



Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

Looking Forward. . .

**Electronic Recycle
Event on 9/18/21**



**Fall Book Sale
11/4-11/6**



**Watch for your
2021/2022 Annual
Fund Drive Letter!!!**



Letter from the FOYL President

Greetings Fellow Friends,

Change is upon again. Summer is ending and fall is beginning. Through it all our library remains open to serve our community. Our Fall Book Sale will take place November 4th - 6th, with our members only night on Thursday 11/4/21. You will also see many of our other events returning. So, in the end change is here, but some things are returning to normal.

As the weather cools off and turns to winter, I encourage everyone to check out a few goods books, read up, pick up a new hobby, or try to create something new.

Keith Hartloff

President, Friends of the Youngstown free Library



**"Skip to M'Lou"
Keith and Sean
at the
Youngstown
Labor Day
Parade -
representing
the FOYL and
Trustees!!!**

Financial Report

FOYL Treasurers report thru 9/9/2021

Cash assets total \$28,069, of which \$10,020 are Unrestricted Operating Funds. Membership drive income is \$10,525 year to date, an all-time record.

We paid out \$150 for bean bag chairs & \$105 for shelving signage as gifts to the library.

Bill Siddall - FOYL Treasurer

"Meet Your Friends"

A strong supporter of our FOYL, and of this writer, please say hello to our friend

Daniel Allen Summerville - a Photojournalist working at WIVB - Channel 4 over a span of six decades 1970s to 2020s! He has many interesting stories to tell (including flying in a F4

Phantom jet, and meeting Mother Teresa) and has covered several events in our community.

Daniel enjoys the peace and tranquility of our beautiful village, and is happy to call Youngstown his home!



Pictured above at the NF Air Base in September of this year, and flying in a F4 Phantom Jet in 1984. A work career of over 40 years!

Fall Book Sale

It's almost time for the FOYL Fall Book Sale! The sale, held in the gym of the Youngstown Red Brick School, will be open to the public Friday, November 5th and Saturday November 6th 9:30-6:00. Current members can enjoy our Members Preview Night Thursday, November 4th 5:00-8:00. If you are not a current member but would like first dibs on our book selection and enjoy refreshments as you shop the sale, you can become a member at the door for \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a family membership. Please keep in mind that we will be adhering to any pandemic protocols in place for the Youngstown Free Library and Red Brick School building at the time of the sale. If you have books you would like to donate, please bring them to the gym ONLY on November 1-3 between the hours of 10:00-3:00. We thank you in advance for your cooperation, and look forward to seeing you at our Fall Book Sale.



Friends, when recycling cans and bottles at either the Lewiston or Ransomville recycling locations, please ask that your redemption money be donated to YFL. The library is on both locations' lists. ~ Thank You!

The Library is sponsoring its second Electronics Recycling event for the year - Saturday, September 18th - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Here is your chance to clean out your old electronics--brought to you as a fundraiser for the Youngstown Free Library! This fundraiser is open to the community, but it is limited to residential electronics only. Sorry, no business electronics accepted.

Save the Date!
Free Electronic Recycling Event!

SPONSORED BY

The Youngstown Free Library
Saturday, September 18, 2021
9:00-1:00

Parking lot of the Library- Red Brick
240 Lockport St, Youngstown

Open to the Community- Residential electronics only.

****Limit 1 television (LCD, CRT and plasma) per vehicle.**

No floor model TVs. No wooden console or rear projection TVs**

No business electronics



Acceptable Electronics:

Computers * Monitors * TV's (LCD, CRT and plasma) * 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), floor model TVs, wooden console TVs, rear projection TVs or household appliances.

