

# Among FRIENDS

News for Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library

Volume 17, Issue 1 Spring 2011

## Memory: What We Remember--or Don't

**Sunday, March 13, 2011**  
**2-4 p.m.**

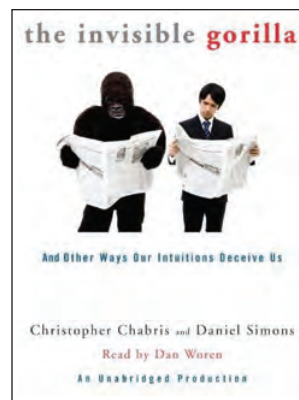
By **Darren Drabek**



The 2011 Saratoga Reads selection, Yoko Ogawa's *The Housekeeper and the Professor* (Picador, 2009), presented the **Friends** with intriguing programming options for the March 13th event. This engaging novel reveals the unique disposition of the main character, the Professor, who lives the latter part of his life with a short-term memory that lasts only eighty minutes. How does this happen? Why? What role does memory play in our everyday lives? Can you imagine what it would be like to function with the Professor's limitation? And what role does memory play in intuition, or how our memory can deceive us?

Questions such as these will be on the agenda when the **Friends** presents our 2011 Saratoga Reads program, "Memory: Lost and Found--A Conversation about What We Remember--or Don't," on Sunday, March 13, 2011, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the H. Dutcher Community Room. The conversation

will be led by two local experts on memory, cognition, and memory loss as a result of injury, trauma, or disease. **Christopher F. Chabris, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Psychology at Union College, is the co-author of *The Invisible Gorilla: And Other Ways Our Intuitions Deceive Us* (Crown, 2010), a recently published book reviewed in July 2010 by the *New York Times*. **Pete Gernert-Dott, Ph.D.**, is a neuropsychologist, most recently the director of referrals and admissions at Sunnyview Hospital (Northeast Health) in Schenectady, whose work has focused on patients of brain injury, trauma, and memory loss. Dr. Gernert-Dott will provide an engaging talk about the why's and how's of the affliction Ogawa's character displays to readers. **Marcie Fraser**, YNN health reporter, will serve as moderator.



You are cordially invited to join this interesting conversation, purchase a copy of Professor Chabris's book, and then dine on tasty snacks that should aid your memory and provide power for your brain!

## Ye Olde Book Sales

By **Jan Lillibridge**

Like most **Friends'** groups, ours holds book sales. The library staff started by putting a few tables out in front of the old library and selling used books. After the **Friends** organized in 1976 it took over the sales. Donated books were boxed and stored wherever there might be space until the next sale. Most sales were held in conjunction with Art in the Park, in the park area behind the old library.

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# From the Library Director



Issac "Ike" Pulver

Once again, we surpassed all circulation records in 2010, ending the year with a 10% increase in borrowing over 2010. Not only did we reach an all-time high, but, for the first time, annual circulation topped 800,000. Other measures like program offerings and attendance also increased to new highs.

To help keep up with this increasing demand, and to provide more options for our customers, the next phase of our multi-year refurbishment plan includes updates to the Circulation and Information Desks. Over the next few months we will be doing a lot of behind the scenes work to prepare for installation of several self-service, check-out stations, and we expect to be able to introduce them to the public in the Spring. The stations will be placed in the circulation area, the Children's Room, and near the Reference Desk on the Second Floor.

We are grateful to the **Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library** who have pledged \$45,000 to help support the purchase of three self-service stations.

Given the growing circulation statistics, which show across the board growth for all of our item types from books to movies, readers aren't having a hard time finding something to borrow, but if you're looking for a great read you might want to try one of the 26 books on this year's Notable Books List from the American Library Association. I had the honor of chairing the Notable Books Council this year. The Council consists of 12 librarians from across the country who consider several hundred titles annually and narrow them down to around 100 finalists during closed-door deliberations at the annual and midwinter meetings of the American Library Association.

