FRIENDS
OF THE
YOUNGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Book Sale

Friends of the Youngstown Free Library

BOOK SALE

Youngstown Village Center Gym
240 Lockport Street

Friday, Nov. 6: 9:30 - 6
Saturday, Nov. 7: 9:30 - 3
Bag sale all day Saturday

Friends Members' Night:
Thursday, Nov. 5: 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. 2 - 4, when you can drop them off at the Red Brick Gym between 10 - 3 and 6 - 8 PM.

Future Events

Harvest Tea October 3
Fall Book Sale November 5-7
Christmas in the Village TBD

Letter from the FOYL President

Hello to all Friends of the Library;

Greetings. It is hard to believe that Fall is already here. Where has the summer gone?I know we are all so busy but the Friends had a few fundraisers since our last newsletter

We had another incredible Spring Book Sale raising over $5,600.00 with memberships, book sales, a 50/50 and donations. This was one of our best book sales. Thank you to all who made this so successful.

The summer also saw us at the “Summer Street Dance” where the Friends gave out freezie pops, water and children’s books. Next, we sponsored a bake sale at Falkner Park with 14 generous bakers bringing out their best recipes.

Bandanas offered a delicious BBQ and Seafood Boil to benefit the Friends. Claudia Andres and the Brass Chance provided great music.

Our group had an entourage walking in the Labor Day Parade.

Returning events this year:

- The Harvest Tea at the Presbyterian Church, Saturday October 3rd. Get your tickets soon before the event sells out.
- Fall Book Sale November 5th-7th, Red Brick Schoolhouse gym.

I am continually humbled by the generosity of our library community. People continue to show up in record numbers to support our free library at our fundraising events. A big thank you to all the volunteers/bakers that tirelessly help out at our events

The Friends board and Trustees board are always looking for new members who can bring new ideas to our board. Please reach out to any of the board members if you are interested in learning more about joining our board.

If you are not familiar with all the Youngstown Library has to offer, please stop in and get to know our tireless Library Director and her incredibly helpful staff.

Thank you,

Kim Winning

President for the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library

FALL HARVEST TEA

OCTOBER 3, 2026



Once again, the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library are partnering with the Lewiston Service Guild to host a Harvest Tea, to be held on Saturday, October 3, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall of the Youngstown Presbyterian Church. A basket raffle and silent auction is available prior to the Tea. The doors will open at noon for raffle and silent auction, and tea will be served at 1 pm. Winning tickets will be pulled immediately following the tea, approximately 2:30. Tickets are $45, and include charcuterie cup, sandwiches, scones, assorted sweets, and of course tea. Tables of eight are available for $340. Mimosas are available for purchase for $5. Seating is limited, and tickets may be purchased at the Library, or through the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce in the little white house across from Tops Markets. This event usually sells out, so please come join us for a lovely fun afternoon.

2026 Library Board Trustees

PRESIDENT: Peter Pfohl
VICE PRESIDENT: David Brooks
TREASURER: Dave Smith
RECORDING SECRETARY: Mary Clinch
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Dr. Nancy Askins
Elizabeth Brooks
Christopher Regan
Diana Regan

2026 Library Committees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Peter Pfohl, David Brooks, Dave Smith, Mary Clinch, Dr. Nancy Askins
NOMINATING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:
Chairperson: David Brooks
Chris Regan
FINANCE COMMITTEE:
Chairperson: Dave Smith
Mary Clinch, Sonora Miller (Library Director)
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:
Chairperson: Mary Clinch
Chris Regan, Diana Regan, Sonora Miller (Library Director)
HISTORICAL:
David Brooks
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:
Chairperson: Peter Pfohl
Mary Clinch, Elizabeth Brooks
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY LIAISON:
Diana Regan
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:
Chairpeople: Dr. Nancy Askins
Diana Regan, Elizabeth Brooks, Sonora Miller (Library Director)

Greetings from Youngstown Free Library Board of Trustees

Greetings from the Library Board of Trustees

I would like to start off by thanking each of you for your continued support of the Library's Mission thru your fund-raising efforts.