Suggested donation of \$5 per item

Disposal services provided by



A note from Board of Trustees President Sean Scarisbrick

Change and comfort

G'day Friends, I'm rarely comfortable with change. I can't speak for anyone else, but I hate the fact that I now need reading glasses. I know I *need* to bring a pair of 'readers' with me wherever I go - or at least have cheap pairs from Rite-Aid stashed all over the place - but I don't *want* to have to do this, and I'm not really ready to develop the habit. I had laser surgery ten years ago, and "I can see clearly now" instantly became my favorite song. So I'm sure you understand my resistance to getting "back on the glasses train."

Sometimes change hurts, and sometimes it is annoying. And sometimes there are good reasons to fight it. But sometimes circumstances are such that you just need to learn how to live with change, and to discover new ways of doing things. This is news to no one, of course, and I'm sure we can all think of a number of times that our lives have changed despite our deepest wishes - and that we have needed to make peace with "our new reality" so we could move on. So it is with me and my reading glasses, and so it is with our library and our new budget realities.

I'm not sure if you were aware of it or not, but unlike most area libraries, the funding of the Youngstown Free Library is *not* attached to that of the local school budget. Apparently most libraries in WNY are, and that makes their budgeting relatively easy. Who knew? [No great surprise here, but I paid exactly *zero* attention to our library's budget before I became Board President. I'm sure I'm not alone in this.] We don't have a separate line on our School Tax or Town of Porter property bills tax saying "Youngstown Free Library Funding." If we did, our library would be 95% funded for the whole year, just like that.

Because of this, over half of our operating funds have come from the Town of Porter, with most of the balance being made up through fundraising events (anyone looking forward to the return of Dessert-in-the-Stacks???), grants, and the superb generosity of members in our annual fund drives. And that was fine, until Covid came along and put a spanner in the works. Because of Covid, the Town has less money coming in, and we can't expect that to change much anytime soon. As a result, even with a conservative and carefully considered budget, our library is facing a 20% (\$30,000) deficit this year. Clearly our approach to fund raising has to change. It is time to restructure the library's income sources. And so we have to talk about money (ugh), which means being a little bit more forthright about such things with the people we serve so they better understand the situation.

Our Electronics Drive is coming up on September 18. And you'll soon be receiving our Annual Fund Drive letters in the mail. To secure the library's long term viability, the library is transitioning to *also* making active appeals for support through new sources, such as Estate Planning and Legacy Giving, gifts through IRAs, etc., and Corporate Matching and Corporate Support. This is a new way of doing things for us, and you'll understand if I'm a little nervous in making this appeal. As I noted earlier, change is often really uncomfortable. But for our library to continue to thrive we need to show some courage in the way we do things, and to move forward in hope and confidence.

The support that you have traditionally shown our library has been incredibly appreciated, and respected, and I hope as we seek to broaden our appeal for funds that our continuing deep appreciation is understood. Perhaps these changes - unlike what I am experiencing with my eyes - are a good thing. Perhaps they will make our library a stronger, more responsive, and more vibrant organization. We're certainly approaching it that way. In the meantime, we move forward finding new ways to respond to life's challenges, so that we may carry on and support the great tradition of this vital little library of ours. By the way, Friends - I hope you'll forgive the redundancy, but you'll see some of this same language in the Annual Fund Drive Letter. What can I say? It's a vitally important issue!

Looking Back and Looking Forward

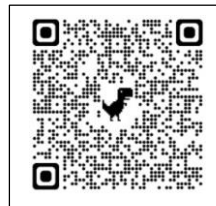
What a year this has been! Whatever you imagined in January for 2021, I'm sure I'm not alone in saying that "this is not what I pictured!" We've all had such changes in our lives this year—losses, shifts of time and energy, and hopefully gains as well.

As we move into another winter season, and then into 2022, none of us are the same people we were last year. As such, it makes sense to reevaluate the programs you want from the Library. The programs that served the Youngstown community well in 2019 will not be same as what community members want or need from their Library in 2022.

