



THE BOOKWORM

*Friends
of the
Steele Memorial Library*

Books Sandwiched In

Winter 2011

Friday, February 18

Mark Twain's Autobiography, Vol. 1 by Mark Twain. "This volume—the first of three—makes public autobiographical dictations in which Twain unpredictably pursues the many side-excursions of his remarkably creative life. Embedded in a substantial editorial apparatus, these free-spirited forays expose private aspects of character that the author did not want in print until he had been dead at least a century." (Booklist). Ron Shaw, Library Director, will be the reviewer.

Friday, February 25

Decision Points by George W. Bush is his review of twelve major decisions of his presidency. "George W. Bush served as president of the United States during eight of the most consequential years in American history. The decisions that reached his desk impacted people around the world and defined the times in which we live." (amazon.com). Reviewer will be James Orsillo.

Friday, March 4

The Nanny Diaries by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus, a 2002 Best Seller. Reviewer John McLaughlin, father of co-author Emma McLaughlin, tells about the effects of a daughter who 'tells all' along with the production of *The Nanny Diaries* movie (2007) that followed.

Friday, March 11

Fear and Loathing: on the Campaign Trail '72. "Hunter S. Thompson turns his savage eye and gonzo heart to the repellent and seductive race for President. He deconstructs the 1972 campaigns of idealist George McGovern and political hack Richard Nixon, ending up with a political vision that is eerily prophetic." (amazon.com). Molly Jessup, PHD candidate, Syracuse University, will be the reviewer.

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.

In the event that schools are closed due to weather, the book review will be rescheduled.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, JANUARY, 2011

The new year always is a good time for reflection and for looking ahead. As I reflect on the past year, I am pleased to report that our membership has been stable despite the difficult economic environment. We have made significant financial contributions to support the programs and activities of the downtown library as well as its branches, and we will continue to do so in the future. Thanks to our dedicated board members, our *Kinderbook Program*, *Books Sandwiched In*, *Poetry Festival*, and *Mall Book Sale* remain vibrant activities for our community.

In this issue, you will read about two new members of our board, Martha Crowley and Kevin O'Brian. I am especially grateful to Kevin for his willingness to coordinate this year's poetry contest and thus keep alive a tradition that dates back over thirty years. You will also find information about the Spring lineup of books and reviewers for *Books Sandwiched In* as well as dates for our very popular annual book sale. As we prepare for this year's sale, I would encourage you to consider volunteering a few hours of your time during the sale itself. In addition, you might consider volunteering to sort books at the downtown location. This is an ongoing activity throughout the year and any help would be greatly appreciated.

Currently, this newsletter goes out to well over one thousand homes in the area. If you know of friends and neighbors who would like to be added to our mailing list, please send us their names and addresses. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so now. Membership includes a complimentary copy of *Festival*, a beautifully bound magazine that contains all of the winning entries from the poetry contest as well as an invitation to join us at the Elmira Country Club for our June dinner meeting. Show your support for the work of the Friends by becoming a new member or renewing your membership.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your support in the past. I look forward to working with you in the new year.

Best wishes,
Anthony J. Pucci

2011 FRIENDS ANNUAL BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Steele Memorial Library will hold its annual book sale at the Arnot Mall. The sale will take place at the former Walden's bookstore. It will be held over two weekends in February, February 10th-13th and February 17th-19th. The book sale provides money for the Friends to contribute to the main library and its branches for program development and the purchase of materials. Last year over \$23,000 was collected at the sale.

Help is needed for set up days, Tuesday and Wednesday February 8th and 9th, sale days, and take down day, Sunday, February 20th. Volunteers usually sign up for two hour blocks of time. Work is needed to keep tables stocked with books, help customers find books, and collect money from the sale of the books. There is always more than one person working at a time, and those who volunteer find the experience enjoyable.

Enclosed is a sign-up sheet for you to fill out and return if you would like to volunteer. We are unable to confirm volunteer requests so please mark your calendar when you sign up.

We hope you will volunteer to help with our largest fundraising event of the year.

Tom Rupp, Co-Chair
Karen Nisco, Co-Chair

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

THE **BRIGHT RED** BOOKSHELF

The **Bright Red Bookshelf** is a program of the Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley. *Books found on the **Bright Red Bookshelf** are available to children and families to take home and keep for free!!!*

Bright Red Bookshelves are located throughout the area in places where children and families visit or receive services. All in all, the **Bright Red Bookshelf** can be found 22 places. Some **Bright Red Bookshelf** locations are:

- AOMC emergency waiting area
- St. Joseph's out-patient waiting area
- Southern Tier Pediatrics
- Corning Community College Academic Workforce & Development Center, Elmira
- Big Flats Community Center.

The **Bright Red Bookshelf** is ALWAYS in need of gently used children's books, and children and families can help. Now, when books are donated to the Steele Memorial Library, families can also choose to donate their gently used books to the **Bright Red Bookshelf**. A *red donation crate* is located near the check-out at the Steele for anyone who wishes to donate books to this program.

Families can donate children's books for the Friends of the Library sale as well. Either way these donated books will find their way back into the community and into the hands of children!

