



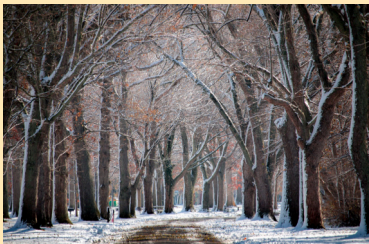
Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

Letter from the FOYL President

**Book Sale in the
Spring of 2021
Date to be announced!**



**Winter in Youngstown
Fort Niagara
Local Photographer
Robert Johnson**



**"The Winter Forest
Rejoices"**



"The Waiting Game"

Greetings Fellow Friends,

It's been a long year of constant change and canceled plans, but our library is still open to serve the community. We were able to put on a great book sale last month and I thank everyone who came out. We plan on having another book sale this spring and more events this summer. Hopefully we can move forward with these plans!

With winter and cold weather approaching I encourage everyone to check out a few good books, spend time reading, and maybe pick up a new hobby or two.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Keith Hartloff

The Friends of the Youngstown Library held our annual Fall Book Sale in the Red Brick School Gym on November 4 - 7. Like so many events in 2020, our Spring Book Sale had been canceled. We were hoping for a very successful Fall Sale and our community delivered. Through book sales, 50/50 raffle sales, and donations, we were able to raise nearly \$3000 to help support the Youngstown Free Library. Some examples of how fundraising has helped include funding children's programming, buying magazines and newspaper subscriptions, and assisting financially with library renovations.

A big thank you to our tireless volunteers who helped us haul boxes of books, sort and display the many books available for purchase, and served as cashiers throughout the sale. It was wonderful to see so many familiar people.

With the winter months upon us we hope you enjoy your purchased books, and hope you all stay safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021 for our Spring Book Sale!

Financial Report

Cash assets are \$23,054, of which \$290 is Unrestricted Operating Funds.

- The membership drive has taken in \$6,900 this year so far.
- The Fall Book Sale took in \$2,032 in book sales, \$392 in 50/50 draw tickets and \$486 in donations. This totals to \$2,910, surpassing the 2019 total of \$2742.

Per the Board's direction last month, we paid \$5,500 in gifts to the library:

- \$165 for the Old Fort Niagara membership,
- \$1,262 for Children's Book Materials,
- \$2,205 for Magazine Subscriptions, and
- \$1,869 for Newspaper Subscriptions

Bill Siddall

FOYL Treasurer



Help your Library while you online shop for the Holidays:

Most likely more people will be doing their Holiday shopping online. While we encourage everyone to safely support their local businesses, the convenience on purchasing online is obvious.

If you use Amazon for your purchases, please consider going to the site smile.amazon.com, and from the top menu to the left, select the option to choose your favorite not-for-profit: "Youngstown Free Library"....or just go directly to: smile.amazon.com/ch/16-0845533

A small percentage of ALL your Amazon purchases will be donated to the Library. Imagine how important that could be as it adds up quickly! Just this last month our Director, Sonora, received a payout from Amazon of nearly \$55 – which represents 4 or 5 books or 3 or 4 DVDs or a year's subscription to your favorite magazine.

If you all join in, we could **quadruple** that amount over the Holiday season.

This is a donation made by Amazon – you are not paying any more for the items you buy, so please make this simple change and ALWAYS shop at smile.amazon.com.



"Meet Your Friends"

Did you know in Youngstown we have a place called "Maskerville". Why yes, yes we do! It's actually a residence in the village owned by our Friends of the Library Member Anne Orr. You can find Anne on any given day dedicating her time to making masks for EVERYONE. She works tirelessly to help keep people safe, and she does it all for free! Anne loves our Library in Youngstown, and has been a dedicated member for many years. We are very grateful for her efforts.

A note from Board of Trustees President Sean Scarisbrick

Socks

I can't put on my socks.

I mean that quite literally. Ten minutes ago I was sitting on the side of my bed with a pair of socks that I was unable to put on my feet.

It all started when I was a kid and I bugged up my back. It used to be worse, but I found that running a lot and being in great shape helped ameliorate the worst of it. However, I slept on a dodgy bed last night and I am not currently in great shape. I woke up semi-immobilized.

So I took it easy this morning, and after we returned home I took an afternoon nap. Which brings us to the unfortunate sight of me (post nap) sitting on the side of my bed - a fully-grown man unable to put on his socks.

First there was the high drama of reaching over to the wardrobe and gingerly opening up the sock-draw to retrieve a pair, finger-tips only - because every quarter of an inch matters when your back's out. Then came the actual putting on of the socks.

