



Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

Letter from the FOYL President

Save the Dates

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 14th



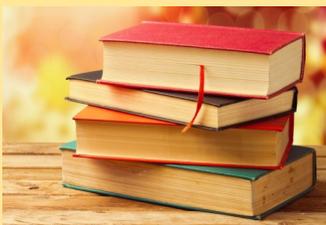
Desserts In The Stacks

April 17th



Spring Book Sale

April 30th - May 2nd



Greetings Fellow Friends!

First and foremost, I would like to thank my predecessor Jan Howard for her many years of service. As a director and president of the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library, her dedication and commitment have made it a better place. Jan's tireless efforts have ensured our Library's continued vitality, as well as its ability to enrich generations to come. She was (and will continue to be) an integral part of our Library, and a beloved member of the Youngstown community.

Almost nine years ago, upon assignment to the Niagara Air Reserve Station, my wife and I were searching for a new home in Niagara County. We were looking for a quiet, cozy community to raise our family – two daughters, with a baby on the way. Youngstown stood out as a small tight-knit place, and we could envision ourselves being a part of this town. Time went on, our kids grew, and so did our affection for our small Library. Last year, as my Air Force career was drawing to a close, I began seeking a new way to continue serving my community. I wanted to be more involved so I joined the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Board of Directors. Now I find myself the incoming president, and I hope to serve as well as all those who have come before me. In addition, I want to help our library remain active, relevant, and able to meet the challenges that await us in the years to come.

One of the simplest ways to show your support for our Library is to become a member of the Friends. Memberships are a vital part of our fundraising efforts as they provide funding for improved Library services, programming and materials, subscriptions and facility needs. Please continue to be part of our membership, and spread the word to your family and friends. Ask them to consider joining the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library to show their support, and come check out our Library!

Keith Hartloff

President - Friends of the Youngstown Free Library

Financial Report

Financial Report for 2019

We started the year with \$25,332 in cash assets and ended the year with \$30,367.

The Library Renovation Fund had \$22,814 at the beginning of the year. We gave \$1,000 from this fund to the Barker library rebuilding fund after their catastrophic fire. Two projects to be funded from the Renovation Fund have not yet been completed. In 2018 we committed \$7,500 of this fund to undertake a professional space planning design study. In 2017 we committed \$700 for alterations to allow for a second workstation at the front desk of the library.

Income for the year totaled \$24,263 compared to a budget of \$17,310. The variance is explained as follows:

Membership drive income surpassed budget by \$380.

Donations and gifts surpassed budget by \$855,

The unbudgeted chicken barbeque at Bandana's brought in \$3,751.

The unbudgeted garage sale brought in \$2,377.

The unbudgeted shoe drive brought in \$943.

The unbudgeted tire disposal fund drive brought in \$210.

Expenses budgeted for the year totaled \$19,319 compared to a budget of \$14,880. The variance is explained as follows:

We spent \$12,845 compared to a budget of \$7,770 on fourteen different line items during 2019 for gifts to the library.

Newsletter expenses exceeded budget by \$468.

Unbudgeted chicken barbeque expenses were \$1,709.

Bill Siddall - FOYL Treasurer

Chili Cook-Off at Bandana's

February 2nd, 2020

Our chili cook-off was a great success with Julie Grana coming in first place, and Eran Colbus second! The entries were delicious, and we made extra money for our Library.

Pre-sale donations in lieu of attendance \$20

Chili tasting sales \$300

Net 50/50 draw after payout \$120

Total income \$440

Overall a wonderful time, and our sincere gratitude to Rob & Melissa from Bandana's for being such fine hosts of our annual event. See you next year!



Save the Date - Free Electronic Recycling Event!
SPONSORED by The Youngstown Free Library
Saturday May 9th - 9:00am to 3:00pm
Parking lot of the Library
240 Lockport St, Youngstown, NY
Open to the Community



Acceptable Electronics:

**Computers * Monitors * TV's * Laptops * Modems * Servers
Microwaves * Cell Phones * Fax Machines * Copiers * CD Players
* IT Equipment * Peripherals Audio/ Visual Equipment
Telecommunications Equipment * GPS Units**

Unacceptable items:

**Light Bulbs or Fixtures * Freon Containing Items - Refrigerators
Air Conditioners * Household Appliances
Residential electronics only. No Business electronics.**

Suggested donation of \$5 per item

Disposal services provided by:



Meet Your Friends - Mark & Cheryl Butera

Mark and Cheryl Butera are long time business owners in Youngstown, and love the history and small town charm of the place they call home. They appreciate our Library, and "sing the praises" of Sonora's efforts with advancements in technology for our community. Mark & Cheryl see the Friends of the Youngstown Library as kind, hardworking folks who bring us all together for the betterment of the Youngstown Free Library. The next time you see them, be sure to say HELLO!



