

# Among



News for Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library

Volume 20, Issue 2 Fall 2014

## Gratis Maxwell, Teen Board Member

As a writer, I'm always looking for opportunities to improve my skills. I write often, and try to connect with other people who share my interest. But as a seventeen year old going to a public high school in suburbia, it's hard to find people my age to share my work with. I'm always looking for sources of feedback, and not having people my own age to discuss writing with grows frustrating. But the past two summers, I've had a wonderful opportunity. Skidmore College hosts a program called the New York State Young Writers Institute. This program is an offshoot of the New York State Writers Institute, and is open to any student entering a year of high school. Both this past summer and the year before, I've been able to attend, spending about a week and a half living on campus.

Over the course of the program, the forty accepted students take classes taught by experienced authors, creating and editing content. We wrote short stories, poems and non-fiction essays, and completed numerous exercises designed to inspire us or to send us in the right direction. The college invites authors to give readings, so most nights a successful author was present for us to listen to and question. At the end of the program, the students gave our own reading in one of the auditoriums. As a whole, the experience is exactly what a young writer needs to put them on the right path. Taking a class that truly encourages experimentation and creativity is a wonderfully refreshing experience, and I recommend application to any young person with an interest in writing.

### Welcome to new members since May 2014:

Rich Bauer, John Borgeest, Tom Ciampa, Heather Cushing, Ed Fyvie, Nancy Gardner, Mary Frances Hatfield, Jack Huckel, Elaine Kuracina, Murray Levith, Thomas Martin, Ann Neilson, Frank Rhyner & Deirdre Leland Rhyner, Glenn Slothowee, Cudney's Cleaners, Tara Sullivan, William Taft, and Ann Wait.

## Friends of the Saratoga Springs Library Board

Pat Ritzert, President  
Joanne Kennedy, 1st Vice President  
John Beisler, 2nd Vice President  
Jay Portnoy, Secretary  
Rick Barthelmas, Treasurer  
Ike Pulver, Library Director  
Lorrie Anthony, Pam Farrell, Susan Hahm, Joanne Kennedy, Gratis Maxwell, Kevin Philbin, Teresa Ronning, Barb Sponzo, Judy Sponzo, Joanna Zangrando

### Contact the Friends:

friends12866@yahoo.com  
www.friends.sspl.org

### Contact the Library:

www.sspl.org  
(518) 584-7860

## The Friends Bookshop

(518) 584-7860 x233  
Shop Manager: Jeff Budge  
Monday - Thursday: 10am - 8pm  
Friday: 10am - 5pm  
Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm  
Sunday: 1 pm - 4pm

**10¢ paperback sale on Oct. 29  
in the *Friends Book Shop*.**

### Important Notice: We Have Changed Our Name

What's in a name? The name tells you who we are. Because many of our customers didn't realize that the *Book Bag Shop* was run by the Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library, we decided to change the name of the shop to: *The Friends Book Shop*.

## The Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library

Invite you to a discussion with the Beekman Boys, Josh Kilmer-Purcell and Brent Ridge, at 2:00pm on Saturday, November 1, 2014 in the Dutcher Community Room at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

The couple purchased the Beekman Mansion in nearby Sharon Springs, NY in 2007. Their exodus from New York City in search of a simpler life upstate is chronicled in Kilmer-Purcell's 2010 national bestseller, *The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers*. Light refreshments will be served and a book-signing will follow the program.

Free tickets will be distributed on a first come-first served basis and which must be brought to event for admittance.

When: beginning Wed., October 1st @ 10 a.m.

Where: The Friends Book Shop @ SSPL

Quantity: each person can request 1 or 2 free tickets; must bring to event for admittance.



 THE FABULOUS 

BEEKMAN BOYS

### Last mailing of newsletter

To save on printing and postage costs this will be the last mailing of the Friends newsletter. A separate request will be made via US Post for email address for those members who have not yet provided one. Please provide your address to receive emails of the newsletter and occasional notifications of upcoming events. The Board greatly appreciates your cooperation in this matter.

*Among* **FR****ENDS**  
of the Saratoga Springs Public Library

P.O. Box 129, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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