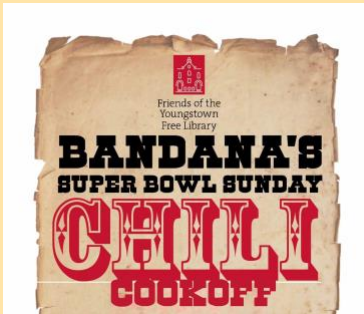




Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

Looking Forward. . .

**Chili Cookoff
Bandanas
Feb 9**



Get your chili recipes ready. Keep an eye out for more details coming soon.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade
March 15**



Parade starts at Noon and processes down Main St from Hinman to the Ontario House

Letter from the FOYL President

Hello to all Friends of the Library

Our last quarter of 2024 was quite busy which included some extremely well attended events.

An exciting new addition this fall was the Jubilee Tea at the Youngstown Presbyterian church. The event sold out and became one of our biggest fund raisers of the year.

Our Fall Book Sale drew book lovers from the area.

The trustees and FOYL board members spent an afternoon putting out the mailing for membership reminders.

The board and Trustees helped with the first event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Youngstown Free library. A celebration event was held in the Cora Gushee Room to kick off the year- long celebration. More events will be announced in the upcoming months.

In December we held our yearly Christmas dinner at the Ontario House (Stone Jug) where we honored Bill Siddall with the distinguished Mary Andrus Award. Bill served both the Friends Board and Trustees for over 15 years.

2024 wrapped up with a table at Christmas in the Village giving out cider, hot chocolate and cookies.

The Friends of the Youngstown Free Library are grateful for a successful fund-raising year. We would like to thank our community for all the volunteers, bakers, the Scouts BSA Troop 829, and everyone who gave of their time throughout 2024.

We continue to encourage our community to support this valuable resource. There is information on the library website, (youngstownfreelibrary.org) about becoming a new member and if you have time to volunteer at any of our fundraising events, we appreciate your support.

Kim Winning
FOYL President

Jubilee Tea

The Youngstown Free Library, in partnership with the Lewiston Service Guild, hosted a fundraiser Jubilee Tea on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Held at the Youngstown Presbyterian Church, it was a sellout event attended by approximately 140 friends of the Library and Service Guild. In addition to the delicious sandwiches and pastries that were provided by the Three Little Hens Baking Company, attendees enjoyed a selection of teas and mimosas. Close to 100 donations made for a fantastic basket raffle which was hugely successful. Overall, everyone in attendance enjoyed the afternoon, and are looking forward to the event again in 2025. Stay tuned for more details as we begin to plan for this Fall event once again.



Former library directors Jan Gilgore (L) & Janet Pryce (R)



Former library staff member Janice O'Keeffe (L) and her daughter, current board member, Maureen Gambino



FOYL VP, Chris Schwartz welcomes guests



One of the many beautiful tablescapes



R-L: Current Library Director Sonora, FOYL Treasurer Maggie Steyn, FOYL President Kim Winning and guests

Book Sale & Christmas in the Village

The Fall Book Sale exceeded previous sales and netted over \$5,000 - an incredible total. This incredible result reflects all of the hard work that Jill and her team put in. The Spring Book Sale will be held May 1-3.



Thank you to Seth (pictured below, left), one of our newest Board members, and Christine (not pictured) for getting the items for our Christmas in the Village table ready. Seth put it all together Saturday morning and helped take everything down. Much appreciated Seth. A thank you to Trustees Dave and Peter (pictured below, middle) who hung out with us and helped serve cider and hot chocolate. The cider was definitely a hit. We got \$100 in donations and had a presence at the event. (Also pictured, Kim Winning, FOYL President)



75th Anniversary

I hope that your fall has finally settled down to whatever resembles normal for you and your family. The members of the Board of Trustees of the Youngstown Free Library and the Library staff have been busy this summer and fall. The **book inventory**, which was last done five years ago, is almost completed. Doing an inventory allows the Library Director to make sure that what is in the computer listing is actually what is on the shelves. It also gives the Director an opportunity to purge books which just take up space. Since space is so limited in our Library, it is important that books and materials that are current and of interest to our patrons have a spot on our shelves.

You probably have seen the **blue and gold banner** that is at the end of the Parkway exit to Lockport Road plus the one on the front of the Village Center. These two banners celebrate the **75th Anniversary** of the **Youngstown Free Library**. In 1949, the New York State Department of Education granted a preliminary certificate to operate a library in Youngstown. To mark this date and plan for special anniversary events through 2025, the 75th Anniversary Committee was organized in late 2023, jointly composed of members of the Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library. The first celebratory event was held for our community on **November 13, 2024** to commemorate the opening of the Library in 1949.

At this event, pictured below, **official proclamations** were presented from the Village of Youngstown, the Town of Porter, District #1 Niagara County Legislature, and New York State Senate District #62; all of these proclamation certificates are on display in the Library. Peter Pfohl used the village historical museum to create an historical display highlighting significant Library events during its first 75 years of operation. He arranged them in a timeline and used three oversized windows, which are currently on display in the Program Room on the second floor of the Village Center. Dr. Nancy Askins researched and developed a **Design-a-Bookmark competition** open to all students in grades PreK through 12 attending nearby public or private schools or those being homeschooled. The theme was **"A Journey of Lifelong Learning"**, with five categories divided into grade levels. Seven students' designs were selected, and Library Director Sonora Miller then converted the original winning designs into bookmarks and posters which were on display on November 13th. Additional bookmarks are available in the Library while supplies last.