A note from Board of Trustees President

The Magic

G'day Friends,

Forgive me if I repeat myself, but for an embarrassing number of years I had little real idea of what it takes to make a community such as ours work. For it to function; for it to be vibrant and thrumming with the activity that make it a place people want to visit and in which to live.

Everything from the celebratory outside events we squeeze into our sunny months to the dozens upon dozens of daily / weekly / monthly / annual events at our Library and other village and town institutions.

The good stuff – the magic – just kind of appeared. At least, that's how it seemed until I woke up one day and found myself on the Board of Trustees and immersed right in the guts of things.

[OK – perhaps there was a *little* wilful ignorance going on. Because you *know* that once you're aware of what it takes to make good things happen, you kind of develop a sense of responsibility it's difficult to ignore, right?]

But as it is in OZ, so it is here in Youngstown. You pull back the curtain, and the Wizard's magic is revealed to be nothing more than the result of people pulling the levers and getting stuff done, quite literally *behind the scenes*.

The magic doesn't happen by accident.

But I don't think that's a bad thing. Seeing how the magic is done, and being a part of it, doesn't diminish the results. If anything, I'm a fan of seeing how things are done. You appreciate things all the more if you know the story behind them.

Some great new fundraising ideas percolated to the surface last year and we could use some volunteers to help keep them going. There are important steps between a successful first run of an idea, and actually making it a sustained part of what we must continue to do to help the Library meet its financial responsibilities. So, if you've ever thought to yourself "I really should get over there and get involved in one of these fund-raisers" – or something like that – then your chance has come at last. We could use some Friends to take on the responsibility of keeping these lucrative and beneficial-to-the-community ideas going. If that's you, please contact either Keith or myself, and we'll point you in the right direction.

We have a busy year ahead of us. However, if we can get several people in and willing to roll up their sleeves to get it done, it'll be smooth.

Cheers all,

Sean

PS – Here's an idea... if the idea of taking a new responsibility seems a bit daunting, consider teaming with a friend or two and sharing the effort. What's that line from scripture? "Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

2019 – 2020 Library Fund Drive

Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to our 2019-2020 Fund Drive. At the Year's End, we were able to record an amazing \$20,692 in donations received from *you*, our loyal community.

Your donations are vitally important to the Library's financial health, and your efforts are greatly appreciated. Even with your record-breaking level of donations, the Town of Porter's continued generous support of our Library (with a check for over \$80,000) and wonderful monetary support from the Friends, in order to continue keeping the Library's doors open 40 hours a week and to offer the level of programming you have told the Library staff that you want, once again the Board of Trustees has very reluctantly had to adopt a deficit budget. This means we need to dip into our rainy-day monies in order to maintain and improve the Library's services to you.

So please continue supporting the Library, tell your friends and their children about the wonderful resources it offers and please keep walking through those doors and telling our staff what an excellent job they are doing!

Thank you again for your donations and the Fund Drive is still open, if you would like to contribute.

Maggie Steyn – Treasurer Board of Trustees

To review the Library's 2020 Adopted Budget, please visit the website **Youngstownfreelibrary.org/documents.html** and select "About the Trustees".

Save the Date - Youngstown at Sunset

Get ready for an evening of fun on May 16th, 2020 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm.

The event will be held at 418 Main Street, Youngstown, and will be an enjoyable evening. Event ticket includes: Food (tapas style), music and entertainment, silent auction, and two drink tickets.

On site certified babysitting included in ticket price (kids 4 and older).

Food and entertainment provided for the kids at no additional cost.

Limited tickets available - \$40 per ticket on sale at the Youngstown Free Library starting in April.

All proceeds benefit the Youngstown Free Library

Interested in donating an item for the Silent Auction?

Contact Lauren Morse 716-238-2864.



A note from our Library Director

Valentine's Day Candy Land for Families

For the first weekend of February, the Red Brick Gym was transformed. No longer a gym for basketball games, it had become a life-sized Candy Land board game overnight! On the floor, a path of colorful squares serpentine its way around the entire gym. Rainbow lanterns and candy strings were hung overhead. Giant gummy bears, gumdrops, a gingerbread house, and Princess Lolly decorated this life-size game board. Along the path, treat stations offered families the chance to do Valentine's Day themed science projects.

Families who attended were able to immerse themselves (literally!) in a Candy Land board game with the added benefit of STEM learning opportunities. This program was an incredible success, with over 125 attendees!

A program this large could not have happened without the incredible support of two groups: the Friends of the Library and a group of enthusiastic volunteers. The Friends of the Library generously donated \$500 to support this program. This paid for game board pieces, decorations, science materials, and candy for the children.

