



# Friends of the Youngstown Free Library Quarterly Newsletter

Looking Forward. . .

**Jubilee Tea**  
**Celebrating 75 years**  
**of the Youngstown**  
**Free Library**  
**Oct 5, 2024 @ 1pm**  
**More info inside**

**Fall Book Sale**  
**Nov 7-9, 2024**

 Friends of  
the Youngstown  
Free Library

**BOOK SALE**

Youngstown Village Center Gym  
240 Lockport Street

**Friday, Nov. 8: 9:30 - 6**

**Saturday, Nov. 9: 9:30 - 3**

Bag sale all day Saturday

**Friends Members' Night:**

**Thursday, Nov. 7: 5 - 8**

Join at the door or in advance here:



Do you have books to donate? We are currently low on storage space, so please save your donations until Nov. 4, Nov. 5, and Nov. 6, when you can drop them off at the Red Brick Gym between 10 - 3 and 6 - 8 PM.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Celebration**  
**Nov 13, 2024 7-9pm**  
**Cora Gushee Rm**

## Letter from the FOYL President

Hello to all Friends of the Youngstown Free Library:

The beautiful fall days are upon us and hopefully everyone has been able to enjoy some of this amazing WNY weather. After taking a few months off from meetings, the FOYL are ready to take on the rest of our 2024 fundraising events. Following is what we are working on the rest of this year.

### JUBILEE TEA:

An exciting new addition this fall is a Jubilee Tea, Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Youngstown Presbyterian church. You can read more about this in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary section of this newsletter.

### FALL BOOK SALE:

Our Fall Book Sale at the Village Center Gym is November 7<sup>th</sup> through November 9<sup>th</sup>. You can drop off donations to the book sale Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 3pm and again from 6-8 pm. We can only accept books in clean and good condition. Please come and find some new additions to your home library for winter reading.

### 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:

This November the Youngstown Free Library will be celebrating 75 years of providing learning and educational resources to our Village. November 13, 2024 from 7-9 pm there will be an informal celebration get together in the Cora Gushee room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Library. We encourage all to come learn more about what exciting things are going on now and moving forward. Please see the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary section below

### MEMBERSHIP:

We continue to encourage our community to support our valuable resource. There is information on the Library website about becoming a new member and if you have time to volunteer at any of our fundraising events, we appreciate your support. The FOYL are also looking for new members to serve on our board. Unfortunately, our President, Gina Mashai, has decided to step down. Vice President Kim Winning now takes her place and Christine Schwartz will be our new VP.

Kim Winning  
FOYL President

## Friday Night Concert Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to bake for our summer Bake Sale, held during the “Friday Night Concert in the Park” series held on a beautiful evening in Falkner Park on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

This year, nearly 20 bakers from amongst the Friends volunteered to bake and came up with a wealth of creative cookies and cakes, each beautifully packaged for the concert-goers. The Friends enjoyed music by “Emerald Isle” as they served a continuing stream of sweet-toothed music-lovers.

The sale was a big success: over \$470 was donated to the Friends for the baked goods on display.



Photo shows Friends Kim Winning, Colleen Summerville, Maggie Steyn, Devon Tower and Cheryl Milicia getting ready for a busy evening serving the concert-audience. (Devon’s daughters also helped all evening!)

Thank you everyone for your support!

# Labor Day Parade 2024

What a gorgeous day for a parade! Thanks to those that donated their time, talent, and treasures to decorate our library float.



## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



### JUBILEE TEA

The Friends of the Youngstown Library, along with the Lewiston Service Guild are holding a Jubilee Tea on Saturday, October 5, 2024. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Youngstown Presbyterian Church at 1:00 pm. Doors open at 12:30. Salad, tea sandwiches, scones and desserts, and of course tea are included. Mimosas will be available for \$5. A lovely basket raffle will also take place at the tea. We hope you have your ticket, since the event is now full. Thank you for your support! Raffle tickets will be available at the tea.



### 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Special event! All invited to attend the Youngstown Free Library's 75th Anniversary Celebration!

Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
7:00 to 9:00 PM

Cora Gushee Room in the Red Brick Building

Enjoy historical displays, memorabilia, discussions with friends and neighbors-you've-yet-to-meet, light refreshments, and see the winning entries from our unique "Design-a-Bookmark Contest" for students in grades K-12, both traditional and home-school. Contest details will be available in the Youngstown Free Library in early October.

## A note from Board of Trustees



I hope that you had a busy or a relaxing summer, whichever suited you and your family. The members of the Board of Trustees of the Youngstown Free Library and the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library have been busy this summer. In November the Library will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of its operation. Both organizations have been busy working on events to celebrate this occasion. I would like to take this opportunity to give some history of the start of the Youngstown Free Library.

The first Youngstown Library was organized by the Youngstown Civic Guild in 1929. Unfortunately, it closed in 1934 due to lack of funds. However, in 1949, the Youngstown Civic Guild petitioned the village for a room adjacent to the village offices at 120 Lockport Street. (The building located next to Wilson Realty and in front of the water tower). A temporary certificate was filed with the Board of Regents, New York State Department of Education to establish a public association library in Youngstown.

This Library was open 3 days a week and offered 1700 volumes and had 400 registered users. The Youngstown Civic Guild contributed to support the library, conducted the fund drives and its members worked as volunteers in the library.

The use of the Library continued to grow during the early years and in 1952, permanent certification was granted by the Department of Education. In 1960, the village government, at the urging of the Board of Trustees for the need of additional space, remodeled and enlarged the building. The picture from the *Niagara Gazette* shows a part of the new children's room. Also in 1960, the Youngstown Library joined the Nioga Library System. This opened the door to new services: interlibrary loans, films for club meetings, new books in a rotation collection and book processing services.

In 1965, the Library had a reference collection composed of 6 sets of the most highly rated encyclopedias and many fact books. The book collection consisted of 7500 titles. About 2500 of these were children's books. There were 33 periodical subscriptions and the collection included 114 records. The rotation collection from Nioga consisted of 516 books during 1965. (This information courtesy of the Youngstown Civic Guild publication. 1966)

In 1972, the Youngstown Library moved to its current location in the Youngstown Village Center. It was open 6 days a week, had a collection of over 13,000 pieces of materials, and counted 3,300 registered borrowers. The Library received support from the Village of Youngstown, the Town of Porter and the County of Niagara. The Youngstown Civic Guild continued its close ties—both through the annual financial campaign and volunteer staffing of 4 evenings a week. The annual budget of the Library was \$12,000 and in 1973 spent \$2700 on books.

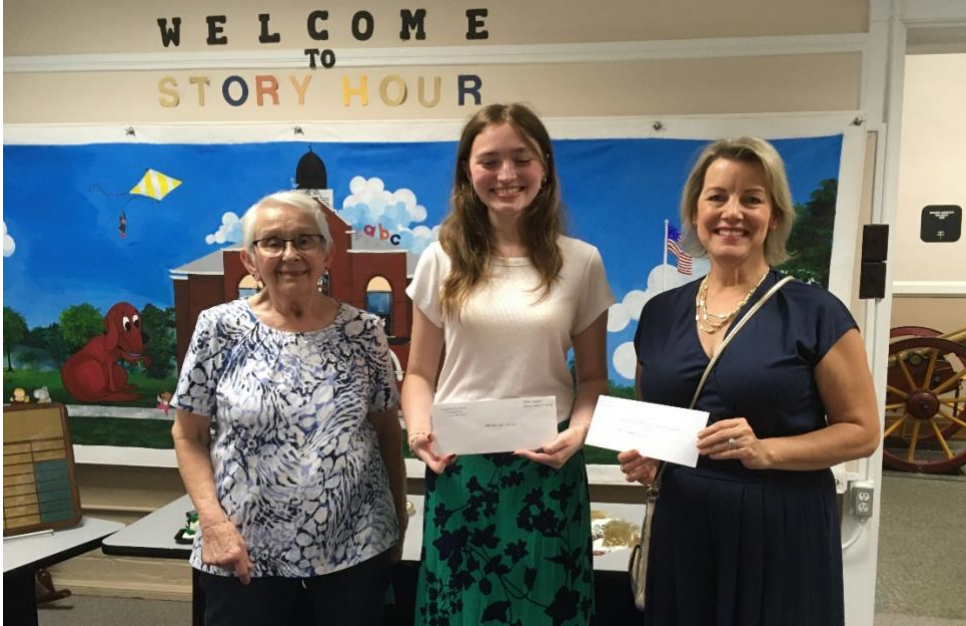
Throughout this 25-year period, the Youngstown Library grew, both in number of users and in providing the materials and services the members of its service area required.