This year's list is an interesting and eclectic mix of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. For book discussion groups, this is a particularly good list, since the titles are usually multi-layered, exceptionally well-written, and very readable. Among my favorite titles from this year's list is *The Lonely Polygamist*, a novel by Brady Udall, which manages to make a potentially sensational topic like polygamy entirely relatable. Anyone from a big family will especially relate to the theme of trying to be noticed in a crowd. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, an infuriating and fascinating window into medical research, is another of my favorites; it is included in the nonfiction list. The entire list can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/hGwKjF>.

Among the many projects that are currently underway at the library is a new round of strategic planning. Though it's possible that the process may result in the introduction of new services and programs, providing access to great reading material is always our number one priority. The new plan is scheduled to be released in the Spring. Just as we are steadfast in our primary mission, the **Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library** have remained our most steadfast supporters. For that, we are most thankful.

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*Higher Grounds*  
in the Saratoga Public Library

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**or \$2 off**  
**a full lunch**  
**with**

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**3/31/2011**

*Kimberlie Till*  
Owner

*Cafifiè*

518-450-0209

Espresso baro lite fareo kids' munchableso desserts  
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## Sales...

Continued from page 1

Our usual prices were hard covers for 35 cents each or 3 for \$1 and paperbacks for 20¢ each or 6 for \$1.

One time we were located across from the library in the Beauty Bar on Spring Street. We managed to stuff the book boxes in the area we had, but there was then no room for the **Friends'** workers, so we stood out on the sidewalk with our cash box and sold books--not too sure what people passing by thought we were selling.

Our most fascinating venue was Fast Eddy's, a pool hall located at 64 Putnam Street where part of the library's parking lot is now. We boasted we were the only library to have a liquor license! We stored our books there while the new library was being built and had several book sales there, also. For some reason there were piles of old tires stashed in the rear of the building, and, during book sales, we piled them up in neat stacks, slid boards on top, and had tables ready to hold our assortment of boxed books.

Our grand opening sale at the present library location was on October 26-27, 1991. It featured Library Director Harry Dutcher and Trustees' Board President Ken Bollerud answering questions about the new library and the bond issue. Library staff sold baked goods and raffle tickets. There was face-painting and balloon animals for the kids and free small cups of Ben and Jerry's ice cream. The small stage featured songs by Don Armstrong and Victoria Garvey.

During our October 1992 sale, the weather was quite cold. Alas, Fast Eddy's had no heat. Volunteers that day were inducted into the Royal Order of the Earmuff. Our August 1993 closeout sale featured a \$1 entry fee for as much as you could take (and as many times as you wanted). Many made several trips, each time flashing their blue entry slip to get back in again, free.

Now held in the H. Dutcher Community Room, our book sales still feature hundreds of books and treasure-hunting patrons!



(Photo by Maria Bucciferro)

*Local resident John McPherson signs his books at the Friends' fall literary event on Sunday, November 21, 2010. The "Close to Home" cartoonist kept the capacity crowd laughing with slides of his comics and anecdotes about their creation.*

## Please Join Us...

Becoming a member is easy!

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

\$ 10.00 Friend

\$ 5.00 Senior Friend (65+)

\$ 25.00 Special Friend

\$ 50.00 Sustaining Friend

\$100.00 Ex Libris Society

### Friends enjoy these Member Benefits:

- Discounts at The Book Bag Shop
- Book Bag Shop sale advantage days
- Friends' Newsletter
- Friends' Web site
- Literary programs

The **Ex Libris Society** is a group of people who love books. They are **Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library** who provide funds to enhance the nonfiction holdings of the institution. Membership levels begin at \$100. As a token of appreciation, members of the **Ex Libris Society** who reside outside the Saratoga Springs School District receive full borrowing privileges at the Saratoga Springs Public Library for one year (one borrower per membership). Membership forms for both the Friends and Ex Libris are available at the Circulation Desk, The Book Bag Shop and the Friends' Web site.

