



# Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

## SAVE THE DATES!

Fall Used Book Sale  
November 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## NEW MURALS IN YOUNGSTOWN



Beautiful Mural painted  
on the West side of the  
Laundromat/Dance  
Building by the talented  
Alessandra Price.

And that's not all...

She was recently  
commissioned by Anchor  
Spirits, and is hard at  
work bringing more  
beauty to our community.



## Letter from the FOYL President

Greetings Fellow Friends,

Good news everyone! Our little library is open! Our marvelous library director and the library staff have implemented public health and safety measures to continue meeting the informational and reading needs of our community.

As you may imagine, this has been a tumultuous year for our community and library. The whole world has been affected by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. With all that has and continues to transpire this year, I urge you to continue your support for the Youngstown Free Library. You can do so by utilizing the available services: check out a book, whether by curbside pickup or from the digital catalog, and participate in online classes offered by the library. Taking advantage of our library's services is the best way to ensure our community continues to have a library. Also, please consider donating what you are able during this year's Fund Drive.

Sadly, we were unable to conduct any Friends of Youngstown Library spring and summer events that bring people together to celebrate our library, catch up with each other, and raise funds. Dessert in the Stacks, the Spring Book Sale, and other enjoyable events that were planned for 2020 will be missed.

Looking forward, we are still planning on conducting the Fall Book Sale tentatively scheduled November 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. Of course, plans can change and we want to ensure everyone's health remains safe while finding ways to serve our community and library. If anyone would like to share any ideas for events, volunteer, and voice any concern regarding the Friends organization please feel free to email us at [foylboard@gmail.com](mailto:foylboard@gmail.com).

Thank you so much and come check out our library!

Keith Hartloff

President, Friends of the Youngstown free Library

**"A good citizen is an informed citizen. Study, read and learn as much as possible about the United States, its government, its people and its way of life. As citizens, you will be asked to participate in the governmental process - how you choose to participate is up to you." ~ The Daughters of the Revolution Manual of Citizenship**

## Financial Report

Cash assets are \$27,064, of which \$2,260 is Unrestricted Operating Funds.

As reported previously we took in \$2,260 in membership drive receipts in June and an additional \$455 in July. Year to date membership drive receipts are \$5,860.

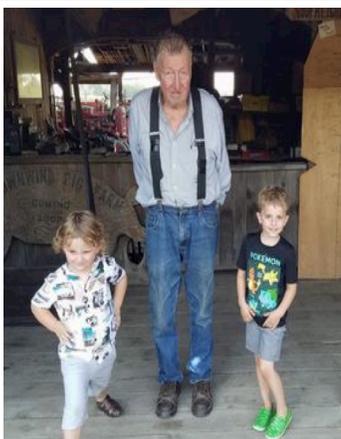
We made gifts to the library of \$2,200 for the summer reading program and pandemic expenses, \$750 for the Ruby Cary scholarship, and \$4,000 for the library renovation planning study.

Bill Siddall - FOYL Treasurer

### Ruby Carey Scholarship Winner

The Youngstown Board of Directors, the Friends of the Youngstown Library and the Youngstown Study Club (celebrating it's 100th anniversary) combined this year to support a graduating student in the 14174 zip code. The Ruby Carey Scholarship was awarded to Lewiston Porter graduate Jackson Rogers of Youngstown in the amount of \$2000.00 to support his future educational endeavors. Jackson's name will be added to the plaque featuring previous winners. The plaque is displayed in the Youngstown Library.

Shown are Jackson Rogers and organizational leaders of the three groups.



### "Meet Your Friends"

Our community is very grateful to have Tom Tower's Farm Market, and appreciative of his constant support to our library. Tom's family has been farming for over 200 years, and Tom knew at an early age that he would be a farmer.

Tom enjoys visits from local families and children (like Dylan & Connor, left) and is always willing to sit for a chat.

Thank you for all you do Farmer Tom!

### Electronics Event

On Saturday, August 8, 2020, the Youngstown Free Library hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Electronics Recycling Event**. The library was able to partner with Tom Tower's Farm Market, who generously donated over 260 market gift certificates that were given to community members who donated to the Library. The Library is so very thankful to Tom. His substantial donation helped to make this event a huge success.