The Library in 2026 is no longer just a place that lends you a book to read. The services and programs our Library provide continue to evolve. The Library has just completed another successful Summer Reading Program. The Library awarded, with an equal share contribution from the Friends, the Ruby Carey Scholarship to an outstanding senior at Lewiston-Porter, Francesca Hess. The Board of Trustees, with contributions of Friends member Maggie Steyn and community representative Karran Swayze, is currently working on the Library's Strategic Plan for the upcoming years. We are also preparing for the Annual Fund Drive, which will include the popular, Friends organized, SWAT envelop stuffing get together. The Annual Drive is a very important effort on all our parts, fundamental to the continued operation of our Library. The factual reality is that,in 2026, funding from the Town of Porter, Village of Youngstown and Niagara County covered only 48% of the Library's operating budget. We look forward to the Harvest Tea in October, the Book Sale in November and the Friend's Annual Dinner in December to continue all of ours's commitment to the Library.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Director and her staff, I wish you all to know we could not "do it" without your support.

See you at the Library. Peter Pfohl



ARE YOU OUR NEXT

Board Member?

The Youngstown Free Library Board of Trustees is welcoming new members!

We are seeking dedicated individuals to use their time, skills and knowledge to support the library in a meaningful way.

Scan the QR code below for more information or stop into the Library!

Board of Trustees

youngstownfreelibrary.org

Fundraising Friends in action



Street Dance



Falkner Park Concert Series bake sale







Scenes from the BBQ & Boil at Bandanas





Labor Day Parade

Friends of the Library Treasurer Maggie Steyn is honored by Nioga Library System as outstanding library advocate



This spring, Friends' treasurer Maggie Steyn was honored with the Norman W. Sinclair award, which recognizes the commitment of a member library trustee or library advocate. The Nioga Library System Board of Trustees selects the award recipient from nominees submitted by member library directors. The award is presented each year at the Nioga Annual Dinner, and Maggie is its first Youngstown recipient.

Youngstown Free Library has been lucky enough to count Maggie Steyn as a faithful supporter on its leadership boards for over a dozen years. She has been a standout Trustee and Friend who should be recognized for her steadfast attention to detail, her work establishing the Library's financial sustainability, and her tireless dedication to the Library's mission.

Maggie Steyn served on the Youngstown Free Library Board of Trustees for over a decade. During her time on the board, Maggie initially served as the corresponding secretary, then its recording secretary. However, she found her stride in 2015 when she became the treasurer for the Board of Trustees, a role she held until she stepped down from the board in early 2023.

During her time on the Youngstown Free Library's Board of Trustees, Maggie spearheaded three key initiatives to create financial support for the Library, including the Annual Fund Drive, developing financial policies, and establishing the Youngstown Free Library Foundation.

- First, she processed the donations to the Library's Annual Fund Drive, which accounts for at least 15% of the Library's annual budget. This process includes maintaining the large spreadsheet of donors, writing thank you letters to donors, and sending out the annual request letter to the entire community.

- With the director and board, she developed fair and unbiased financial policies for the Library. This enormous set of policies established responsible fiduciary practices for the Library to follow into the future.
- Finally, Maggie worked with the Buffalo Community Foundation to establish and fund a foundation to support the long-term financial sustainability of the Youngstown Free Library. This was a years-long process of questioning, weighing alternatives, seeking board approval, and balancing the Library's finances to fund the Foundation with $100,000. The Youngstown Free Library Foundation, as it grows, should help support the long-term financial viability of the Library.

Maggie was not just a board member who attended meetings once a month; she is a constant supporter of the Library and its staff. Maggie checks in with staff members every time she picks up her books; her thoughtfulness extends to gifts and small kindnesses to staff and volunteers throughout the year.

When Maggie stepped away from the Board of Trustees in 2023, she immediately moved to the Friends of the Library's Board of Directors. There, she moved her budgeting and spreadsheet expertise from one treasurer's role to another; she became the Treasurer for the Friends of the Library. Even before her work with the Friends of the Library, Maggie volunteered for Friends' fundraisers.

- Maggie led the Friends' annual spring fundraiser Dessert & Wine in the Stacks for many years, which showcased recipes from the Library's cookbooks with over 100 appetizers and desserts baked by community members.
- Maggie co-organized the Friends' newest annual fundraiser, its Harvest Tea, starting in October 2024.
- Maggie is famous for her charm and wine selections she brings to the Members' Nights at the twice-annual book sales for the Friends.

