



Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

Looking Forward. . .

**Aj Roberts
Photography Display
during the Winter
Season 2021/2022**



Battery Recycling at the Library!



Annual Fund Drive Continues...



Letter from the FOYL President

Greetings Fellow Friends, it's been another long year of constant change, 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. Our next sale will be in the spring and we're back on track to hold more events next year.

With winter and the cold weather approaching I encourage everyone to check out a few goods books, read up, and prepare yourself for a great new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Keith Hartloff

President, Friends of the Youngstown Library

2021-2022 Library Fund Drive

Once again the generosity of our community has proved itself. You have demonstrated how much you love our Library and how much you recognize its value in our lives. Thank you everyone who contributed so generously to this season's Library Fund Drive. Last year we had a record amount donated, and this year donations have already matched the high target we had previously set. Over 200 patrons and friends, as well as family members from out of state, have demonstrated their commitment by sending in their donations. These days, anticipated income from our Fund Drive represents a huge percentage of our revenue-stream, allowing our Director to continue her programs of outreach and inclusiveness.

If you are anxious about going inside, did you know you could attend "Book Club" from your home via Zoom?!!!

Additionally, funds go towards helping Sonora and her staff operate in a safe but welcoming manner, offering hand-sanitizer and clean surfaces and giving out masks for those who forget!

So we are again thankful you chose to step forward and help fund many of the Library's initiatives and operating costs.

If you have not yet contributed, the Fund Drive continues into 2022.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season!

Maggie Steyn
Treasurer

Financial Report

Membership drive income continues to arrive, including at the fall book sale, and now totals \$10,910 year to date.

Fall book sale receipts are as follows:

- book sales \$2725
- 50/50 sales \$348
- donations \$712
- Total \$3785

We paid out \$8,195 as gifts to the library in October, which includes both Sonora's request for funds at the last Board meeting as well as library fund drive expenses. Year to date gifts to the library total \$11,415 compared to a budget of \$10,850.

Bill Siddall

FOYL Treasurer

Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Youngstown Library held our annual Fall Book Sale in the Red Brick School Gymnasium November 4-6. It was our most successful sale to date due to the



generosity of our patrons and volunteers! All proceeds from book sales, 50/50 raffle sales, and donations help support our Youngstown Free Library by funding special programs, needed library upgrades, and library offerings and services for our community. We are so grateful for the generosity of our community in supporting our library, and enjoy seeing so many of you at our book sales!

We also need to thank our hard-working volunteers, who dedicate many hours moving, sorting, and displaying our thousands of books. Thank you, also, to all who donated books— we received many comments regarding the great variety and quality of the books offered for sale.

Thank you, once again, to all who supported our Fall Book Sale! We hope you all found plenty of good reading to get you through the winter months ahead. See you again at the Spring 2022 Book Sale!



Meet Your Friends

Rita Rolfe, a former member of the Library's Board of Trustees & FOYL Board, feels fortunate to be in a community where the support and care to our neighbors is exceptional. She loves the Library, and praises the wonderful service Sonora gives to Youngstown residents. Here she is pictured with her husband John. Please say hello when you see her in town!

Since 2017, the Youngstown Free Library has been taking steps to increase its environmental sustainability. What have we done so far?

- The Library purchased recycling bins for every workspace to ensure the maximum amount of waste be recycled.
- The Library has switched to using 100% recycled copy paper for all its printing needs.
- The Library Board has hosted electronics recycling programs for the community since 2019.

Now the Library has added a new recycling service to the Library - battery recycling!

In the Magazine Room, you'll find a box to turn in your dead batteries and cellphones. When the box is filled, we send it to a recycling facility. You'll notice a small donation box next to the recycling box. This is because the Library does not get reimbursed for recycling batteries. We thank you for donating to your Library's sustainability efforts in the community.

AJ Roberts: talented photographer featured this season at the Youngstown Free Library

Talented local photographer AJ Roberts is known for her beautiful nature photographs of the Niagara River Region. If you purchased the "Say Cheese, Youngstown" 2020 fundraiser calendar to benefit the Library, then you have seen her photograph of a fox walking through a snowy field for the December page.

A selection of her current photographs is currently showcased at the Youngstown Free Library, and all the pieces are available for sale. On your next visit to the Library, please take a few minutes to stop in the Magazine Room and appreciate them.