With limited staff and resources, we can't offer everything, but we have the flexibility to shift our programs to meet the interests of the community. For instance, what about the Library's two book clubs works for you? What can be made better? What additional programs would you like to see? To help the Library reimagine its programs for adults, I'd like to invite everyone to fill out the survey for adult programming, available

here: <https://forms.gle/wis3sjA4pRuuW5Q37>

Or point your phone at this QR code and fill out the survey on your phone!



As the Library looks forward to new and improved programming in 2022, it's also time to start thinking about the Library's upcoming anniversary. Next summer will be the 50th anniversary of being in our current location in the Red Brick building. Even though the Library was started in 1949, the Youngstown Free Library was originally located at 120 Lockport Street. In August 1972, the Library moved its entire collection into the first floor of the Red Brick. How we should best celebrate this golden anniversary? If you are interested in joining a committee to plan this anniversary celebration, please email me at smiller@nioga.org. All are welcome!

When I was standing at the stove canning pints and quarts of tomato sauce last week, it felt like this ritual of canning was the first physical return to a familiar and comforting task after a long season of strangeness. My body celebrated this tiny sensory victory of familiarity—sore feet from long hours standing, the fruity smell of cooking tomatoes, and the satisfying "pop" of the lids sealing afterwards. We may still be in the midst of hard times, but I hope that you too are able to celebrate the small moments of familiar joy this fall.

Sonora



Summer Reading at the Youngstown Free Library

Summer reading this year was a celebration of sorts. Many of the kids who participated were a year older since we had last seen them in the Library prior to the pandemic (Everyone's grown so tall now!). We celebrated this return to the Library building with forty-five summer reading programs. This year's theme was Tails and Tales, so we read and learned a lot about animals! We had a scavenger hunt of animal tales hidden in Youngstown storefronts. We had weekly take-and-make craft kits about animals. We even had visits from parrots and a friendly chicken—they were very good listeners while that kids read to them!

In addition to programs, over forty kids joined the Youngstown Free Library's Summer Reading Challenge, in which the Library challenged 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 in the summer. I am astounded to announce that our Challenge readers read 50,809 minutes this summer!

All these programs were only possible because of the support from the Friends of the Library. The Friends' financial support allowed the Library to offer new programs, provide prizes for the Summer Reading Challenge, and decorate the Children's Room for the season! Thank you to every member of the Friends; this is what your membership and support provides for the kids in our community.

The summer programs were also possible only because of the help from two especially dedicated community volunteers: Keith Hartloff and Nadine Tidwell. Keith organized and offered outdoor problem-solving challenges for preteens, and his rope-and-pulley challenge materials were provided by a generous grant he applied for from the Teresa Lukis Family Foundation. Nadine Tidwell is a dynamo of activity and organization; she created the seven weeks of take-home craft kits. Nadine also set up the weekly StoryWalks in Falkner Park every Friday evening, and she organized the entire Animal Tail Scavenger Hunt around the Village of Youngstown. Thank you to Keith and Nadine!

Fall 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.

- October 19 at 1:30 PM: *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver
- November 16 at 1:30 PM: *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore
- December 21 at 1:30 PM: TBA

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

- October 13 at 7 PM: *Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam
- November 10 at 7 PM: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab
- December 8 at 7 PM: *Migrations* by Charlotte McConaghy

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

- Starting in October
- 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 resumes in-person at the Youngstown Free Library or via Zoom.

- Starting in November
- 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.

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VISIT THE LIBRARY

Visit the Library for your browsing pleasure, walk-ins are welcome - everyone in your group must wear a mask for the entirety of your visit.

Mon, Wed, Thurs - 1:30pm to 8:30pm

Tues - 9:30am to 8:30pm

Curbside pick-up of Library materials is available:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs - 4:00pm to 6:00pm

www.youngstownfreelibrary.org



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

Closed

2021 Board of Trustees

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Devon Tower, Recording Secretary

Karran Swayze, Corresponding Secretary

Claudia Andres 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

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Catherine Stella Jessica Streb

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(Newsletter Editor)

Friends Board Meetings

7 p.m., third Wednesday of every month

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