POETRY FESTIVAL, SPRING 2011

The Friends will celebrate the 2011 Spring Equinox with a *Poetry Festival* weekend, March 19th and 20th. Award winning poet Kay Newbury will be the guest moderator and poet for this annual event that will include a poetry workshop on Saturday, March 19th from 1-3 PM and an award ceremony on Sunday afternoon, March 20th. Please check the Steele's main library, library branches and the Friends' website <<http://www.steele.lib.ny.us/friends.htm>> in the upcoming weeks for *Poetry Festival* rules, time and locations.

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

2010 – 2011 Board Members

Lynda Brand
Dean Butts
Martha Crowley
Barbara Curran
Barbara Friedman
Faith Gray
Lee Kiesling, Secretary
Marilyn Lynough
Ralph Moore

Karen Nisco
Kevin O'Brian
Tony Pucci, President
Tom Rupp, Vice President
Mary Welles Smith
Suzy Smith
Elena Sorci, Treasurer
Bridget Wilson
Ron Shaw, ex-officio

2010 Special gifts received by the Friends

From

Miriam McLaud.....	In memory of Jacqueline Bowman
Barb Davidson.....	In memory of her father
Poetry Post.....	In memory of Helen Bjorvand, local poet
Baker Memorial Fund..	
Elizabeth Day.....	In memory of Mrs. Jean Day
Hubert Wang.....	New book purchase

We welcome our new Board Members, Martha Crowley and Kevin O'Brian.

Martha: Hello, my name is Martha Crowley and I grew up in Big Flats. I attended Notre Dame High School, Corning Community College, and Marquette University. I am a registered nurse who works from my home in Pine City. The library has always been a huge part of my life where ever I have lived and I look forward to working with Friends of the Library!

Kevin: I was born and raised in Corning, NY. My earliest memories are often of me, my brothers, or my parents reading.

I grew up surrounded by books and always thought that the library was the coolest place on Earth. I got a library card as soon as it was legal and always looked forward to the weekly trip to the library with my parents. This was such a part of my youth that to this day I'm still surprised when people tell me that they never did this with their parents.

I left the Southern Tier in 1979 and attended SUNY Fredonia as an English Education major and then attended the University of New Hampshire as an American Literature major. I lived and taught in New England until 1991 when I returned to the Southern Tier. (At one point I even taught at the same school, Pinkerton Academy, where Robert Frost taught and lived just down the road from his farm house in Derry, NH). I moved to Elmira in 1996 when I married Jennifer Roberts, an Elmira native.

I currently teach English at Horseheads Middle School and Jenny Roberts-O'Brian teaches at Notre Dame High School. Our three kids (Brenna 15, Seamus 10, and Isabel 8) keep us busy but in the little free time that I have I like to play guitar and ukulele, ride my bike, and read. Oh, and I still think that the library is the coolest place on Earth!

REMEMBERING ANNE

Anne Henry Welles died November 11, 2010 at age 94. Included in her Elmira Star-Gazette obituary, in describing many activities of a full life, was the following sentence: *She was an active member of the Friends of the Steele Memorial Library and was especially remembered for her Friday lunch book review introductions.*

In the best possible sense, Anne's noon-hour book review introductions were unforgettable. She would interview each reviewer and even talk to the reviewer's friends, relatives, co-workers and others in order to produce an informative and entertaining introduction.

Anne's obituary also made the point that she was well known for her cheerful personality. This trait clearly became evident with her book review introductions, always delivered with style, grace and a smile. Her sense of humor was infectious.

Anne was a vital part of the Friends at its beginning in 1958 and remained very involved with the group as an officer and Board member for many years. With Anne introducing the reviewers, *Books Sandwiched In* began in February 1959 with four Friday lunch-hour reviews spaced two weeks apart.

The program was a success from the start, thanks to the book selection committee, the quality of the reviews, and Anne's introductions. The reviews invariably filled the basement auditorium of the Library, then located on the southeast corner of Lake and Church Streets, and have continued to this day, still attracting good attendance.

Anne's introductions provided a strong thread of continuity to many series of *Books Sandwiched In*. Anne also served as a trustee of Steele Memorial Library from 1965 to 1981. This was not mentioned in her obituary, making an interesting, albeit inadvertent, counterpoint to the omission of any mention of the Friends from a newly prepared timeline/history of the Steele Memorial Library.

Alan Parsons

Alan Parsons is one of the original founders and a former president of the Friends of the Steele Memorial Library

THE FRIENDS NEED HELP SORTING BOOKS

The annual BOOK SALE is our big fund raiser, but before the sale there's a lot of work to do. All donated books are sorted and boxed for storage until the sale. We need *Friends* to help us sort and box these books at the Steele Memorial Library. If you can spare a few hours a week for just one month, please call **Charlie Paone (734-7846)** and volunteer.

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

Here is your chance to be a *FRIEND OF THE STEELE MEMORIAL LIBRARY* for 2010-2011

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

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

I can help on Book Sale Sorting Books Mailings Other _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dickinson \$5 Austen \$10 Twain \$25 Joyce \$50 Dante \$75 Shakespeare \$100

Mr. _____ Telephone _____
Mrs. _____

Miss

Ms.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Steele Memorial Library, 101 East Church Street, Elmira, NY 14901. *Dues and contributions to the Friends are tax deductible.*

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



