



Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

Looking Forward. . .

**FOYL Annual Business Meeting 1/18/23 6pm
Open to the Public**



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YOUNGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY**

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donated to the Library by the
AmazonSmile Foundation.

Happy New Year 2023

**We wish you a great
start in the new year,
and look forward to
what 2023 will bring!**



Letter from the FOYL President

Hello Friends,

As I write this after Thanksgiving, feel acutely grateful for all the support and generosity exhibited by our board and many members. It is only through your continued giving that the Library is able to offer such varied programming, activities, and media to our community. The Library relies on our annual membership drive, and we appreciate each and every member. Thank you!

We wrapped up a successful Fall Used Book Sale the first week of November. Many folks dropped off boxes of books of all kinds--we had especially robust kids and young adult selection, as well as many unique and interesting non-fiction selections (cookbooks, DIY, and gardening, in particular) in addition to our usual fiction offerings. Please continue to save your books to donate for our Spring Book Sale. Drop-off dates will be announced in April. Thank you to all the members who volunteered their time sorting and arranging books, helping with Members Night, and assisting with cashiering and selling 50/50 tickets!

This is my last letter as President of the Friend of the Youngstown Library, so a special thank you goes out to my fellow board members. Our organizational meeting takes place in January, where we will elect a new president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, as well as add three new members to the FOYL board. This is the first time I can recall that all four executive roles are being filled at once. Several board members' terms are up, and several more, unfortunately, had to leave to board due to health reasons and family and work obligations. I know folks on our board will step up to meet this challenge and be the wonderful leaders we've come to expect. Our meetings are always open to the public, and we encourage suggestions and participation.

In gratitude,

Wendy Guild Swearingen

Financial Report

Cash assets total \$23,928, of which \$5,879 are Unrestricted Operating Funds.

INCOME

Two checks totaling \$186 for Fall Book Sale revenue were received after the last Book Sale report. Updated income figures are \$2,522 for books, \$315 for 50/50 draw, and \$668 for donations. Total fall book sale revenue was \$3,505.

We have received \$545 in membership drive income in November.
Year-to-date income totals \$17,126 compared to a full year budget of \$21,682.

EXPENSES

Per the FOYL Board's direction, we wrote a check to the Library for \$11,930 to support the Director's requests.

The 50/50 draw winner from the Fall Book sale received a \$100 prize, having donated the balance of the prize, (\$57.50), to the Friends.

We paid \$274 to mail the Library's Fall Fund Drive letters, plus miscellaneous costs for returned mail.

Bill Siddall
Treasurer

Meet Your Friends: Our New FOYL Board Members for 2023

Maureen Gambino

I am very excited to be a part of the Friends of Youngstown Library. I was born and raised in Youngstown and have positive memories of many visits to the library. My visits continue today with various community-based activities and programs. As an elementary school teacher, I realize the importance and significance a library has for everyone in a community. With a passion for education, I look forward to being part of the Board.



Jodee Riordan

The Youngstown Free Library is at the heart of our little village. It's a place where everyone is welcome, and has something to offer everyone it welcomes. I am delighted to return to the Friends of the Library board.



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, return an application to Library or reach out to Barbara Costello at 716-523-3597.

The Goodness of Libraries

Libraries are often seen as outdated or unnecessary in today's digital age, but the truth is they are more important than ever. Here are just a few reasons why libraries are a force for good in our communities:

- **Access to Information:** Libraries provide access to a vast array of information, including books, magazines, newspapers, and online resources. This is especially important for those who may not have the means to purchase these materials on their own.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Libraries offer a variety of programs and events, including book clubs, lectures, workshops, and classes. These opportunities allow people of all ages to continue learning and growing throughout their lives.
- **Community Building:** Libraries serve as a gathering place for people from all walks of life. They provide a safe and welcoming environment where people can come together to socialize, collaborate, and engage with their community.
- **Economic Development:** Libraries stimulate local economies by providing job training and employment resources, as well as supporting small businesses through resources like business directories and market research materials.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Libraries play a crucial role in closing the digital divide by providing access to computers, the internet, and other digital resources for those who may not have them at home.

In short, libraries are much more than just buildings filled with books. They are hubs of knowledge, learning, and community that benefit us all. So the next time you hear that local or state entities are cutting funding for your local library, remind those officials of all the good that it does for you and your community.



Library's Annual Fund Drive for 2022 - 2023

Thank you to everyone who has already donated to the Library's Annual Fund Drive for 2022 - 2023. It is going really well, and we are so grateful for all of your very generous donations so far.

If you still have that donation-slip sitting on your counter, please consider getting out your checkbook *one more time this season*, and sending your contribution to the Library where you can be assured that 100% of your donation goes to help keeping our Library flourishing!

Thank you so much.

Library Director & Board of Trustees

A note from Board of Trustees President Karran Swayze

To the members of the Friends and patrons of the Youngstown Free Library;

I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy the wonderful community events held in the village this year. Watching all the volunteers give of their time and energy brought to mind the work the Board of Trustees faces as the end of 2022 approaches.

We are currently working on our budget for 2023. Never an easy job, but tricky this year with no increase in funding from the Village or the Town. While funding is a valuable necessity, our volunteers are an integral part of maintaining service to our community. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge and thank those who are always available to assist, both the Friends and the patrons of the Library. Without their valuable assistance, the Library would struggle to maintain the services and programs it provides.

As I reflect on 2022, I realize how busy the Library was. Beginning with the new year, the newly instituted winter reading challenge was a success due to the work of the Library staff and volunteers. Moving into February, volunteers and staff gave up a Saturday morning for the 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Stone Jug. The Spring Book Sale was another volunteer success necessitating help for not just a day but the entire week and a few evenings as well. In late Spring the Library sponsored an electronic recycling event, both raising money for the Library and benefiting the community by safely getting rid of old unwanted electronics. Again, the volunteers showed up to work.