# Book Bag Shop Welcomes New Staff

by *Marion Redding*

If you ask Evelyn Bedard why she has volunteered at the **Book Bag Shop** for over ten years, she will expound on her philosophy about books: "Reading is a wonderful experience. It can change your life. It can transport you around the world. It's a gift."

Fortunately for the **Book Bag Shop**, Evelyn has taken on the newly-created position of administrative assistant focusing on financial and scheduling duties. Her degree in accounting from Fairleigh Dickinson University led her to self-employment in the financial industry. "I have a talent for financial record keeping," she says, which combined with a love of reading (especially best sellers and mysteries) makes her the ideal person for her new job in the bookstore.



(Photo by Maria Bucciferro)

**Evelyn Bedard and Jeff Budge**

Over the years Evelyn has been a consistent volunteer for the bookstore's 10¢ sales and she often takes a regular sales shift as a substitute when a volunteer can't show up. A New Jersey native, Evelyn also volunteers at St. Clement's Church in Saratoga Springs. She has been a resident of the city since her marriage thirty years ago. Evelyn and her husband, a computer technician, have two children – David,

a first-grade teacher, and Kathy, who is in her second year at RIT.

A little over a year ago, Jeff Budge moved from Newport, RI to Saratoga Springs and soon became the new assistant manager of the **Friends' Book Bag Shop**. Although Jeff is the son of a famous tennis star (Don Budge), his passion is for horses, so he and his wife Christienne decided to go from summer visitors in Saratoga to full-time residents. As assistant manager, Jeff is busy sorting and pricing donated books, focusing on children's and young adults' reading materials, and helping the manager with special projects.

Jeff started out as an architect at the Pratt Institute School of Architecture and practiced architecture and design, but he also spent many years in  
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## From the Friends' President Playing by the numbers

Number, numbers, numbers...Mathematics and memory are key themes of the Saratoga Reads book and **Friends'** Literary program on March 13. Big numbers were bandied about at our February board meeting, too.

Mary Ann Hunter, head of circulation and technology services, gave us a sneak preview of the book scanner for the library's new Radio Frequency Identification system. Volunteers, staff and temporary help will be tagging 224,000 books and CDs.

The goal is to reach 1 million in circulation in 2011, compared to 825,443 in 2010, the busiest year in the library's history.

Donations to the **Friends' Book Bag Shop** could top 100,000 this year. John Beisler, who heads the Marie Morrison Outreach Program for **Friends**, reported that he has delivered 8,500 books in the past 10 months to various community groups.

Finding recipients for the surplus books can be difficult. John's ski instructor at West Mountain turned out to be a teacher at a new charter school in Troy. So about 600 books geared for middle school students found a new home.

That's what **Friends** is all about.



**Maria McBride  
Bucciferro**

# Annual Holiday Reception

The **Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library** held their annual holiday reception for library staff and Book Bag volunteers on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The event is the **Friends'** small way of expressing our gratitude to the hardworking staff of the library and the volunteers of the **Book Bag Shop**.

Kevin Philbin and his committee organized a memorable event filled with wonderful food, lively entertainment, and good conversation. The food was graciously donated by a variety of local establishments including a spicy shrimp dish from the Cantina; truffle appetizers and a cheese board from Dine; wraps from the Olde Bryan Inn; various cheeses, fruit, and crackers from the Parting Glass; a salad bowl from The Stadium Café; canapés from Tiznow; bread pudding from



(Photo by Maria Bucciferro)

*Saratoga History Room mavens: Teri Blasko, Ellen deLalla, and Jean Stamm enjoy festive fare at the Annual Holiday Party for staff and volunteers.*

the Desmond Hotel and Convention Center; and beverages from the Higher Grounds Caffé. Book Bag volunteer, Wes Neer, contributed his delicious cupcakes, which are quickly becoming a tradition at **Friends'** events.