A note from Board of Trustees President Sean Scarisbrick

Page 4

Board News

Winter 2021/2022

"Wow" - it's a simple word, isn't it? Yet it captures so much. Within "wow" lurks a sense of awe at how awesome the thing we're describing is. But "wow" also captures a sense of how humbled the utterer feels as they stand before the object being described. If you've ever stood at the lip of the Grand Canyon and looked out at the deep and wonderful nothingness, or at the lip of Niagara Falls and seen those tens of thousands of gallons rushing past every second and realized that it's been doing that since before any of us were born, and that it will continue as such long after we're all gone, then you understand the word "wow." **Not bad for three little letters...** I want and need to thank you sincerely for your incredible generosity in our fall fundraising drive. It is our most successful yet - by a long margin. Coupled with some direct-appeal letters, and some fine Friends fundraising, our village has shown where its heart lies. Your humbling generosity means that, after a couple of very difficult years in which we've needed to run significantly 'in the red,' we have been able to present a break-even budget. Considering where we were several months ago, a break-even budget feels revolutionary, and nothing short of miraculous. **Hence the "wow"...** Every sensible budget is, of course, a fine balance between income and expenditures. While generosity and hard work have improved your library's income, the library's Board of Trustees have had to make some very difficult decisions in the area of expenditure. With no 'fat' left to be trimmed in our budget, you will notice a change in regards to our opening hours. Here are the library's new hours, effective as of January 3, 2022:

Monday & Wednesday: 2:00pm - 8:30pm; **Tuesday:** 9:30am - 8:30pm;

Thursday: 2:00pm - 6:00pm; **Friday & Saturday:** 10:00am - 2:00pm

Careful readers will notice that our hours have dropped by four hours a week, with Thursdays being most affected. We - I - wish it was not necessary. But the goal of preserving the 75 year old legacy of Youngstown's Library - and extending it far into the future - makes it a necessity. Our friends at the Ransomville Free Library and the Lewiston Public Library have also cut their open hours this past year for budget reasons, so we are not alone in reconsidering service hours. In fact, we are still open more hours per week than either of our sister libraries. These new hours will continue all year, which means we will finally have the summer Saturdays the public has asked for! The new hours provide three evenings, three mornings, and six afternoons of service to provide library availability to everyone regardless of their busy schedules. Our hope is the changes in hours will cause a minimum of distress and inconvenience for you, our Friends and patrons. If you've any comments or questions about the library's new hours, please feel free to contact me at yfltrustees@gmail.com

So that's where we are. Along with a sense of responsibility, we're all filled with a sense of relief, a feeling of cautious optimism, and a general joy in knowing that sharing the reality of our bottom-line concerns was, and continues to be, the right thing to do.

As I've noted before, prior to becoming involved with our library, I really had little idea of how much work and careful and imaginative consideration it takes to get things done. But as this year draws to a close, I'm thankful - in a lot of different ways - that we've taken The Beatles' advice, and "come together." And the result? **Wow...** Have a great Christmas, everyone!

Sean

P.S. If you've ever thought about serving as a Board Trustee, we've a couple of spots opening up! Check this out: <https://youngstownfreelibrary.org/board.html>

Paul Inskeep retires from the Board of Trustees

It is with sadness the Board of Trustees will say 'Goodbye' to Paul Inskeep at next year's first Board Meeting. Paul will be stepping down after serving the maximum three terms on the Board - *nine years* - at the Board's Annual Meeting on January 24th 2022. He has filled many roles on the Board - Corresponding Secretary, Space and Sustainability committee, Personnel committee and most recently added on the title of Vice President. He was instrumental in leading the search for a new Director, to succeed Jan Gilgore and although a difficult and lengthy process, he brought his unique brand of quiet and courteous reasoning to the table and we all know how well *that* initiative turned out!

Just recently, he worked diligently with a local Heating/Cooling installer to get three wonderful air-conditioning units placed in the Library (I'm sure everyone has enjoyed the benefit of those over the last few summers) and to then successfully apply for a grant to pay for all or most of their cost.

One of the recent projects he undertook involved hours and hours of work to review and plan with the Director and a design consultant for a total 'refit' of the Library space in the Red Brick Building. Unfortunately, this effort was stymied by the eventual exorbitant price-tag of the work-estimates. Following that setback, he has been on the hunt to acquire a brand new space in the village for the Library, but as yet nothing has been found.

He has attended every Board and Committee meeting (approximately 200 over the years), and Paul was at every event too - Chili cook-off, Dessert in the Stacks, hauling old TVs at the Electronics recycling and carrying tires at the Tires Collection day - never afraid to stand-up, volunteer and pitch in. Most recently he was seen driving his truck for the Library in the Labor Day parade.

It has been a joy to work with Paul; he has always stepped forward if a task needed taking care of, however dull or tedious - a time-consuming inventory of the Library's property, working with Insurance agents to make sure the Library is fully covered for everything it needs at the best cost etc. and brought his courteousness and good humor to everything he was involved in. We shall miss his wisdom and considered opinions at Board meetings and wish him a happy retirement from the Library but know he will quickly find other avenues to explore and will keep busy with all the things he loves.



Paul: thank you - you leave some giant boots to be filled!