Thank you for using the Youngstown Free Library and being part of the community we serve.

Karran Swayze  
President, Board of Trustees  
Youngstown Free Library

## Ruby Carey 2024

### Heartiest Congratulations to Madeline Heidt, 2024 Ruby Carey Scholarship Award Recipient



Former Lew-Port high-school senior and new N.U. freshman **Madeline Heidt** (center) is shown receiving her scholarship award checks from **Karran Swayze** (left) from the Youngstown Free Library Board of Trustees and **Colleen Stortecky** (right) from the Friends of the Library. Madeline was honored, accompanied by her parents (2<sup>nd</sup> photo), at a special presentation & reception by the Library Board of Trustees on July 22, 2024 at the library.

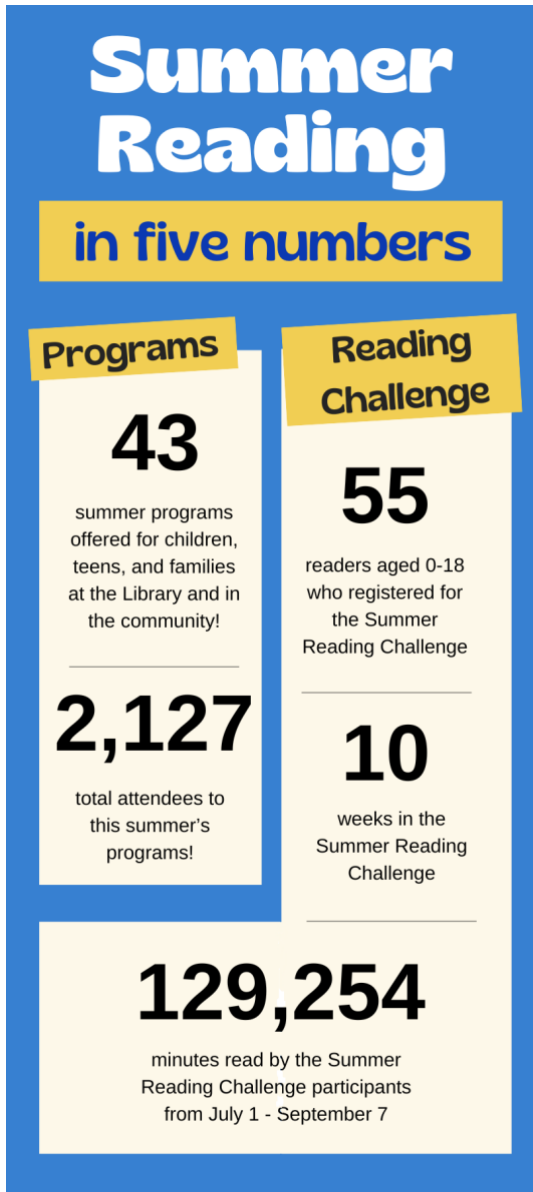


## Youngstown Free Library awarded RJ Uplinger Distinguished Service Award by Youngstown Lions Club



The Library's staff members were honored in June by the Youngstown Lions Club when the Library was awarded the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes outstanding service to the community by people or organizations. Pictured L-R is the entire current library staff team: Jaspén Sippel (Library Page), Mike Beck (Library Clerk), Chris Schemel (Library Clerk), Megan Sherman (Library Clerk), and Sonora Miller (Library Director).

# Summer Reading Season was a Record-Breaking Success!



This year's lineup of Summer Reading Programs ran from Monday, July 1 to Friday, August 9. In these six weeks, the Library offered forty-three programs for children and teens. All programs were free and available to everyone regardless of residency, and with no registration required. Programs were attended by a grand total of 1,160 children, 115 teens, and 852 adults, for a grand total of 2,127 attendees.

