



# Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

## Letter from the FOYL President

Looking Forward. . .  
Christmas in the  
Village of Youngstown  
December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Merry Christmas!  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Happy New Year 2024!



FOYL Business Meeting  
January 17<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm  
All Welcome to attend  
our Annual Meeting!

Dear Friends,

With winter right around the corner, it's hard to believe this year is almost over! Due to busy schedules, and time constraints, this newsletter is a combination of Fall and early Winter news. The next newsletter will be published in March, and your new editor will be Michelle Wesley. It has truly been my pleasure managing this task over the past years, but it is time for a new editor to take my place. Please remember to direct any submissions to Michelle from this point forward, and thank you for doing so in a timely manner.

We appreciate our Friends and ALL you do for our Library; without your support we could not accomplish all that we do. For that we are forever grateful. We have had many great activities since the summer months, and one we are very proud of is the return of Dessert & Wine in the Stacks. A big thank you to Bill Siddall for managing this event, and for all he has done for our Library. I would also like to give a shout out to Jill Mazur for chairing our Fall Book Sale. Jill has such a kind and generous heart, and goes above and beyond when assisting the FOYL. The Book Sale was a success, and we could not have pulled it off without her guiding hand. Thank you Bill and Jill, just two Board Members out of many who give so much to our efforts.

In January we will hold our annual business meeting for Friends of the Youngstown Library, and new officers will be elected. We will also welcome new Board Members with thankfulness. I will step down as President, but I leave with a full heart knowing my replacement will manage well with a strong FOYL Board of Directors. If you're interested in becoming involved, please contact the Library as we always welcome new Board Members.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a great start in the New Year 2024, and all good things.

Peace & Joy,

Colleen Mary Summerville - FOYL President

THANK YOU!

# Financial Report

## Summary of FOYL Financial Activity/Change since last meeting (Oct 18th - Nov 15th)

### Revenue:

Library Fund Drive Bulk Mailing - Duplicate Charge Refunded	\$289.87
Desserts - On the Night Sales - late additions	\$25.00
- Donations re: Wine - late additions	\$60.00
Book Sale - Sales	\$3,357.00
Book Sale - Donations	\$494.00
Book Sale - 50/50 (\$209 paid out to Kristen Monroe)	\$209.00
Friends' Memberships	\$510.36
Interest	\$74.53
<b><u>Total Revenue:</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,019.76</u></b>

### Expenses:

Returned Mailings	\$0.00
<b><u>Total Expenses:</u></b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>

### Net Gain/Loss since previous report:

**\$5,019.76**

Maggie Steyn: 716-745-7427 or [jandmsteyn@gmail.com](mailto:jandmsteyn@gmail.com)

### **Dessert & Wine In The Stacks 10/13/23**

What a wonderful evening for all who attended. There was a wide variety of 43 recipes both appetizers and desserts. Many of the 75 patrons commented favorably on the wide selection available, and had a wonderful time. Thanks to our Library Director Sonora for her guidance and help and to all who volunteered their time to assist. A special thanks to Bill Siddall for his gracious efforts in making this event happen!



### **Meet Your Friends:**

**Each Season we feature a "Friend" of the Library, and we are asking YOU to nominate someone for us to feature in our next FOYL Newsletter. Please send your nomination by text to Michelle Wesley at 605-660-9565 We appreciate your help! 😊**

At a July reception held in honor of the 2023 Ruby Carey scholarship recipient, members of the Scholarship Committee presented the plaque and \$1,500 scholarship award to Brynn Townsend. Pictured are Brynn Townsend, Youngstown Free Library Board of Trustees' President Karran Swayze, and Friends of the Library's President Colleen Summerville.



**Summerfest 2023**  
 What a wonderful day for Summerfest 2023 at Porter on the Lake Park on July 15<sup>th</sup>. We had a great group of volunteers, and many families and children stopped by our booth. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day possible, we are grateful!

