



Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

Save the Dates

Understanding
Alzheimer's and
Dementia

December 2, 2019

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association® WNY



ALZHEIMER'S IS NOT NORMAL AGING.

It's a disease of the brain that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior.

Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, Alzheimer's disease stages and risk factors, current research and treatments, and local Alzheimer's Association resources.

Monday, December 2 | 3:00 p.m.

Youngstown Free Library
240 Lockport Street, Youngstown

This program is FREE and open to the public, but please reserve your seat by calling 1.800.272.3900

The program is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

alzheimer's association®

FOYL Annual Meeting

January 15, 2020



Letter from the FOYL President

Greetings Friends! It is December and Mother Nature will once again be tossing about all kinds of weather surprises (if it hasn't already). As you get ready to hunker down with a good book in front of your fireplace, our Library is ready to meet your needs.

As we near the end of the year, I find myself once again reflecting on our Friends of the Library year. Let me begin with a big **THANK YOU!** What a fantastic year the Friends of the Youngstown Library has had and it is because of all of you, our incredible members. On every level you have stepped up to help. You have joined our board of directors, worked at our fundraisers, donated to our fundraisers, purchased items or worked quietly in the background to help us. Youngstown continues to be an extraordinary community that we all call home. I would like to personally thank all of you for joining the Friends, whether you were a member for the first time or a renewing member. Memberships are a vital part of our fundraising efforts which provide funding for improved Library services, programming and materials, subscriptions and facility needs. Please continue to be part of us and spread the word to your friends and family to consider joining the Friends to support our Library. We have a thoughtful, dedicated and responsible Friend's Board and Board of Trustees, along with the best Library Staff anywhere! So, let's keep doing what we can to support our Library and let's make sure that we keep the area residents aware of the treasure we have in our fantastic Youngstown Free Library.

Next up is our Friends Annual Meeting on January 15th, 2020. At this meeting we will elect new directors and elect new officers along with hearing reports of our activities in 2019. We have a great organization, but we always need to balance what has worked in the past with fresh ideas and perspectives. As I rotate off the Friends Board, I would be remiss if I didn't personally thank all the Board members I have worked with and thank the new friends I have made during this journey.

Jan Howard

President of the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library

Financial Report

Cash assets as of October 14 total \$34,793 of which \$12,749 are unrestricted operating funds.

We gave the Library \$800 for a computer tower and adapter.

We received \$943 from the shoe drive with no expenses incurred.

The pool tournament at Bandanas took in \$300 in participant fees and paid out \$225 in prizes. The 'Find the Ace' fundraiser netted us \$155.

The chicken barbeque at Bandanas had many elements of income and costs.

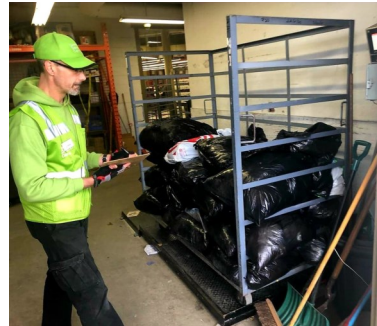
total income \$3701

total expenses \$1708

Net Income \$1992

Bill Siddall

FOYL Treasurer



A Clothing Exchange and Collection was hosted by Colleen Summerville on October 27th. The remaining items were brought to Savers, and all the proceeds donated to our Library. With 437 pounds of clothing, and some donations, \$100.40 was raised to go towards programs.

Every Friends of the Library book sale involves a lot of book moving. Thousands of books go from the Library to the basement shelves, from the basement to the Gym, and from the Gym to the donation trucks after every sale. The largest move of these requires that all the books go from the Friends' basement storage shelves to the stage of the Red Brick Gym in an afternoon. We're talking about thousands of pounds of books that need to be moved across the building before every sale.