We'd also like to thank the community for participating and donating to the library. Our recycling vender filled up 4 trucks with all of the electronics that came flowing in on Saturday. There was a never-ending stream of cars that brought every type of electronic that you could imagine: tvs, computers, printers, faxes, phones, and did I mention tvs? By participating in this event, our community was able to reduce the trash waste stream by disposing of these items in an environmental responsible way. Many volunteers made this day possible, and can't be thanked enough for their hard work.

# A note from Board of Trustees President Sean Scarisbrick

## Paradox Bay

G'day Friends,

I want to tell you a brief story about Paradox Bay - a pretty little spot on Lake Placid in the Adirondacks. Specifically, I want to tell you about our view of that bay from our humble hotel room. My family and I are enjoying a late-summer getaway here before our thoughts turn again towards schooling. We went kayaking earlier today and now, while our two oldest daughters are shopping, our youngest is luxuriating in an afternoon binge of cable TV - something she definitely cannot do at home. I, however, have a letter to write, so instead of reading a good book by the pool [ *sigh* ] I am - paradoxically - writing to you from the air-conditioned frigidity of our room.

Now, as I alluded to above, our room *does* have a view of the lake - but only just. From the small laminate table at which I am sitting, if I wedge myself up against the window, and then crane my neck into the corner and take a tangential look across the glass doors, I can *just* catch a glimmer of a view of Paradox Bay, our section of Lake Placid. What I can see is a nice shallow spot about the size of the parking lot in front of Rite Aid. It's a much better view, of course, when I sally out onto the balcony with a beverage in hand and lean a little over the railing. From that vantage point one enjoys a real view of the lake, and it's where I'm going to head once I'm finished here.

I've mentioned all this here as preface because I see a strong parallel between my current desire for the lake, and what we've all experienced with our lovely library these past few months. Haven't we all wanted a better view? Haven't we all wanted to shuck aside our obligations and spend some time there? There is some good news: Our library *has* finally opened, in accordance with (ever!) changing state and local policies - and responsible best-practices informed by NIOGA and other library groups - but it's not yet back to how it was. When this virus business started we were all, for a while, stuck on the outside, straining our eyes for a look at what we were missing and where we wanted to be. When it became possible we transitioned to a very successful model with our patrons' book requests brown-bagged and distributed by Megan (our Library Page) from out the front of the building. And now we can also schedule a time to come in, browse a bit, and check out what we need. But through all this we've missed our 'normal' access to the building. And, on top of that, we're missed wonderful events such as Dessert in the Stacks, and our Spring Book Sale. Dealing with this thing is a process. We are not yet where we want to be, but given time we will get there. In time the doors will be open, and you will be able to wander in and look around like the old days. Trust me, having been on a number of Very Exciting Zoom Calls - ☺\* - there is no one who wants to open up soon and safely as much as Sonora and our staff, and our Board of Trustees. I'd be remiss if, in this letter, I did not mention the financial hit our library is going to take over the next year or so. Faced with some unavoidable rising costs, we again started the year with a slight deficit budget that we were hoping to bring back to black by year's end with conservative spending on the discretionary items and some extra fund-raising efforts. Well, that bloody virus has obviously blown much of our fundraising out of the water. And to top it off, state and local funding will be down significantly this year as they face income shortfalls of their own. You'll receive our Annual Fund Drive letter soon, and your library could use whatever financial support you can provide, so long as it's fiscally responsible for you and your own family's balance sheet. And so that's where we're at right now. As I conclude, I'm reminded of John Adams' understanding of the paradoxes of life. The words America's second president wrote in his old age, to a dear friend, might just as well apply to the world we now find ourselves in, far beyond our obvious setbacks, we live blessed lives:

*"Griefs upon griefs! Disappointments upon disappointments. What then? This is a gay, merry world notwithstanding..."*

## A note from our Library Director - Sonora Miller

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Library News

Fall 2020

Hello community! This has been such a year, folks. Such. A. Long. Year. Do you feel at least ten years older now than you did in February? I know I do. The virus has changed every aspect of the Library. Working in a public library, we prided ourselves on bringing the community together; now we have to maintain social distance from everyone. We rejoiced in sharing 24,000 books with the community; now every shared book must be quarantined and sanitized before it's safe to be shared again. We spent the majority of our time helping patrons and running programs; now we spend the majority of our time cleaning and sanitizing. The Library was once a safe place for patrons of all ages and health to visit; now it's safest to limit patrons' access to curbside pick-up and library appointments.

