <<http://www.steele.lib.ny.us/friends.htm>>