These energetic volunteers who carry all these books are members of the Lew-Port Builders Club. Under the sponsorship of the Kiwanis Club, Builders Club is a worldwide "service organization for middle school students" (<https://www.lew-port.com/domain/185>). The Lew-Port Builders Club is an active group of middle school students who develop leadership skills and build character through volunteer work in the community. In addition to donating their time and energy moving the books for the Friends, the Builders Club members also run a monthly story time at the Youngstown Free Library. Our Library book sale was held November 7 - 9, 2019, and was a great success.



The idea all started last winter when library patron Phyllis Norwich proposed a fundraiser to benefit the Library - a calendar made up of photos taken by locals of our beautiful Youngstown and Porter area. She brought the idea to the Library Director, Sonora Miller, who encouraged Phyllis to chair the project as a way to mark the Library's upcoming 70th anniversary.

Phyllis formed a committee of creative folks, including Ray Bennett, Anne Given, Linda Nelson, Tim Weintraub and Rex Stuart, among others. Since then, this group has worked non-stop, and the calendars are finally here!

From more than 180 photos entered in this summer's photo contest, the judges had a very difficult time narrowing the entries down to the winning fourteen photographs. All the photos were taken in Youngstown and Porter, and you'll recognize many friends and neighbors as the photographers!

The 2020 calendars are now available for purchase at the Youngstown Free Library and at Everything Youngstown. They make perfect Christmas presents for your loved ones, whether they live locally or they've moved away from the area. Each calendar purchase (\$15 each) comes with a raffle ticket for a \$100 Tops gift certificate. You can celebrate the Library's 70th anniversary and the beauty of our hometown in this 2020 calendar!

Meet Your Friends - Pat & Shirley Whelan

Pat and Shirley Whelan have been living in our community for many years. They have raised their family here, and have children and grandchildren living nearby. They have been active in many community groups, and one of their favorites is the Youngstown Free Library. They enjoy books on CD, and various DVDs in the Library's inventory. They encourage you to visit! The next time you see them, be sure to say HELLO!



A note from Board of Trustees President

My family have long been happy users of our local Youngstown Free Library. We loved our library. For a long time, though, we were essentially passive users.

By 'passive' I mean that:

- We signed up as 'Friends,' but mostly when prompted.
- I returned items when I had to — mostly to avoid those looks of gentle disapprobation from the Ladies at the Desk.
- Fines lurked as a constant threat, but we learned to regard them as a commitment-free contribution to the Library and proof of our loyalty.

We became more involved mostly because the kids grew older — there's Lego Club, Summer Park activities, etc.

But the library was largely just 'there.' As far as conscious effort goes it was on the periphery. And so it goes for most Library users, I suspect. Perhaps I'm merely speaking for myself, but the only topics I *really* spent any time actively considering were the Book Sales. As in, "Bugger — the Book Sale is coming up. Do we need any more books?"

My beloved's answer, summarised, was essentially: "No." Did we go get more? Yes. we did.

But it all changed when someone asked me — several times — if I was interested in getting involved, and I finally said "Yes."

And now I know, as you already do (as some of you have for many, many years), that there's so much more going on behind the scenes. The building and the services; the collection and the service we all enjoy — *they never just appeared there by accident.*

Never have. Never will. And so I say to you, personally, "Thank you."

You, the person standing there by the letter box, or you sitting there at the dining room table, or you there in the lav — hiding away from the kids.

Thank you. Thank you for putting on our two Book Sales per year.

[Right now I'm especially talking to you, Keith Hartloff. I was leaving town for the weekend a few weeks back and there he was in the cold with Ivy — his willing (?) eldest daughter — banging in a Book Sale sign on the south side of town. And we all know he's been Hobbiting away in the basement with those boxes of books for the last month, too.]

Thank you, Friends, for your work with the Bandanas' chicken bbq. Meal sales. Basket Raffle sales. The calendar sales. The calendar! Thank you for the calendar. I'll be sending four home to family in Australia for Christmas. Nice. And thank you for all the things that you do as unnamed individuals. Things that no one, or hardly anyone, ever sees, but are essential in their own small way to making the place run. Without such effort our reliable library would cease to function.

Merci Beaucoup. ¡Muchos Gracias! Danke Schön. Grazi!