I tried my left foot, and after that debacle I didn't even bother with the right one. Bother. I've got a lot of things to do around the place, but it looks as if I'm on light duties for the next day or so. Until things are back to normal I'm going to have to rely on the help of those I love.

Isobel, God bless her, just brought in a cup of tea to help me get through the writing of this draft. Molly recognized the pitiable tone in my voice and stopped squeezing her hug the moment I asked her to, and Lucy was generously gentle when she returned the poke I gave her in passing (because I'm her Dad and randomly poking my kids is part of my job, even with a crooked back).

I expect my beloved will give me a free pass on the household chores until this minor ordeal has passed. And that, hopefully, will be achieved with rest, some good quality legal drugs, and a good night's sleep.

* * *

I'm sharing this little personal drama because it is, I believe, reflective in many ways of the drama our library is currently enduring.

None of us asked for the unexpected illness that swept into our world and upturned nearly everything. None celebrate it.

The coronavirus is cramping our style; preventing us from doing the tasks we know we should be engaged in - simple things like opening doors and letting in friends in the manner to which we have become accustomed. We're relying on the love and understanding and generosity of others as we endeavor to find ways to live with this and still get the job done. And we live in the hope that a new day - a new year - will bring release and rejuvenation and renewal.

* * *

Thank you, Friends (and, put simply, plain old lowercase friends), for your support. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your love. It is my sincere prayer in this season of giving and anticipated seasonal rebirth that we will respect and understand where we are, that we will do what we can with what we have in the best of spirits, and that, with a little faith and a dash of hope, that this will all soon be over and we can get back to living how we should.

Wearing nice pairs of socks.

2020-2021 Library Fund Drive

Thank you to everyone for your contributions so far to this season's Library Fund Drive. We have already received donations from over 250 patrons, friends and well-wishers. This level of commitment exceeds all tallies for the past 8 or 9 years! We were quite anxious when kicking off the drive as we felt many of our wonderful library-supporters would be financially and emotionally exhausted this year, and contributing to the Library would be the last thing on their mind. But you ALL proved us wrong and we are very grateful for that!

Our Fund Drive this year is so much more important than previous years. Our Director is faced with purchasing items such as hand-sanitizer and cleaning products for our books and materials, in such quantities that she surely never envisaged, as well as a HEPA-13 air-purifier to keep the air in the library-space as clean as possible. In addition to these extra expenses, we know the Town of Porter, themselves faced with lost revenue this year, will be reducing our budget for 2021 by \$15,000.

This will have a huge impact since that represents almost our entire budget for books and digital materials - the very core of your library!

So your overwhelming generosity in contributing to the Library Fund Drive has been of extreme importance to us and we are so thankful you were able to step forward and donate.

The Fund Drive continues into 2021.

Maggie Steyn

Treasurer - Board of Trustees

A/C Grant Approved

In the hot Summer of 2019, one of the obsolete non-circulating water-cooled Air Conditioners failed, leaving the remaining two to lumber on in a fruitless attempt to cool the library's six rooms. A local HVAC firm was called in to see if the unit could be repaired, but after trouble shooting it was determined the 30 year old unit was too costly to repair. In addition, the village was concerned over the high-water consumption these units were using. We requested quotes to replace all three units with modern, low energy, high efficiency units. The type we agreed upon were wall mounted, heat pump cooling mini-split air conditioners. One unit was installed within a few days, followed up by installation of the other two. The library has never been so comfortable and quiet with these air conditioners.

A grant was written for the replacements and sent to the NYS Education Department's Library Construction Program in September 2019. Youngstown Free Library was competing for Grant monies with 22 Libraries in the NIOGA system! It takes a year to find out if your Grant was approved, and I am pleased to announce on October 16, 2020 we were awarded \$11,175, which is 75% of the initial installation. All in all, it was a Win-Win situation: The Village is happy, the Library is happy, and we received a good portion of our expenditure back.

GOOD NEWS for a change!

Paul Inskip

Board of Trustees

A note from our Library Director - Sonora Miller

Hello community!

This has been a year unlike any other. For many of us, it has meant staying away from loved ones outside our household: grown children, grandchildren, parents, and grandparents, among others.

If you are staying distant from loved children in your life, the Youngstown Free Library is here with an innovative new program for December, "Recorded Readaloud."

In each "Recorded Readaloud," you'll come to the Library, choose a book from the children's collection, sit in our sanitized rocking chair, and you'll be videoed reading a book to the little ones who can't be with you this holiday season.

Each story readaloud will be posted to a private Youtube link that only its reader will have (and can share with loved ones) or we can record the readaloud to a DVD to give this Christmas. Want to see what the recording will look like? We have a sample readaloud posted to <http://youngstownfreelibrary.org/calendar.html> and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/youngstownfreelibrary).