In conclusion, Maggie has showcased the key qualities of a Trustee and Library Advocate: she has worked hard to enhance financial support of the Library, she has created fair and unbiased policies for the Library, she supports Library staff and uses the Library, and she supports programs and fundraisers for the Library. Maggie Steyn has been a pillar of the Library's leadership team for at least a dozen years.

She expects no recognition, but deserves all the accolades! For all these reasons, Maggie was chosen to be the recipient of the Norman W. Sinclair award in 2026

The Youngstown Free Library debuts its Digitization Station this fall!



Thanks to an Access and Innovation Grant from the Western New York Library Resources Council, the Library is proud to add a new service for patrons to use. Our Digitization Station allows patrons to digitize their VHS, hi8, mini DV, and cassette tapes to a thumb drive or laptop stress-free!

Who would want to utilize this station?

- Families looking to digitize family memories so they can be given as Christmas presents
- Retired folks who are downsizing their physical possessions, while still wanting to share treasured family memories with the younger generations.

This project was requested by several patrons of the Youngstown Free Library over the course of the past several years. In our little library, we strive to answer community needs and desires. If we cannot afford to do it, we try to find a grant that will allow us to answer the community's need, and the WNYLRC Access and Innovation Grant allowed this project to happen!

How do you start digitizing your home movies using the Digitization Station?

1. First, sort through your home movies and pick one to get started.
2. Bring it in to the Library when you have time to watch the video play through.
3. While it's playing on the machine, it will also be recording to a thumbdrive (available for sale for $8 each) or to your laptop (if you bring that too).
4. You'll have to stay with your video while it's playing, so you might want to bring something to read (or we have plenty here!). When the video finishes playing, your digitization and transfer is done!

Fall programs for adults

Tech Help with Sonora and Adam and Keith will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM at the Lewiston Senior Center. It's a one-on-one appointment program to answer your questions about your cell phones, tablets, and laptop computers.
• Tuesday, October 6 from 1:30-3 PM
• Tuesday, November 3 from 1:30-3 PM
• Tuesday, December 1 from 1:30-3 PM
Registration is required; please call Melinda at the Senior Center to sign up for a half-hour slot: 716-754-2071.

Tabletop Gaming is held on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 PM. Teens and adults, join us for good gaming and great company! No registration is required.

Discover & Explore Your Digital Library is held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6 PM. Learn how to use your digital library to stream and/or download e-books, audiobooks, graphic novels, music, magazines, tv and movies. Bring your tablet, smartphone, or laptop and prepare to spend an hour or so getting your accounts set up and your questions answered. No registration needed.
• Wednesday, September 23 from 6-7 PM
• Wednesday, October 28 from 6-7 PM

Evening Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at the Youngstown Free Library with a simultaneous Zoom option.
• Wednesday, October 14 from 7-8:15 PM: *Wrong Place, Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister
• Wednesday, November 4 from 7-8:15 PM: *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley
• Wednesday, December 9 from 7-8:15 PM: *Palaver* by Bryan Washington