Once again this year, the highlight of the event was the a cappella singing group, Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus, including board member Margaret McIntyre. Saratoga Soundtrack provided a festive set of songs which put the large group of attendees in a holiday mood.

# Marc Brown Visits Saratoga Springs

By Jennifer Ogradowski, Head of Youth Services

The Saratoga Springs community welcomed children's author and illustrator Marc Brown to the Lake Avenue Elementary School on Wednesday, October 20, 2010. This event was made possible by a partnership between the Saratoga Springs Public Library, the Lake Avenue Elementary School, and the **Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library** who provided the funding.

Kali Nagler, school librarian, and I collaborated in planning and promoting the event. The Lake Avenue auditorium served as the venue in order to open the event to as many Saratoga Springs School District residents as possible.

With humor and warmth, Marc Brown greeted the audience and talked about his life and how he got some of the ideas for his books. While he flipped through slides of family photographs and images of his work, the audience was given a glimpse into the life and creativity of this well-loved author. He was accompanied by his sister Bonnie, a local resident, who was the inspiration for one of his characters. He also discussed the "evolution" of Arthur and illustrated the chang



**Marc Brown**

es in the character's appearance with markers and an easel. He asked the audience for suggestions for items to add to another drawing he created as he spoke.

Barnes & Noble sold books at the event and donated a portion of the sales to the library. Marc Brown graciously began signing books before the event as soon as children came up to him. He continued to sign books after the presentation until he had autographed books for all who were waiting.

## Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library Board

*Maria Bucciferro, President*

*Darren Drabek,  
Vice President —  
Special Events*

*Karen Kolanowski,  
Vice President—  
Public Relations*

*Michael Thomas, Treasurer*

*Jay Portnoy, Assistant  
Treasurer*

*Susan Taylor, Secretary*

*Heather Reynolds,  
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*Lorrie Anthony\**

*John Beisler\**

*Deborah Dolan*

*Cheryl Gold*

*Krystal Hinckley*

*Paul LeBlanc*

*Margaret McIntyre*

*Kevin Philbin*

*Patricia Ritzert*

*Lois Schechter\**

*Paul G. Schneider*

*Katie White*

*Joanna Zangrando*

*\*New Members*

*Karen Kolanowski and*

*Joanna Zangrando,  
Newsletter Co-Editors*

*Margaret McIntyre,  
Graphic Designer*

*Committees Chair*

*Jay Portnoy, Book Bag Shop*

*Pat Ritzert, Membership*

*Paul Schneider, Ex Libris*

*Cheryl Gold, Strategic  
Planning*

*John Beisler, Marie Morrison  
Outreach Program*

## New Board Members for 2010-2011

**Lorrie Anthony** is a returning member of the board of the **Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library**. She is currently employed by SUNY Empire State College and is a member of the board for the Saratoga Springs History Museum, a member of Soroptimist International of Saratoga County, and co-chair of the 2010 Soroptimist Secret Gardens Tour. Prior to arriving in Saratoga Springs in 2000 she lived in Syracuse for 23 years.



**Lorrie Anthony**

**John Beisler** moved to Saratoga Springs with his wife four years ago following retirement, from biomedical research at NIH, to be near his grandchildren. He has had an impressive career in laboratory research, drug research, and teaching. He and his family believe that the Saratoga Springs library is a very valuable community asset. Beyond the traditional service of making an impressive collection of books available to residents, John found that there were activities which made the library an important town focus, not only for adults, but also for children of all ages. He currently coordinates the Marie Morrison Outreach Program where he delivers donated books to a variety of community agencies. He has also expressed an interest in expanding library programming to include programs for understanding issues in biomedical research



**John A. Beisler**

**Lois Schechter** retired “north” about 20 years ago from Nyack, New York, where she and her husband Roy ran a business for many years. Lois was very active in the Chamber of Commerce and other community activities in Nyack. Lois has been a volunteer in the **Book Bag Shop** since its inception, volunteers at the Saratoga Hospital thrift shop, and sits on the Board of Directors of the Saratoga Children’s Chorus as treasurer and “token Grandma.” In joining the the board, Lois hopes to make more people aware of the **Book Bag Shop** and what it has to offer.



