



# THE BOOKWORM

Friends of the Steele Memorial Library

WINTER 2012 Edition

## Books Sandwiched In

Winter 2012

Friday, February 17

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jane Ford. This is a tender and satisfying novel set in Seattle during World War II. It is a beautifully written story of love, prejudice, respect and hope. Barbara Dick will be the reviewer.

Friday, February 24

*A Passion for Poetry*: Kay Newbury and Martha Horton will talk about the importance of poetry, read some of their favorite poets and a few of their own poems, and offer a list of books and publications. Kay and Martha are past reviewers for *Books Sandwiched In*, frequent winners in the Friends' Poetry Festival, and founding members of *Articulation* that manages *Poetry Posts*, *Poetry in the Parks* and *New Directions*, quick arts grant project, 2011.

Friday, March 2

*The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach. A gifted shortstop makes a winning team at a small college in Wisconsin. A 'blood thirsty' audience influences talent and ambition to limit achievement for the young players. The reviewer will be Owen Frank.

Friday, March 9

*Pitch Uncertain: A Mid-Century Middle Daughter Finds Her Voice* by Maisie Houghton. This memoir of growing up in Cambridge, MA in the 50's looks at the influences of the Harvard community that helped prepare the author for her life as an executive wife in Corning, NY. Maisie Houghton will discuss her book.

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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, 2012

Although we didn't have a white Christmas this year, I hope that you all enjoyed the holiday season. 2012 promises to be a busy year for the Friends. Thanks to our dedicated board members, we will continue to offer the community our Kinderbook Program, Books Sandwiched In, Poetry Festival, and Mall Book Sale.

In this new year, we are hoping to launch our own Facebook page which will allow instant access to the latest information on all of our activities. We are also working to bring a noted author to Elmira in April to speak to the community at an event that will be free and open to the public. Expect more details soon!

In this issue, you will read about three new members of our board, Amanda Wilson, Alise Learned Mahr, and Terry Lagonegro. I am especially grateful to Amanda for her 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 before, during, or after 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 your 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 consider doing 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. I know that these are difficult economic times, but you can become or remain a member for as little as \$5 per year. 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

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### WOMEN IN THE ARTS, MARCH 2012

*Sage Daughters of the Muses* will present a poetry reading on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30 PM at the Arnot Art Museum. This year our poets will honor Clare Reidy who was the first co-organizer of the Friends' Poetry Festival and the first co-editor of Festival Journal. As Shakespeare wrote in *All's Well That Ends Well*, "praising what is lost Makes the remembrance dear." The cultural community of Elmira lost a brilliant and talented friend in Clare, and we will praise what was lost and remember her with love.

There will be an exhibit at the Arnot Art Gallery in collaboration with Women in the Arts month featuring two local artists: Barbara Blumer and Treacy Ziegler. Local poets will offer poems in memory of Clare and/or interpretations of the artists' works. We will have a musical interlude and publish a chapbook of the evening's poems. Refreshments will be served. Hope you will put it on your calendar for a midwinter celebration of women in the arts.

Barbara G. Curran

## We welcome these new board members

### ***Terry Lagonegro***

I was born in Elmira and other than four years in Rochester for college, I have always lived here. I started my relationship with the library at a young age. My mother took me to the library every Saturday before we went for groceries. When I was old enough to go alone, I would walk from my house with friends at least once a week as I read my way through the children's department. I was ready for an adult card before I was old enough to get one---I had already read everything of interest to me in children's! I continued this practice of weekly visits with my own children and they are also avid readers today. Even though I have a NOOK and lots of books of my own, I am still a regular visitor to the Steele. I am happy to have the opportunity to be involved with helping to keep the library such a valuable community resource.

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### ***Alise Learned Mahr***

First of all, thank you to Bobby Curran for supporting my interest in becoming a volunteer with our beautiful library!

I was born in Charlottesville VA but grew up in Elmira. After graduating from EFA, I traveled back to Virginia to attend and graduate with a BSW from Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA. I missed our beautiful Finger Lakes and returned to Elmira to begin what has become a 31 year career in various positions serving children and families in our surrounding communities. I have worked in various positions for the past 18 years at CIDS and have been enjoying a 14 year career teaching Parenting Education there.

My husband Bill (37 years and counting IBM Senior Marketing Rep) and I were both raised by avid readers, became avid readers and in turn, raised our two children (Amanda -age 25, Maggie-age 23) to become voracious readers! Both girls graduated from Holy Family Schools and ND High-school. Both girls served many wonderful years on the alter at St. Patrick's Church!

Amanda received her undergraduate degree from Ithaca College and Maggie received hers from Wells College. Amanda received her MS degree from U. of Edinburgh and has been living and working in London for the past 1.5 years at the Science Museum of London as a Science Communicator.. She is beginning a second Masters at the London School of the Arts in January. Maggie is living in Ithaca and working on her Masters in Communication from the Roy Park School of Communications at Ithaca College. She just became employed at the Ithaca College Library and is thrilled!