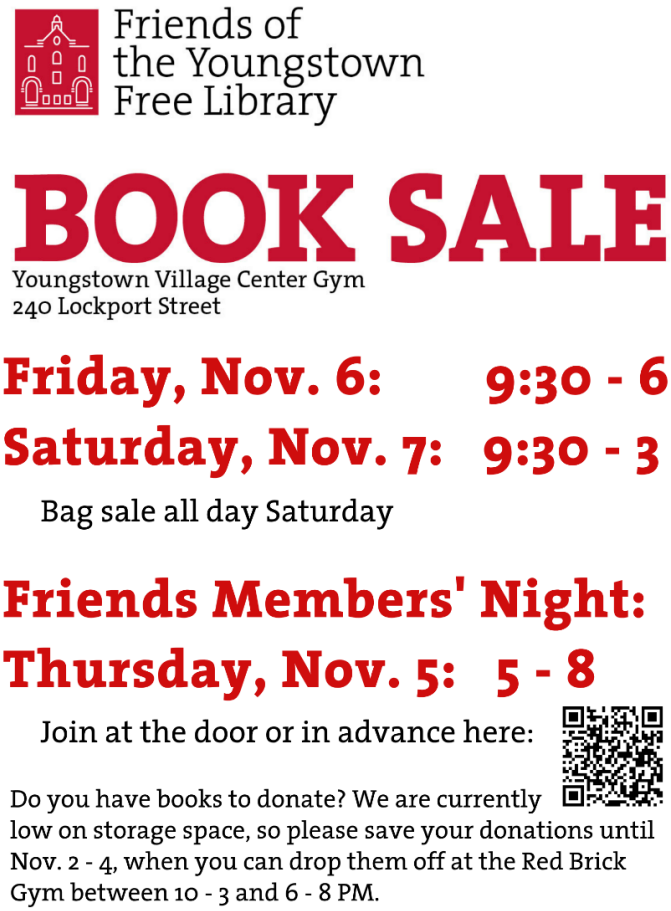
Afternoon Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM at the Lewiston Senior Center.
• Tuesday, October 20 from 1:30-3 PM: *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker
• Tuesday, November 17 from 1:30-3 PM: *Briar Club* by Kate Quinn
• Tuesday, December 15 from 1:30-3 PM: *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman

Non-Fiction Book Club meets virtually every other month. If you'd like to receive the Zoom link, please contact Sonora at 745-3555 or smiller@nioga.org.
• Monday, October 19 from 1:30-3 PM: *The Cost of Loyalty* by Tim Bakken

All are welcome to any of the book clubs! To receive a copy of the book, you can order it at this link: https://forms.gle/AwYVqBTUpVsqFPdk7. If you have questions about how to attend, please contact Sonora at 745-3555 or smiller@nioga.org.

The Fall Book Sale is coming!

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 6 from 9:30 AM - 6 PM
Saturday, November 7 from 9:30 AM - 3 PM

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Thursday, November 5 from 5 PM - 8 PM
Members of the Friends ($10 to join!) get in early for first dibs at the thousands of offerings!
You can join the Friends at the door or join in advance here: http://youngstownfreelibrary.org/friends.html

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Do you have books to donate to the Friends of the Library?
Please drop off your donations to the Gym from November 2 - 4 from 10 AM - 3 PM or 6 PM - 8 PM.

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

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

Did you know the Library provides these items for checkout?

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

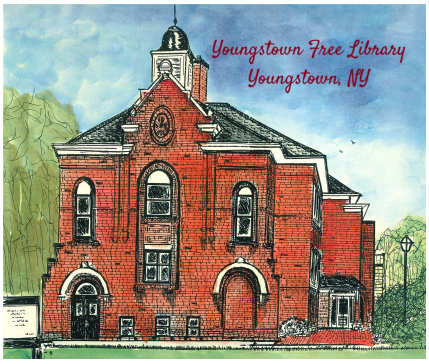
Other ways to support the Library

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-2026
https://donorbox.org/friends-membership-drive-2026

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 responsibly managed by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. You can contact the CFGB or see our website (https://youngstownfreelibrary.org/legacy-gifts.html) for more information on how to include the Youngstown Free Library in your will.

Friends of The Youngstown Library



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.

2026 Board of Trustees

Peter Pfohl, President
David Brooks, Vice President
Dave Smith, Treasurer
Mary Clinch, Recording Secretary
Dr. Nancy Askins, Corresponding Secretary
Elizabeth Brooks
Christopher Regan
Diana Regan

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!

Library Contact Information
Library Director – Sonora Miller
Phone: (716) 745-3555
Fax: (716) 745-7122
Email: yfl@nioga.org
Website: youngstownfreelibrary.org

We Are Here to Serve You!!!

2025 Friends of the Library Board of Directors

Kim Winning, President
Christine Schwartz, Vice President
Maggie Steyn, Treasurer
Colleen Stortecky, Secretary
Diana Regan, Liaison to the Library Board

Maureen Gambino	Ron Peters
Toni-Marie Peters	Maureen Boyd
Seth Phillips	Jill Mazur

Michelle Wesley (Newsletter Editor)

Friends Board Meetings
7 p.m., third Wednesday of every month
Friends email: foylboard@gmail.com

Inform Engage Educate Entertain