**Lois Schechter**

*Save the Date*  
*Friends' Annual Meeting*  
*Tuesday, May 10, 2011*

# Wishing Jan Well on Her "Redirection"

By Marion Renning

On Thursday, October 28, 2010, Jan Lillibridge, assistant manager of the **Book Bag Shop**, was celebrated with a gala retirement party in the H. Dutch-er Community Room at the library.

More than forty present and former members of the **Friends** of the Saratoga Springs Public Library, **Book Bag Shop** volunteers, and library staff dropped by between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. to wish Jan well on the "redirection" of her life. Although she will be spending more time in the future in St. Petersburg, Florida, with her husband Jack, she will still be volunteering in the shop when she is in town.

A former children's librarian at the Greenwich Central School, Jan also spent several years as a librarian in the Children's Room of the library. Jan is also a founding member of the **Friends**.



Guests enjoyed hearty finger snacks catered by the library's own Higher Grounds Caffé and sampled delicious, beautifully decorated cupcakes from Creative Cakes by Wes.

Guests enjoyed hearty finger snacks catered by the library's

own Higher Grounds Caffé and sampled delicious, beautifully decorated cupcakes from Creative Cakes by Wes. A highlight of the event was a raspberry/lemon punch fountain.

Thanking her for her service with gifts and tributes were Issac "Ike" Pulver, director of the library; Maria



(Photos by Maria Bucciferro)

**Michael Smith and Jan**

Bucciferro, president of the **Friends'** board of directors; Kenneth Bollerud, president of the library board of trustees; Jay Portnoy, chair of the **Friends' Book Bag Shop** committee; and Niki Mook, recently retired manager of the bookstore, who worked alongside Jan for eight years. Marion Renning presented Jan with a donation to the Kay Lillibridge Scholarship Fund on behalf of the Book Bag volunteers.

Marion Renning and Helen Gaige, co-chairs, along with Lois Schechter and Elsie Cagle, planned and decorated for the event.



**Jay Portnoy, Jan, and Mimi Ciancio**

## New Staff...

Continued from page 4

financial services and retail, including his favorite job as a buyer of boys' toys for a major toy store chain.

Today Jeff spends his free time reading books of fiction and about metaphysics, taking graduate courses at The College of Saint Rose, and writing a book of his own. He is enjoying his new job and the people around him. Jeff says he considers it an "honor and privilege" to work in our beautiful library... pretty nice compliment from an architect!

**Friends email address:**  
**Friends12866@yahoo.com**  
**Friends web address:**  
**www.friends.sspl.org**  
**Library web address:**  
**www.sspl.org**  
**Library phone: 584-7860**

## Book Sale Calendar 2011 50% Off Sales

Feb. 20-27, 2011; Friends Advantage Day, Feb. 19, 2011  
 June 5-12, 2011; Friends Advantage Day, June 4, 2011  
 Sept. 11-18, 2011; Friends Advantage Day, Sept. 10, 2011  
 Black Friday, Nov. 25, 2011

### 10¢ Paperback Sales (Community Room)

Tues., April 26, 2011, 10 am - 5 pm  
 Tues., July 12, 2011, 10 am - 5 pm  
 Tues., Oct. 18, 2011, 10 am - 5 pm

Book Bag Shop Telephone: 584-7860, ext. 233

## The Book Bag Shop Hours

Monday through  
Thursday:  
10 am - 8 pm

Friday:  
10 am - 5 pm

Saturday:  
10 am - 4 pm

Sunday:  
1 pm - 4 pm  
(Sept.- June)



**10% discount for Friends' members—See page 3 and Join today!**

P.O. BOX 129, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

News for Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library

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