Elmira is a wonderful community to raise families, work and volunteer and I am very excited to become a new member on the Friends of the Library Board! Thank you for having me!

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### ***Amanda Wilson***

Amanda Wilson experienced new changes and beginnings in 2011. After finishing her first year of teaching at Elmira Free Academy, Amanda changed hats to be a bride for her August 27<sup>th</sup> wedding in Buffalo, NY. Her final days of summer were spent in Montego Bay, Jamaica and planning for her new teaching job at Corning East High School. She is currently teaching Ninth and Twelfth Grade English as well as a psychology elective. With a love for literature and zest for meeting new people, Friends of the Library was a perfect fit for the young, energetic professional. As 2012 begins, Amanda hopes to broaden the social network scene for Friends of the Library and is confident that the upcoming Poetry Festival will be a must see event!

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

## The Bookmobile Experience

The story was going well. We had about 18 four year olds on the bus and were telling the story of the *Enormous Carrot* using props. I felt as though they were really listening and interested when suddenly one child had a very important question: "Are you my grandmother?" Well, no, I was not his grandmother, but that was just another enjoyable morning on the Chemung County Library district Bookmobile.

Our goal is to make the Bookmobile experience as much fun as possible for children and adults and ...staff! Many of the Head Starts and Universal pre-Ks in our county bring their whole class on the Bookmobile for storytelling and book selection. We usually tell a story using props but sometimes read a new book that we want to bring to everyone's attention like *Pete the Cat* who loves his new shoes. It is encouraging to watch the children learn where the books for their age group are located and, as the school year progresses, watch them become more and more particular about their choices. The Bookmobile also has a stop at the Southside Community Center for the after school program and has partnered with them to bring in performers.

Other Bookmobile stops include senior housing complexes. Some of these patrons drive, but many do not. One thing they all have in common is a love of reading, many taking out enough books to last until the Bookmobile returns in two weeks. There are also Bookmobile community stops in Beaver Dams, Bulkhead, the Southside, and the Chemung-Lowman area.

The Bookmobile participates in as many community events as possible like Book Fest, Strong Kids Safe Kids, and the parades.

In the summer months of July and August, the schedule changes with the Bookmobile collaborating with several agencies in Chemung County to bring library services to children in summer programs. We visit Summer Cohesion sites, Big Flats and Southside park programs, and some summer school programs. There are close to 700 children who use our services weekly in the summer.

Our County is fortunate to have a good library system that includes Bookmobile and Outreach services that take the library experience to those who cannot get to a library. If you have never been on the Bookmobile, please stop in to see us at any stop. You can find our schedule on the Library District web site at [www.cclld.lib.ny.us](http://www.cclld.lib.ny.us).

Dianne Patchett, Bookmobile Clerk

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

## 2012 FRIENDS ANNUAL BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Steele Memorial Library will be holding its annual book sale at the Arnot Mall over two weekends in February 2012. *The weekends are Thursday, February 9 through Sunday, February 12, and Thursday, February 16 through Saturday, February 18, with a bag sale on February 18.* Last year the sale took in over \$25,000 which was used for the library to fund programs and learning materials.

Help is desperately needed during all phases of the sale, from the set up days of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday February 6, 7, 8, to the actual sale itself, to the take down day of Sunday February 19 and the reloading of unsold books on Monday February 20. Volunteers for the sale days usually sign up for two hour blocks of time to help customers find books, keep tables stacked with books, and collect money from the sale of the books. There are always several people working and the experience is enjoyable and rewarding.

Enclosed is a sign-up sheet for you to complete and return to the Steele Memorial Library if you would like to volunteer. We are unable to call to confirm volunteer times so please mark your calendar when you sign up. The sale location within the Mall has not yet been confirmed but it will be published in the Elmira Star Gazette as it gets closer to the sale date.

Please volunteer to help with this important Friends event. It is our largest fundraising event of the year, and we need your help to make this another successful sale.

Co-Chairs: Tom Rupp, Karen Nisco, and Dean Butts

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### 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 **Karen Nisco at 732-6138** and volunteer.

### \*\*\*\*\*A SPECIAL EVENING\*\*\*\*\*

The Friends are pleased to announce that the author, Alex Berenson, has accepted an invitation to speak here on April 4, 2012. Mr. Berenson is a former reporter for The New York Times and author of five novels, most on the best seller list, and a non-fiction book on corporate financial filings. He won an Edgar Award for his first novel, *The Faithful Spy*.

The event will be open to the community. Further details will be available closer to the date. For additional information about Alex Berenson, please go to <<http://www.alexberenson.com>>.

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

**Friends of the Steele Memorial Library**  
**Presents**  
**The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry Festival Contest**  
**Deadline Friday, April 6th, 2012**  
**Awards Ceremony Saturday, April 28th, 2012**

Categories are available for youth and adult.  
Entry deadline is 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 6th, 2012.  
Hardcopy of rules available at any CCLD Library.