In any language: "Thank you." - Sean Scarisbrick - Board of Trustees President



For anyone who would like to join the Friends of the Library, we welcome you to become a new member. It is a way to meet new friendly people and does not involve a lot of time. We meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month except for SUMMER months. If you are interested, please contact the Library.



FORT NIAGARA CYCLE-CROSS EVENT - SUNDAY October 27th

The 2nd Annual Fort Niagara Cyclocross event was held on Sunday 27th October to benefit the Library. Sandwiched between two beautiful fall days of sun and stillness, Sunday saw torrential rain and wind-gusts approaching 30mph. Despite the nasty forecast, 89 riders showed up from as far away as Rochester, Ohio and somewhere in Ontario to ride a muddy course through the woods, across the park and along the beach in the sand. The Women's race got the brunt of the weather as a microburst hit just as they were heading into the trees and turned the fairly dry conditions into peanut butter mud. But this is all 'grist to the mill' for cyclocross addicts who are used to these conditions. Thank you to all who showed up (under umbrellas) to spectate and thank you to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring energy bars and bananas, to Jan Howard and Tom Towers for donating a bushel of apples, to Sonora and Eran for providing wonderful home-made mulled cider and to the Brickyard Brewery Company for providing the awards and some adult libations at the end of the event. Thank you also to Modern Disposal, Inc., DiMino's Lewiston Tops, Dunkin' Donuts, Tim Hortons, Campus Wheelworks and everyone else who gave product, services and critical volunteer-time to help make the event such a success. Thank you of course to John and Heather Crumlish, lately of Youngstown, for organizing this energetic event in support of the Library, and to the riders who turned up, rode hard and donated generously. We hope it will become a firm fixture on the Cyclocross calendar and maybe next year the weather will be kinder.

Maggie Steyn - Board of Trustees Youngstown Free Library

It has been a very busy summer! With your help, the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library were able to run several successful fundraising events.

Here's a run-down of the latest:

The used shoe collection resulted in 2,357 lbs of shoes being donated, and the Library received \$942.80! This event had amazing participation from our community, and everyone's efforts are sincerely appreciated!

Our garage sale in August was a great success, as well! We had a multitude of items donated for the sale, and the turnout of shoppers was fantastic! It was a fun day for community members to purchase their treasures while helping contribute to the Library. The Lions Club made delicious burgers and hot dogs, which helped to fight off the chill of the rain. Their generosity and hard work truly made this a wonderful event. A total of \$2,377 was raised for the Library that day. All leftover garage sale items were donated to *Hearts for the Homeless*. Did you miss this year's garage sale? Next year's collection day will be August 14, and the garage sale will be held on August 15, 2020.

September brought the used tire collection in the parking lot of the Red Brick Building. Volunteers helped to unload tires from the trunks of cars and in the course of doing so, reduced the tire litter in our community.

Hopefully you were able to come out to the Chicken BBQ at *Bandana's Bar and Grill* in October. There was so much going on! There were raffle baskets everywhere, *Billiards for Books* was happening inside, and don't forget the delicious chicken! The turnout for this event was incredible! Drive-up service was available for those who wanted to pick up their chicken dinners and enjoy them at home. For those who wanted to stay, the football game was on, and there was plenty to enjoy and do both inside and outside of *Bandana's*. Baked sale items went fast - and they were scrumptious (boy, are we lucky to have so many talented bakers in our community!). Because of your contributions, we were able to net \$1,991.92 in profits for this event. Many thanks to *Bandana's Bar and Grill* for graciously hosting this event and making its success possible!

We would also like to express our gratitude to the many community members, volunteers, board members and organizations that contributed and participated in these events. Everyone's help made them a success. It is recognized that it truly takes a "village" to accomplish these tasks, and it should be known that everyone's efforts are truly appreciated.

The fundraising doesn't stop here, though. While we have had some great accomplishments, we still need to move forward with raising funds to support the Youngstown Free Library and the many programs that it offers our community. We are so fortunate to have this asset in our town, and it rests on all of us to continue our work to make it everything that it can be. Please keep up the good work and we will be seeing you soon at our next event!