## Book Sale Magic

### BOOK SALE SUMMARY 11-07-2023

**SUMMARY:**

<b>BOOKS &amp; TOTES:</b>	<b>\$3,357.00</b>
<b>DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$494.00</b>
<b>50/50</b>	<b>\$209.00</b>
	<b><u>\$4,060.00</u></b>
 <b>MEMBERSHIPS</b>	 <b><u>\$260.00</u></b>

Our Fall Book Sale was a great success, and we thank Jill Mazur for all her hard work chairing this big event. We are grateful for all who attended as well, and look forward to seeing everyone at our Spring Book Sale!



## A note from Board of Trustees

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

I hope that the past summer and fall of 2023 met your expectations and you and your family enjoyed the time you had together. Hopefully, the upcoming winter in western New York will not be too tough and you will be able to enjoy it.

As the end of the financial year approaches, it is necessary for the Board of Trustees to face decisions concerning the budget for 2024. We have already begun work on our budget, our programs and our staffing for 2024. As you are aware, we are an association Library. As such, we do not receive our funding from the taxing process. Rather our funds from the Village of Youngstown, the Town of Porter, and the County of Niagara come from their discretionary spending. These funds account for about 70% of our operating budget and are primarily used to pay the costs of our staffing. The remaining amount of our operating budget comes from grants, the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library, and from you, our friends and patrons, through the Annual Fund Drive.

Grants which we received this year enabled us to maintain our Summer Reading Challenge, the Story Book Walk on Friday nights in Falkner Park, and the Take and Make projects.

The Friends of the Youngstown Free Library 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 amount to \$1,500. This privately funded award recognizes excellence in scholarship, community service and recognizes the importance of the library in the community. The recipient this year was Brynn Townsend.

In addition, the money pledged each year by the Friends makes it possible for the Library to purchase newspapers, other subscriptions, magazines, books and necessary hardware. Without these funds, our offerings and our collections would not be able to meet the needs of our patrons.

The funds raised through the Annual Fund Drive allow us to maintain our NIOGA services and circulation resources. It also has enabled us to expand our Hoopla and Libby digital services. These programs allow our patrons to take advantage of the digital offerings that are ever increasing and that more and more patrons want and use.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the important role our valued Library staff plays. They are the 'face' of the Library and they are the people who answer your questions about the computers, help you find items in our stacks, reserve materials through the NIOGA system and help make the library a friendly and welcoming place. Without them, especially the Director, Sonora, we wouldn't be able to even open the doors.

The 2024 Annual Fund Drive started during the month of October. I sincerely hope you were able to respond. No amount is too small. As always you can make a secure contribution online by going to our Library website.

Karran Swayze  
President

## Christmas Shopping at the 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).



### As the Days Shorten, Check Out a Light Therapy Kit to Fight Seasonal Affective Disorder

As we move into fall and winter, we lose daylight as the days shorten. Does your mood get affected by the loss of daylight?

Many folks suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) from this loss of daylight. Sometimes called the "winter blues," SAD can cause fatigue and depressive feelings. SAD is not very well understood, but scientists are unraveling its connection with sunlight and the production of serotonin and overproduction of melatonin.

According to the Mayo Clinic, "a light therapy box mimics outdoor light. It's thought that this type of light may cause a chemical change in the brain that lifts your mood and eases other symptoms of SAD, such as being tired most of the time and sleeping too much.

Generally, the light box should:

- Provide an exposure to 10,000 lux of light
- Produce as little UV light as possible

Typical recommendations include using the light box:

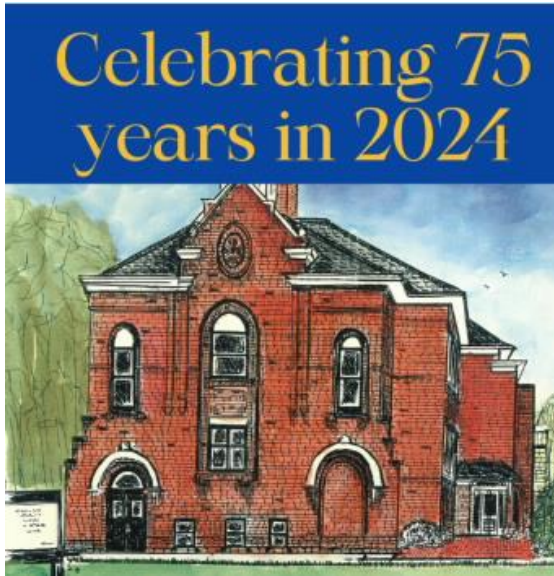
- Within the first hour of waking up in the morning
- For about 20 to 30 minutes
- About 16 to 24 inches (41 to 61 centimeters) from your face, but follow the manufacturer's instructions about distance
- With eyes open, but not looking directly at the light" <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/seasonal-affective-disorder/in-depth/seasonal-affective-disorder-treatment/art-20048298>



Thanks to a grant from Humanities NY, the Youngstown Free Library has four light therapy kits that are available for loan to patrons. When you check out a kit, you'll get an easy-to-use 10,000 lux light box and instruction booklet for four weeks. You could enjoy your morning coffee in front of the light box for a month courtesy of the Library!

Keep in mind: light boxes aren't regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for SAD treatment, but we recommend that you talk to your doctor before checking out a kit in case it's not a good match for your body.

## The Youngstown Free Library celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024



In 2024, the Youngstown Free Library will be marking its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being a part of the community.

We would love to fill the year with programs and initiatives to celebrate this milestone, but we need your help on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee! Currently, there are five members on the committee to plan these festivities: two members of the Friends Directors, two members of the Board of Trustees, and the Library Director. Ideally, we would have two or three community members to complete this dynamic group.

If you are a community member who is interested in planning and chairing events as a part of this committee, please contact Sonora at 716-745-3555 or [smiller@nioga.org](mailto:smiller@nioga.org).

### Other Ways to Support Your Library:

**Support the Library and the Friends of the Library with a donation.**

Online donations can be made here:

<https://donorbox.org/annual-fund-drive-for-2023>

<https://donorbox.org/friends-membership-drive-2023>

**Donate your can & bottle redemptions**

Lewiston Redemption, 820 Seneca St.

Please specify the Library when dropping off.

**Plan for the Youngstown Free Library Foundation in your will.**

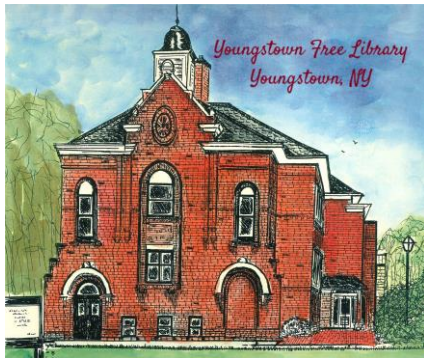
The Library's Foundation is managed by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.



**Labor Day 2023**

It's always a fun time marching in the parade, and this year was no exception!

# Friends of The Youngstown Library



## Library Contact Information

Library Director - Sonora Miller

Phone: (716) 745-3555

Fax: (716) 745-7122

Email: [yfl@nioga.org](mailto:yfl@nioga.org)

Website:

[youngstownfreelibrary.org](http://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.

We Are Here  
to Serve You!!!

### 2023 Board of Trustees

Karran Swayze, President

Bill Siddall, Vice-President

Dave Smith, Treasurer

Mary Clinch, Recording Secretary

Barbara Costello, Corresponding Secretary

David Brooks, Historian

Shawn D'Luhy

### 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!

### 2023 Friends of the Library

#### Board of Directors

Colleen Mary Summerville, President

Elaine Barbiero, Vice President

Maggie Steyn, Treasurer

Wendy Guild Swearingen, Secretary

Bill Siddall, Liaison to the Library Board

Nancy D'Arcangelo

Judy Freiermuth

Maureen Gambino

Janice Mariani

Jill Mazur

Christine Swartz

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](mailto:foylboard@gmail.com)

Inform Engage  
Educate Entertain