If you would be interested in becoming involved with the 75th Anniversary Committee or the Board of Trustees of the Youngstown Free Library, see our web site: **youngstownfreelibrary.org**. This might be another opportunity for you to give back to the Library, as the services we provide for the community are free. The next event to celebrate the Library's 75th Anniversary year (November 2024-2025) will be sometime in spring 2025, when the **50th Anniversary time capsule** will be dug up, and one commemorating the 75th Anniversary will be buried for the 100th Anniversary celebration in 2049.

Come into the Youngstown Free Library, introduce yourself, and see what we have to offer. If you are a card-carrying user already, **thank you**. However, if you do not yet have a library card, they are free and it only takes a few moments to complete the application. We hope to see you soon.

Submitted by Karran Swayze, President, Board of Trustees, Youngstown Free Library



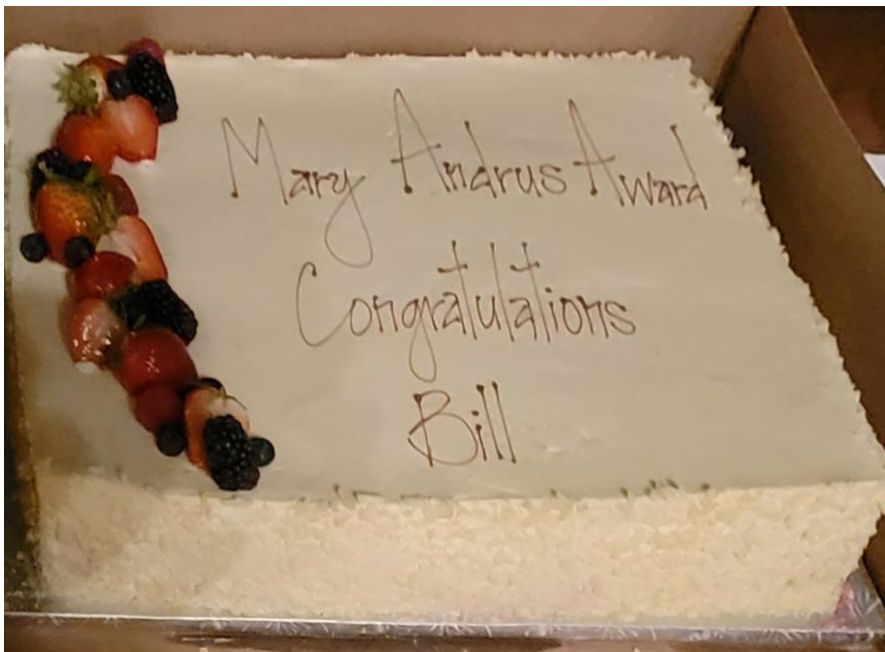
Library Director Sonora Miller, with the seven winners of the Design-a-Bookmark competition.



Sonora and Trustee President, Karran Swayze with Town of Porter Supervisor Duffy Johnston (left photo) and 1st Dist. Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers (right photo). (Both photos by Terry Duffy of Niagara Frontier Publications)

Mary Andrus Award

At the Friends of the Youngstown Library's annual holiday dinner, we presented Bill Siddall with the Mary Andrus Award for his many years of service to the library. Bill served for more than 15 years on the Board of Trustees and the FOYL board. Thank you Bill!



Countdown of Top Additions to the Youngstown Free Library in 2024

7. We now have **subscriptions to nearly 70 magazines**, all of which are available for checkout (even the newest issues!). Magazines can be checked out for 7 days, and you'll get them in a protective plastic cover that will make it easy to enjoy them without worrying about damage. New magazine titles include: *Astronomy, BBC Gardeners' World, Birds & Blooms, Bookmarks, Cook's Illustrated, Cruising World, Fly Fisherman, Golf, Hobby Farms, Modern Cat, Tabletop Gaming, and Teen Breathe.*

6. We now offer complimentary **naloxone kits and fentanyl tests strips** in the bathroom. These supplies are made possible by the Erie County Department of Health. If you or a loved one is dealing with this, please take a kit to keep in your medicine cabinet in case of emergency. Take what you need in order to stay safe.

5. Thanks to a gift from St. John's Episcopal Church, the Children's Room is now home to our **updated browsing bin collection!** Eight sturdy bins each contain a collection of picture books on an abstract topic that addresses young children's needs in this day and age. Themes include belonging, emotional regulation, grief, making good choices, and more! Books can be checked out for 3 weeks.

4. We now offer complimentary **period products** in the bathroom. According to Aunt Flow, which advocates for period equity, "86% of women have started their period in public without the supplies needed. And 1 in 3 low-income women has missed work, school or other outings because of a lack of period supplies."