Lauren Morse

Board of Trustees

Youngstown Free Library

A note from our Library Director

On November 13, 1949, the Youngstown Free Library opened its doors to the community. It had 2,000 books in a one-room library at 120 Lockport Street, and was initially staffed by thirty dedicated volunteers "who had classes of instruction in simple library practices." The Youngstown Free Library operated on annual funding of \$1,000.

As part of the registration process with New York State, Public Library Supervisor for the State Library I. Marie Gustafson came out to Youngstown to run an inspection to see if the Library was in a position to succeed. Her comment on Youngstown's "encouraging features," written in March 1950, is still remarkably accurate today: she wrote that the Library's strengths included a "group of active, interested people who know the value of library service and want it for their community." This is still true today; the community remains incredibly supportive of its public library; from Friends to volunteers, patrons to benefactors, today's Library couldn't exist without the support of these "active, interested people who know the value of library service and want it for their community."

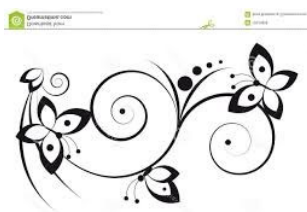
However, Ms. Gustafson reported that the Library suffered from "discouraging features" such as "insufficient money" and "too small a unit for efficient library service." Because of these downsides, she recommended that the Youngstown Free Library not continue to operate as an individual unit. Thankfully for us, her recommendation was not followed seventy years ago!

The downsides are still true today; unfortunately, there are still shortages in public funding and space. In spite of annual Library visits tripling since 2016, its public funding has been reduced by the Village and Niagara County and its space constraints limit services. The Library can grow to serve the community's needs through the support of the Youngstown Free Library's Annual Fund Drive and the Friends of the Library's fundraisers (at the time of this writing, we are 65% to the Annual Fund Drive goal, and the Friends have had record-breaking fundraising efforts this year). Thank you to everyone who has so graciously given this year.

Seventy years ago this fall, the Youngstown Free Library began as a promise to its community. Our forebears promised books for the entire community, story times to its children and partnerships with community groups. Today, we strive to uphold that promise of service. The Youngstown Free Library opens its door forty hours a week, welcomes over 25,000 visitors a year and offers nearly 300 programs a year to children and adults.

To mark this anniversary, on behalf of the staff and the Library Board, I thank you. Together, we will continue that seventy-year-old promise. We will serve the community as resourcefully and creatively as we can; with your help, the Youngstown Free Library will be around for another seventy years. Thank you for keeping the Youngstown Free Library a vital part of the community!

Yours truly - Sonora Miller





The Friends of the
Youngstown Free Library
240 Lockport Street
Youngstown, NY 14174

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lewiston, NY
Permit No. 3

Library Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2019 Board of Trustees

Sean Scarisbrick, President

Paul Inskeep, Vice-President

Maggie Steyn, Treasurer

Karran Swayze, Recording Secretary

Mary Wieland, Corresponding Secretary

Claudia Andres

Jerome Andres

Kevin Cassick

Barbara Costello

Lauren Morse

Trustee Board Meetings

7 p.m., fourth Monday of every month - The public is welcome to attend.

2019 Friends of the Library

Board of Directors

Jan Howard, President

Wendy Guild Swearingen, Vice President

Bill Siddall, Treasurer

Shannon Supon, Secretary

Maggie Steyn, Liaison to the Library Board

Elaine Barbiero Barbara Chassar

Judy Freiemuth Julie Grana

Keith Hartloff Jill Mazur

Annie O'Connor Jessica Streb

Colleen Mary Summerville - Newsletter Editor

Friends Board Meetings

7 p.m., third Wednesday of every month

Friends email: foylboard@gmail.com

Library Contact Information

Phone: (716) 745-3555

Fax: (716) 745-7122

Email: yfl@nioga.org

Website: youngstownfreelibrary.org