Beyond financial support, Candy Land also required a dedicated team of volunteers. Dozens of community members of all ages volunteered their weekend, their energy, and their talents to make Candy Land a success.

Thank you to the following volunteer program organizers who worked tirelessly and attended to every detail:

Emma and Keith Hartloff and Hartloff children and Bea

Lauren and Nick Morse and Ryland and Phineas

Thank you to the following volunteers who set up the game, ran the event, and cleaned up afterwards:

Kevin Cassick, Barb Chassar, Eran Colbus, Ashley Hess, Diane Hudson

Heather Rogers, Laura and Sean Scarisbrick and Scarisbrick children,

Jean and Bill Siddall, Karran Swayze, Devon Tower and Tower children.

Also, to everyone who baked goodies!

Thank you to everyone who made this program a success! Friends, staff, and volunteers: your support and hard work allows this little library to thrive in its community, and I am grateful to you all.

Yours truly,

Sonora R. Miller

Library Director



Upcoming Activities

Upcoming Library Programs for Adults

Monthly Meditation Group - Mondays at 6:30pm - 3/9, 4/20, 5/11, & 6/8

The second Monday of every month is your chance to reel in the chaos and find clarity with meditation. Join others for an hour of connection, calm and explore a variety of meditation themes with instructor Stephanie Chesebro. There is no registration or cost for this monthly group.

Evening Book Club - we'll be discussing the following at **7:00pm**

Wednesday, March 11th - *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.

Wednesday, April 8th - *Oneida: from free love Utopia to the well-set table* by Ellen Wayland-Smith.

Wednesday, May 13th - *Barkskins* by Annie Proulx.

Wednesday, June 10th - *A Woman is no Man* by Etaf Rum.

Join our relaxed, friendly, neighborhood book club! Stop in to the library; we will have copies of the book available to check out starting the month before we discuss the book.

Afternoon Book Club - we'll be discussing the following at **Lewiston Senior Center at 1:00pm**

Tuesday, March 17th - *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline.

Tuesday, April 21st - *Shoot for the moon: the space race and the extraordinary voyage of Apollo 11* by Jim Donovan (or a book of your choice about the space race).

Tuesday, May 19th - *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

Tuesday, June 16th - *The Pioneers : the heroic story of the settlers who brought the American ideal west* by David McCullough.

Movie Club - Mondays at 1:00pm - 3/23, 4/27, 5/18, & 6/22

The Youngstown Free Library is hosting a book club for movie lovers! Watch the movie in advance, then meet with others to chat about the film! If you have questions, please call the Library at 716-745-3555. We are happy to teach you how to use your library card to stream the movie for free!

Basic Tech Help - Tuesdays at 1:00pm at Lewiston Senior Center - 3/24, 4/28, 5/26, & 6/23

Looking for a relaxed, no-stress, and no-pressure environment to learn about technology? Come join us! Bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop computer, and get your tech questions answered!

Discover & Explore Your Digital Library! Saturdays at 10:30am - 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, & 6/6

Welcome back to your local library, and how it's evolved to help YOU! Learn how to use your digital library to download and/or stream and download e-books, audiobooks, graphic novels, music, magazines, tv, and movies. Bring your tablet, smartphone, or laptop and prepare to spend an hour or so getting your accounts set up and your questions answered. No registration needed.

Upcoming Library Programs for Children and Families

Short & Sweet for Babies - Saturdays at 11:00am - 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, 5/23, & 6/13.

Here's a short weekend story time (held two Saturdays a month) packed with music and play to build your baby's pre-literacy skills and have fun with you! No registration required. Perfect for newborns to 2 years old.

Story Hour with Town of Porter every Tuesday at 9:30 am & 11:00am

Join the Town of Porter's weekly Story Hour, perfect for toddlers and preschoolers. Every week, we read together, make crafts, and practice socialization skills while having fun! This program runs on the school calendar, so if school is closed, there is no program. No registration required.

Saturday Story Hour with Builders Club

Saturday, March 21st at 11 am -- we'll be learning about boats and pirates!

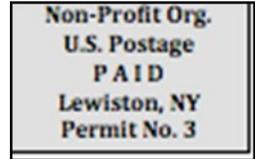
Saturday, May 16th at 11 am -- we'll be learning about bugs!

Low-Port's Builders Club students are helpers in the community, and every month they host a story time and craft program for children at the Youngstown Free Library! Preschool and elementary school-aged children and caregivers: come for stories, crafts, snacks and a chance to meet the helpers! No registration needed.

LEGO Club - Every Thursday at 4 pm - Join us for a LEGO where children can build wild vehicles, buildings, and creatures in their imaginations. No registration required.



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

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

Emma Hartloff Lauren Morse

Devon Tower

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

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

Barbara Chassar Judy Freiemuth

Julie 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

Library Contact Information

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