The Summer Reading Challenge ran concurrently with the Programs, but it extended through the end of the first week of school for a total of ten weeks. The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to read (independently or supported, as well as audio or print) with reading rewards for their time spent reading from Monday, July 1 to Saturday, September 7. Altogether, the fifty-five children and teens who signed up for the program read a total of 129,254 minutes—amazing!! That is an average of 2,350 minutes (thirty-nine hours) per reader this summer. Imagine a world in which every child and teen read nearly four hours every week for the ten weeks of summer. Think of the skills that these fifty-five readers built and maintained, and imagine their priceless discovery (or rediscovery) of a love of reading—such a key to a lifetime of learning!



## 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  
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# BOOK SALE

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Do you have books to donate? We are currently low on storage space, so please save your donations until Nov. 4, Nov. 5, and Nov. 6, when you can drop them off at the Red Brick Gym between 10 - 3 and 6 - 8 PM.

The Friends of the Youngstown Free Library are holding their Annual Fall Book Sale at the beginning of November! There will be thousands of titles available and all of them will be sorted and organized.

Friday, November 8 from 9:30 AM - 6 PM  
Saturday, November 9 from 9:30 AM - 3 PM

On Thursday, November 7 from 5 PM - 8 PM, members of the Friends (\$10 to join!) will get in early for first dibs at the thousands of offerings! Don't forget that you need to be sure to have renewed your Membership for 2024, in order to attend Friends' Members' Night. You can renew/join the Friends at the door or renew/join in advance here:  
<http://youngstownfreelibrary.org/friends.html>

Do you have books to donate to the Friends of the Library?  
Please drop off your donations to the Gym November 4 - 6 from 10-3 AND 6-8 each day.

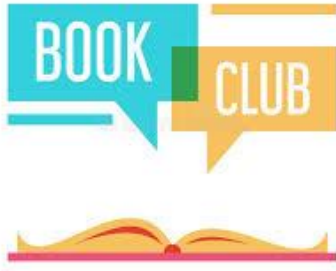
Please note, we cannot accept textbooks, encyclopedias, VHS tapes, and any materials with mold issues.

All proceeds will go to the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library, a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to support the Youngstown Free Library.

# Youngstown Free Library Book Club Meetings

**Evening Book Club** meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at the Youngstown Free Library.

- Wednesday, October 9 at 7 PM: author study of Mark Twain
- Wednesday, November 6 at 7 PM: *O Beautiful* by Jung Yun
- Wednesday, December 11 at 7 PM: *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes



**Afternoon Book Club** meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM at the Lewiston Senior Center.

- Tuesday, October 15 at 1:30 PM: *At the Coffee Shop of Curiosities* by Heather Webber
- Tuesday, November 19 at 1:30 PM: *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
- Tuesday, December 17 at 1:30 PM: *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger

## Other ways to support the 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-2024>

<https://donorbox.org/friends-membership-drive-2024>

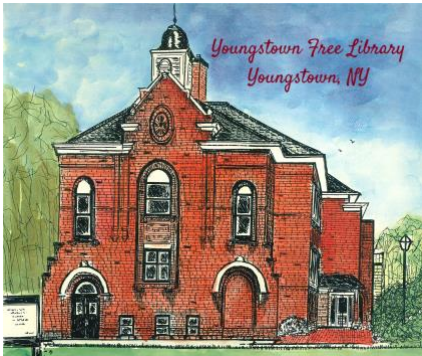
Donate your can & bottle redemptions  
Lewiston Redemption, 820 Seneca St.  
Please specify the Library when dropping off.

Plan for the Youngstown Free Library Foundation in your will.

The Youngstown Free Library Foundation is managed by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.



# Friends of The Youngstown Library



## Library Contact Information

Librarian - 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!!!

### 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

Colleen Stortecky

Janice Mariani

Jill Mazur

Cheryl A Milcia

Colleen Mary Summerville

Michelle Wesley (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