**Friends Poetry Festival Contest Rules**

1. Poems 50 or fewer lines are eligible. Poems must be typed, double-spaced, in a standard font, using 12-point pica.
2. One poem per applicant is allowed, unless applicant is submitting a high school portfolio in addition to a high school poem.
3. Previously entered poems are not eligible.
4. Poem must be the original work of the entrant.
5. Poet's name should not be included on poem. On a 3 x 5 card, please write entrant's name, home address, grade, phone number, category and school, when applicable.
6. Categories:
  - A. **Adult** (18+ years old), including **Catherine Connelly Award** - Top prize open to adults (18+ years old)
  - B. **High School Students**, grades 9 - 12
  - C. **Ellen McTiernan Outstanding High School Poet Portfolio Award**
    1. **Award** is open to high school students, grades 11 & 12.
    2. Entrants are to submit a portfolio of five (5) poems.
    3. **Award** is judged separately from other categories.
    4. Students may enter both the **Ellen McTiernan Portfolio Award** and regular **High School Student** (grades 9 - 12) categories.
    5. Some years there may not be a winner in this category.

## *Friends Poetry Festival Contest Rules (continued)*

### **D. Ellen Tifft Outstanding High School Poet Portfolio Award**

1. **Award** is open to high school students, grades 9 & 10.
2. Entrants are to submit a portfolio of three (3) poems.
3. **Award** is judged separately from other categories.
4. Students may enter both the **Ellen Tifft Award** and regular **High School Student** (grades 9 - 12) categories.
5. Some years there may not be a winner in this category.

### **E. Middle School Students, grades 6 - 8**

### **F. Elementary School Students, grades K - 5**

7. Entrants should bring or send poems to the Circulation Desk, Memorial Library, 101 East Church Street, Elmira, NY 14901. **No poems will be accepted via e-mail or fax. No poems will be returned.**
8. **Friday, April 6, 2012. 5:00 p.m. is the deadline for all entries.**
9. Winning poems will be announced **Saturday, April 28, 2012, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the Steele Memorial Library, 101 E. Church Street, Elmira, NY.**

For additional *Festival* details, please visit <http://www.steele.lib.ny.us/friends.htm>.

## **Poetry Festival Contest Awards Descriptions**

### *Catherine Connelly Award - Adult*

Catherine Connelly enjoyed an especially active civic life in Elmira as a member — as a leader — of numerous area organization Boards, such as Community Chest and the Steele Memorial Library. In particular, Catherine made significant contributions to the development of area libraries, guiding the system from city to county jurisdiction. Further, she possessed remarkable confidence, drive and persuasive eloquence in working with the legislature, achieving consistent and substantive progress towards community-minded goals. While President of the Steele Board of Trustees, Catherine partnered with Thelma King, then Head Librarian of the Steele, to establish the Friends of the Steele Memorial Library, who held its first meeting in 1958 and continues to thrive to this day, providing programs and events that enrich the lives of area residents. Ultimately, Catherine Connelly was highly renowned, highly respected, for her commitment to improving Elmira. In honor of her vital contributions to the quality and opportunity of local life, the Friends of the Steele Memorial Library established the *Catherine Connelly*

*Award* in her name to recognize the positive impact individual creativity coupled with community involvement can produce.

***Ellen McTiernan Award - High School Portfolio (Grades 11 & 12)***

Ellen McTiernan spent her career teaching English at Elmira Free Academy (EFA High School). Following her retirement, she volunteered at Notre Dame, where she continued to challenge and inspire students and colleagues alike. Throughout her professional and volunteer work, Ellen was highly regarded for the exceptionally intense standards of excellence she set for students. Ellen herself was a poet and, leading by example, won the *Catherine Connelly Award*. In the spirit of striving for one's absolute best, only a truly outstanding portfolio that presents a tight, well-developed body of work will receive the *Ellen McTiernan Award*.

***Ellen Tifft Award - High School Portfolio (Grades 9 & 10)***

Ellen Tifft was a life-long resident of Chemung County, earning her education, raising her family and writing, writing, writing in Elmira. Among her creative pursuits, poetry was foremost. Ellen drew inspiration for her poems from every perception, thought, feeling, observation, musing and question she experienced. In return, her words – spoken, written, imagined – inspired the life around her. Thus, writers who receive the *Ellen Tifft Award* will have submitted portfolio work that reflects the passion with which Ellen lived, embracing life and releasing it through poetry.

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Poet Ellen Tifft once said, “Days are better when I work with words.” The Friends of the Steele Memorial Library wishes that joy to all writers in the community. We extend special gratitude to those who have participated in past Festival Contests and encourage all area poets to participate this year. Thank you all for your energy, voice and creative passion.

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

Here is your chance to be a *FRIEND OF THE STEELE MEMORIAL LIBRARY*

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. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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>