If you are interested in participating in "Recorded Readaloud," please make your appointment at www.picktime.com/youngstownfreelibrary or by calling the Library at 745-3555. Please book your appointment soon, as we have limited slots for this program!

I know we can't all be with our loved ones this year, but the Youngstown Free Library wants to find a way to bring us together.

Blessings for health and well being to you all,
Sonora



At the close of 2020, the Youngstown Free Library will be saying a sad good-bye to one of its own. Marky Jones, who has worked on and off at the Library since 1988, will be retiring as library clerk.

No doubt you have heard Marky's cheerful voice on the phone as she called you about your books, or enjoyed her sharp wit as she told a great joke at the Front Desk. She organized the popular candy guessing game every Christmas season. Behind the scenes, she has cataloged and processed thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of books and magazines for the Library. Marky says, "I have worked beside some of the best coworkers and nicest people that are associated with this Library of all my working years in other places." She always intended to retire in 2020, and we have been blessed to have her steady, kind, and knowledgeable presence extended into this summer and fall while we navigated this difficult time at the Library.

If you would like to show your appreciation to Marky, please feel free to drop a letter or a card in the book drop before Christmas. While we will not be able to hold

a traditional retirement party for Marky because of the virus, I hope that we can all show her how much her empathy and charm have enhanced our lives every time we saw her at the Library.

Thankfully, you may still be lucky enough to spot Marky out and about. She will be staying local for now, and she says, "I will certainly miss all the people here, but I hope to see everyone around the village often!" Thank you for all you've done Marky, we truly hope you enjoy your retirement.

We remain steadfast, dear community, in our desire to provide you with as much access to YOUR library as our building landlord allows us.

CONTACT US

Call or email us with your questions and requests:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 1:30 - 8:30pm and Tuesdays: 9:30 - 8:30pm

Curbside pick-up of Youngstown Library materials is available:

Mondays - Thursdays: 4 - 6 PM

CURBSIDE PICK-UP IN THE FOYER

During the length of the pandemic, the Library will continue to offer curbside pick-up for all materials. Staff will sanitize & check out those library materials to you. Then they will be bagged for your privacy & protection. We will call you when your items are ready to be picked up: Mondays - Thursdays: 4 - 6 PM Masks are required, but your library card is not.

VISIT THE LIBRARY

Visit the Library for a 30-minute appointment. You'll need to fill out a Patron Agreement for Pandemic Visits & everyone in your family must wear a mask for the entirety of your visit.

www.youngstownfreelibrary.org

Click on "Library by Appointment Request"

Steps to Protect Everyone's Health at the Youngstown Free Library

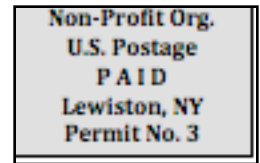
Here are some highlights from our Safety Plan. Our top priority is the safety of staff members and patrons. Please feel free to review our detailed Safety Plan on our website: www.youngstownfreelibrary.org.

- All returned books and movies are put into a 72-hour quarantine.
- After quarantine, all books and movies are wiped down with disinfectant before being reshelved.
- All curbside pick-up books are wiped down with disinfectant before being placed in the bags.
- All staff members are screened daily to ensure that everyone is feeling well.
- All staff members are social distancing at work and wearing appropriate PPE for each situation.
- We are cleaning and disinfecting all work areas at the end of every shift.

We will get through this by protecting each other, and your Library is here to protect your health to the best of our abilities. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sonora at 745-3555.



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



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

Closed

2020 Board of Trustees

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Maggie Steyn, Treasurer

Karran Swayze, Recording Secretary

Mary Wieland, Corresponding Secretary

Claudia Andres

Jerome Andres

Kevin Cassick

Barbara Costello Emma Hartloff

Lauren Morse Devon Tower

Trustee Board Meetings

7 p.m., fourth Monday of every month,

The public is welcome to attend.

2020 Friends of the Library

Board of Directors

Keith Hartloff, President

Wendy Guild Swearingen, Vice President

Bill Siddall, Treasurer

Shannon Supon, Secretary

Maggie Steyn, Liaison to the Library Board

Cyndi Baker Elaine Barbiero

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Julia Grana Jill Mazur

Heather Rogers Rose Salvatore

Catherine Stella Jessica Streb

Colleen Mary Summerville

(Newsletter Editor)

Friends Board Meetings

7 p.m., third Wednesday of every month

Friends email: foylboard@gmail.com

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Website: youngstownfreelibrary.org