With these library principles turned upside down, the Youngstown Free Library has had to find a new axis of service this year. I have re-centered the Library on two priorities: safety for patrons and staff, and constancy in library service to the community.

The safety of staff, volunteers, and patrons has been paramount to every decision the Library Board and I have made this year. When the danger of the virus first became apparent in early March, we responded immediately, establishing a library-wide daily disinfecting regimen (still in place). By mid-March, all part-time staff members were sent home. On March 23, the governor cut the non-essential workforce to 0% in the office, so I moved to working remotely until the end of May. Before staff returned to the office, I created a detailed Safety Plan to monitor health and safety of every person affiliated with the Library; this plan is being continually updated with best practices for the safety of everyone in the community. The most recent board-approved Safety Plan is available at [www.youngstownfreelibrary.org](http://www.youngstownfreelibrary.org). Every Library's Safety Plan is different, but because of our tiny size and the safety protocols required for each interaction, we are currently booking appointments for all Library visits, and encouraging everyone to continue using curbside pick-up.

The Youngstown Free Library's second priority has been to maintain consistent library service to the community, even in the midst of a confusing and tragic pandemic. When the building closed in mid-March that was not an end to library services; I simply forwarded library operations to my home. I maintained Library hours on Mondays through Thursdays (32 hours per week) from March to June. Were you one of the 150+ people who called me? During this time, I also answered hundreds of emails, helped patrons to use the digital library apps, and even signed folks up for new library cards! Throughout the pandemic, our book drop has remained open to accept the thousands of books and other library materials returned by patrons. Since we restarted curbside pick-up service in June, we have offered it every day we are open from 4-6 PM; by the time you read this, we will have provided curbside pick-up bags to at least 600 people! We will continue offering curbside service throughout the duration of the pandemic. For folks who aren't able to come to curbside pick-up (health issues, work schedules, lack of transportation, etc.), we are happy to bring your books to your front door for contactless delivery. As we move into the fall and winter, I recognize that people are tired. I am tired too. I would love to go back into my old routines, back to the old times when we could hug each other, stand close, and crowd into the Programming Room for a great book club discussion. I'm sure you would love to do the same! But we're not there yet, folks. I'm missing you all, and I thank everyone for their continued patience with the services and hours that the Library can safely offer the community. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 745-3555 or [smiller@nioga.org](mailto:smiller@nioga.org). Your Library is still here for you, Youngstown and Porter, and we're all in this together.

Do you miss browsing for books? You can use our new Library by Appointment service to visit the Library for a 30-minute visit. 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. Book your appointment: [www.youngstownfreelibrary.org](http://www.youngstownfreelibrary.org).

**WE HAVE A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS, SO WE ARE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING EVERYONE WHO IS ABLE TO USE CURBSIDE PICK-UP TO CONTINUE TO DO SO.**

More details are on our website: [www.youngstownfreelibrary.org](http://www.youngstownfreelibrary.org).

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. Curbside pick-up is available at a table outside the Library facing the parking lot: Mondays - Thursdays: 4 - 6 PM Masks are required, but your library card is not.

We cannot accept book donations at this time. The Friends will be accepting new donations after the November Book Sale.

Wear your mask, and we'll see you at curbside!

**SONORA, MARKY, MARLENE, CHRIS, & MEGAN**

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

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

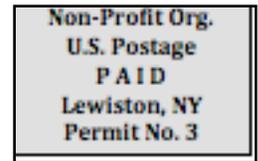
Here are some highlights from our Safety Plan. Our top priority is the safety of staff members and patrons. Please feel free to review our detailed Safety Plan on our website: [www.youngstownfreelibrary.org](http://www.youngstownfreelibrary.org).

- 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**

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.

#### **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  
Barbara Chassar Judy Freiemuth  
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](mailto:foylboard@gmail.com)

#### **Library Contact Information**

Phone: (716) 745-3555  
Fax: (716) 745-7122  
Email: [yfl@nioga.org](mailto:yfl@nioga.org)  
Website: [youngstownfreelibrary.org](http://youngstownfreelibrary.org)