In each of the last two years, the Friends have made a substantial contribution to allow the Ruby Carey Scholarship, which the Board of Trustees awards to a graduating senior in the 14174 ZIP code, to double in the amount to \$1,500. This award recognizes excellence in scholarship, community service, and recognizes the importance of the library in the community.

The summer reading challenge, the storybook walk in the park; once again volunteers put in time and their talent to make these events so successful. The mailing for the Library's Annual Fund Drive was handled easily by the volunteers who gave their time. The conversations about travel and driving while on family trips helped make the time seem to fly by as we folded, stuffed envelopes, and labeled the letters. In November, the Fall Book Sale was organized, staffed, and run by the volunteers. And last, but certainly not least on my list, are the volunteers who work in the Library. They give their time and talents in helping make sure that our Library is clean, organized, and a safe environment for our patrons.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention our valued Library staff who are sincere and very helpful in the use of the computers and research materials and just helping patrons find items in the stacks. Without them, especially the Director, Sonora, we wouldn't be able to even open the doors.

Finally, funds. The money pledged each year by the Friends makes it possible for the Library to purchase newspapers, magazines, books, and necessary hardware and obtain the ever-expanding digital services so enjoyed by patrons. Without these funds, our offerings and our collections would not be able to meet the needs of our patrons. Thank you for your time, your talent, and your continued support of our Youngstown Free Library.

I applaud your continued commitment to our Library and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Karran Swayze



Thank You
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Christmas Shopping at the Youngstown Free Library

Have you checked out our Nearly New Book Sale yet? It's the Library's year-round mini-book sale of books that are brand new, and every book is only \$1! These books are perfect for holiday gifts, vacation reads, traveling, and hostess gifts, and your purchases benefit our tiny Library (which relies on gifts, grants, and the Friends' donations for 40% of our budget).



Have you upgraded your iPad lately? Maybe you have the old one sitting at home, and you don't know what to do with it...

The Youngstown Free Library's current iPad was purchased in 2014—that's ancient in technology terms! Its operating system is old enough that we can no longer update or download new apps on the device. Without updated apps, we can't use the iPad anymore!

If you have an extra iPad that runs on OS 13.0 or later, would you consider donating it to the Youngstown Free Library before the end of December? Your donation would save the Library hundreds of dollars. A new-to-us iPad would allow us to keep track of office technologies, use it for outreach programs, or conduct tech trainings. We would be so grateful for an iPad this holiday season!

The Winter Reading Season is coming!

Starting in mid-December, the Youngstown Free Library will be kicking off its second year of engaging young readers while they are off from school: a winter reading season! This reading program, called "Winter on the Water," will run from December 19th to January 14th.

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>



The Mary Andrus Outstanding Service Award was presented to Jan and Doug Howard at the Friends' Holiday Dinner 12/5/22. Congratulations to both of them and many thanks for their continuous care to our Library and to the FOYL board. They have served not only our Library, but our Youngstown, NY, community as well.

You can borrow Internet hotspots from the Youngstown Free Library

TAKE THE INTERNET HOME WITH YOU!



Check out an Internet hotspot to use wherever and whenever you need Internet!

Hotspots are great for:

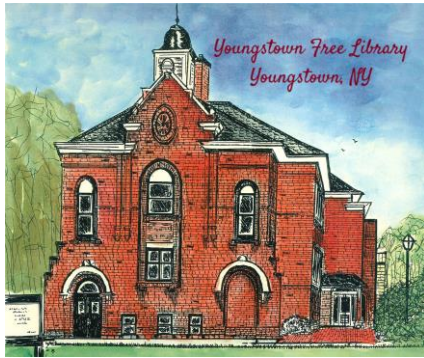
- avoiding data charges
- expanding Internet access
- camping and traveling

Pick up a hotspot for a 2 week checkout at the Youngstown Free Library

Ways to support the Library

- Support the Library and the Friends of the Library with a donation. Online donations can be made here:
Library - <https://tinyurl.com/mrswsss7>
Friends - <https://tinyurl.com/yc6htnsy>
- Donate can & bottle redemptions at Lewiston Redemption: 820 Seneca St. Specify Youngstown Free Library at off.
- Shop using [AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.](#) .5% of your total purchase is donated to the Library.
- Plan for the Youngstown Free Library Foundation in your will. The Library's Foundation is managed by the Buffalo Community Foundation





We Are Here to Serve You!!!

Library Contact Information

Phone: (716) 745-3555

Fax: (716) 745-7122

Email: yfl@nioga.org

Website:

youngstownfreelibrary.org

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.

Inform Engage
Educate Entertain

2022 Friends of the Library Board of Directors

Wendy Guild Swearingen, President

Jessica Streb, Vice President

Bill Siddall, Treasurer

Mary Clinch, Liaison to the Library Board

Elaine Barbiero

Nancy D'Arcangelo

Judy Freiermuth

Julia Grana

Jill Mazur

Michelle Wesley

Kim Winning

Colleen Mary Summerville

(Newsletter Editor)

Friends Board Meetings

7 p.m., third Wednesday of every month

Friends email: foylboard@gmail.com

2022 Board of Trustees

Karran Swayze, President

Mary Clinch, Vice-President

Maggie Steyn, Treasurer

Dave Smith, Recording Secretary

Devon Tower, Corresponding Secretary

Claudia Andres

David Brooks

Barbara Costello

Mary Beth Smith

Trustee Board Meetings

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

The public is welcome to attend.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees, please let us know!

Friends of The Youngstown Library