3. Our museum pass options now include **family passes to the Aquarium of Niagara, Old Fort Niagara, and Empire passes** to all New York State Parks. These passes can be checked out for seven days; what a wonderful way to explore our local attractions using your local library!

2. The Library's **digital collection has grown by leaps and bounds!** It now numbers close to 20,000 items, close to the size of our physical collection. Check out e-books, audiobooks, movies, music, television shows, and graphic novels using the Hoopla and Libby apps through your library card. Your Youngstown Free Library card will unlock exclusive audiobook access to New York Times bestsellers through Hoopla with no waiting!

1. The Youngstown Free Library is now fine-free! In July 2024, the Director and Board of Trustees updated the Library policies to erase past fines and eliminate late fines going forward. Fines create undue feelings of shame and many folks are unable to pay them; both issues prevent people (often families with children) from returning to the Library! Fines never garnered more than \$800 per year, and a grant from Assemblyman Morinello has made it financially possible for the Library to eliminate them. Patrons will still be charged for lost or damaged items, which provides a good balance of social responsibility and social equity for everyone in the community.

Stone Jug 5k



The Stone Jug 5K is Expanding Its February Race Options to Benefit the Library This Year

Please join us on Saturday February 1, 2025 for the 4th Annual Stone Jug 5K! This beautiful and scenic run travels right through the Village, and this year you have three ways to join the fun while supporting the Youngstown Free Library.

The 5K race starts at 11 AM on Main Street in front of the Ontario House and finishes inside the back parking lot of the Jug. In past years, over 100 runners have competed in this race!

- 5K Registration: \$35 at <https://ontariohouse5k.itsyourrace.com/>

NEW FOR 2025!

Not up for 3.1 miles but would still like to support the Library and join the fun? The 1-Mile Fun Walk starts at 10 AM in front of the Stone Jug and finishes inside the back parking lot of the Jug.

- 1 Mile WALK Registration: \$35 at <https://ontariohouse5k.itsyourrace.com/>

NEW FOR 2025!

Kids 12 and under are invited to the Youngstown Free Library on race day for a 1/2 mile Kids' Fun Run! The Kids' Fun Run starts at 10:30 AM at the Library and finishes at the Library as well. All participants receive a finisher medal and post-race snacks at the Library.

- Kids' 1/2 Mile Fun Run Registration: \$15 at <https://ontariohouse5k.itsyourrace.com/>

The Library is thankful to the Stone Jug and Race Management Solutions for this fundraiser. You could be a sponsor too! All sponsorships directly benefit the Library; what a great way to showcase your small business to over 100 runners and their families from all over western New York! Sponsorship levels are available at:

- \$50 – Short Story Level
- \$100 – Novel Level
- \$250 – Bestseller Level
- \$500 – Classic Level

Learn more and register for your race now at <https://ontariohouse5k.itsyourrace.com/>

Supporting Libraries

Thank you to everyone who advocated for libraries in meetings with NYS legislators!

This fall, Senator Ortt and Assemblyman Morinello met with library advocates, including folks representing the Youngstown Free Library. It was a chance to discuss library funding, equity, and freedom from censorship. Thank you to everyone who attended these meetings!



Did You Know?

Did you know the Library provides these items for checkout?

- Internet hotspots (2-week checkout)
- Sun therapy lamps for Seasonal Affective Disorder (6-week checkout)
- Family passes to Aquarium of Niagara (1-week checkout)
- Family pass to Old Fort Niagara (1-week checkout)
- Empire Passes for free entry to all NYS parks (1-week checkout)

TAKE THE INTERNET HOME WITH YOU!



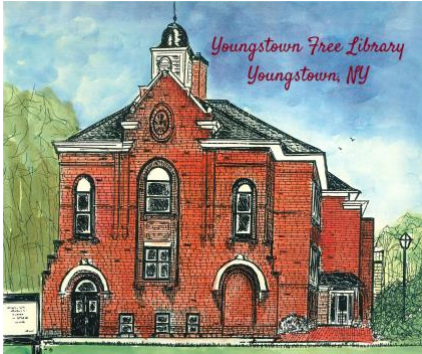
Check out an Internet hotspot to use wherever and whenever you need Internet!

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

Friends of The Youngstown Library



Library Contact Information

Library Director - Sonora Miller

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.

We Are Here
to Serve You!!!

2024 Board of Trustees

Karran Swayze, President

David Brooks, Vice-President

Dave Smith, Treasurer

Mary Clinch, Recording Secretary

Shawn D'Luhy, Corresponding Secretary

Dr. Nancy Askins

Peter Phohl

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!

2024 Friends of the Library

Board of Directors

Kim Winning, President

Christine Schwartz, Vice President

Maggie Steyn, Treasurer

Devon Tower, Secretary

Dave Smith, Liaison to the Library Board

Maureen Gambino Ron & Toni-Marie Peters

Janice Mariani

Seth Phillips

Jill Mazur

Colleen Stortecky

Michelle Wesley (Newsletter Editor)

Friends Board Meetings

7 p.m., third Wednesday of every month

Friends email: foylboard@gmail.com

Inform Engage
Educate Entertain