Please join us on Saturday February 5, 2022 for the **Ontario House (aka Stone Jug) 5K!** This beautiful and scenic 5K run will take place in the historic Village of Youngstown, New York with a post-race party at "The Jug". Participants of all ages and ability levels are welcome to join the fun! The event is hoping to raise much needed funds for the Youngstown Free Library and your support is very much appreciated.

This race will be capped at 250 people and each participant will receive one of our custom "Stone Jug" finisher medal/bottle openers. Stone Jug t-shirts guaranteed to everyone who registers by Monday January 31st at 9am. Extra shirts (if any) will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration and other information about the race is available at


www.ontariohouse5k.itsyourrace.com

THE ONTARIO HOUSE STONE JUG 5K

February 5, 2022
Youngstown, NY
Start Time: 11am

Please join us for the inaugural Stone Jug 5K Run/Walk in Historic Youngstown! Participants of all ages and ability levels are welcome to join the fun. We have cool Stone Jug finisher medal/bottle openers for everyone and Stone Jug shirts if you register by January 31st at 10am. Post-race party at "The Jug" following the race with net proceeds to benefit the Youngstown Free Library. 250 max participants!


www.RaceManagementSolutions.com


The Library's movie collection has gotten a makeover!



This year, Library Clerk Marlene has been hard at work revitalizing the Library's collection of movies. With over 2,000 movies in the collection, this job is no small task. But the results are well worth checking out on your next visit to the Library!

Marlene has cleaned the DVDs, printed fresh covers, and replaced broken cases. Your favorite classic movies

are now like new! In addition, we continue to purchase new TV shows and movies as soon as they are released on DVDs, so our collection has all your anticipated new releases! We invite you to browse the Library's thousands of movies on your next visit, and you can thank Marlene for her beautiful makeover of the collection!

Winter reading season at the Youngstown Free Library

Starting in mid-December, the Youngstown Free Library will be kicking off a new way to engage young readers while they are off from school: a winter reading season! This new reading program, called Season's Readings, will run from December 20th to January 15th.

In addition to fun programs and weekly Take and Make craft kits, we invite kids to join the Youngstown Free Library's Winter Reading Challenge, in which the Library challenges them to read as much as they can with small prizes at each 100-minute increment. Every minute spent reading builds a child's skills and continues their learning, so we are proud of every child who chooses to read over their winter break.

Learn more and sign up your kids on our website at

<https://youngstownfreelibrary.org/children.html>



Season's Readings

AT THE YOUNGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY

Winter Reading Program for Kids & Teens

Enjoy weekly craft kits.
Attend fun programs.
Get prizes for reading!

DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 15



This winter, programs continue at the Youngstown Free Library for adults and children!

Afternoon Book Club is held the third Tuesday of every month at the Lewiston Senior Center.

- December 14 at 1:30 PM: *Crime and Poetry* by Amanda Flower
- January 18 at 1:30 PM: *2022 reading list will be released December 14*
- February 15 at 1:30 PM
- March 15 at 1:30 PM

Evening Book Club is held the second Wednesday of every month at the Youngstown Free Library.

- December 8 at 7 PM: *Migrations* by Charlotte McConaghy
- January 12 at 7 PM: *2022 reading list will be released December 8*
- February 9 at 7 PM
- March 9 at 7 PM

One-on-One Tech Help is available in-person at the Youngstown Free Library or via Zoom.

- Wednesday afternoons by appointment
- Call the Library to make an appointment OR use www.picktime.com/youngstownfreelibrary to make your appointment.

Discover & Explore Your Digital Library is available in-person at the Youngstown Free Library or via Zoom.

- First Saturday of the month at 10:30-11:30 AM
- No appointments needed.

Check our website for our full calendar of children's programs.

The Youngstown Free Library Board of Trustees is seeking 1 to 3 new members. The Board of Trustees is the administrative faction of the Library.

Some of the duties of the board include approving the annual budget, reviewing and revising bylaws and policies, as well as securing funding. The board meets monthly except for August and December and the meetings are open to public attendance.

Information about the Board of Trustees and an application are available on the library website www.youngstownfreelibrary.org Look under the "About Us" tab for Board of Trustees. If interested, you may return an application to the library or reach out to Barbara Costello at 716-523-3597.



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

2:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday

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

Thursday

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

2021 Board of Trustees

Sean Scarisbrick, President

Paul Inskip, Vice-President

Maggie Steyn, Treasurer

Devon Tower, Recording Secretary

Karran Swayze, Corresponding Secretary

Claudia Andres David Brooks

Mary Clinch Barbara Costello

Dave Smith Mary Beth Smith

Trustee Board Meetings

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

The public is welcome to attend.

2021 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

Elaine Barbiero Barbara Chassar

Nancy D'Arcangelo

Judy Freiermuth Julia Grana

Jill Mazur Heather Rogers

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

Phone: (716) 745-3555

Fax: (716) 745-7122

Email: yfl@nioga.org

Website: youngstownfreelibrary.org