

FRIENDS OF THE YOUNGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2026 MEETING DATES

Annual meeting-6:30pm

January 21st

Monthly meetings-7pm

January 21st

February 18th

March 18th

April 15th

May 20th

June 17th

September 16th

October 21st

November 18th

Dec holiday dinner TBD

2026 EVENT DATES

-  Stone Jug 5K Run-January 31st
-  Chili Cook Off -Bandanas-February 8th
-  St. Patrick's Day Parade-March 14th
-  Membership Drive Campaign-March
-  Spring Book Sale-May 7-9
-  Summer Street Dance-June 18th
-  Garage Sale-July
-  Bake Sale-Friday Concert-August
-  Bandanas BBQ/ Boil-TBD
-  Labor Day Parade-September 7th
-  Harvest Tea-October
-  Fall Book Sale-November 5-7
-  Holiday Dinner-December 1?
-  Christmas in the Village-December

Letter from the FOYL President

Hello to all Friends of the Library,

2025 is in the rear-view mirror and all I see is success. This has been another banner fundraising year. We had 4 major events and monthly smaller events, raising an incredible \$ 31,000 +. All of our fundraisers are attended by our incredible Friends and Trustee members, each one contributing in unique ways.

In December we held our yearly Christmas dinner at Rays Tavern. It was a festive evening with 30 members and guests from the Trustees and Friends gathered to share some Holiday spirit and reminisce about what was accomplished in 2025.

We will wrap 2025 up with a table at Christmas in the Village, in Youngstown giving out complimentary cider, hot chocolate, cookies and children's books.

The Friends of the Youngstown Free Library are grateful for this successful fund-raising year. We would like to thank our community for their support, all the volunteers, bakers, and everyone who gave of their time throughout 2025. I do want to give a special thank you to Boy Scout troop 829 for all the volunteer help they provide for all our larger events that require some extra muscle.

We continue to encourage our community to support this valuable resource we have in the Youngstown Free Library. There is information on the library website, (youngstownfreelibrary.org) about becoming a new member of the Friends board. The board is always looking for fresh faces and new event ideas. We meet every 3rd Wednesday, taking a break for a few months in the summer (see the left margin for details).

We also have tentative dates for the upcoming year, listed to the left. If you have time to volunteer at any of our fundraising events, please reach out to any of the Friends or Trustees of the Library.

Kim Winning
President for the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library

2025 Year in Review



Notes from the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends and Patrons of the Youngstown Free Library,

As the Youngstown Free Library completes 2025, the Library also completes the celebration of 75 years that we have been in continuous operation in the Youngstown and Porter area. While we are a small library, our numbers, which our Director put together for the 2024 Annual Report to the State, show a vibrant and well established library. Our programs, across the board, have consistent participation. As a quick reminder, the bookmarks, that the Library uses, include a list of the programs that the Library offers.

I would like to thank the group known as the Friends. It was established as the fund-raising arm of the Library. And they have been very busy this year. The money from their activities has made it possible to renew subscriptions for our magazines and newspapers. They have also made it possible to increase our offerings of digital materials through Hoopla and Libby. This group is probably already planning the Spring Book Sale. Thank you for your hard work.

Another group I must thank are our patrons who responded to our Annual Fund Drive. The response was very generous. These funds have enabled the Library to order new books and other materials that had been our wish list. They will now be in our Library. The Library accepts contributions throughout the year. So, if you have not sent in your contribution, there is still time. Thank you for your support and commitment to the Library.

I would also like to acknowledge Assembly member Angelo Morinello. The legislative initiative he was able to provide, enabled us to paint the foyer of the Library, purchase 3 computers for patron use, and fix our air conditioning units. Thank you, Mr. Morinello for your support.

The last group I would mention is our Director, Sonora Miller and her staff. This is the group that is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Library. If you have questions, they are available with answers. They know the collection and can make recommendations for research or for pleasure. The staff has been reorganizing the Library to make our collections more easily available. Thank you, Sonora and Chris, Mike, Jaspen, and Meagan.

Please, take the time to stop in and see what we have to offer. Some things may be familiar, and some things may be new. All the better to explore.

With my most sincere thanks and appreciation,

Karran Swayze President Board of Trustees Youngstown Free Library

Notes from the Library Director

Thank you to the Friends for Their Record-Breaking Support in 2025

Dear Friends of the Library members,

As 2025 ends, I want to extend my thanks to each and every one of you. With your support, the Friends of the Library were able to donate over \$31,000 to the Youngstown Free Library this year.

This incredible donation is possible thanks to:

- the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library for their tireless work organizing and running fundraisers, as well as advocating for the Library
- YOU! You--the Friends of the Library members. You--the local community who show up and support these fundraisers to make these fundraisers a success.

As a separate non-profit organization from the Library, the Friends of the Library are key to the vibrancy of the Library. They promote the importance of the Library in the community, provide materials and equipment that the Library could not ordinarily purchase from its budget, sponsor enriching programs, raise funds for special initiatives, and volunteer time to assist with projects.

All these donated proceeds directly benefit Library services, materials and resources. This year, these funds supported:

- Old Fort Niagara pass, Aquarium of Niagara passes, and Empire passes
- Magazine and newspaper subscriptions
- Book and other collection expenses
- Book processing supplies and display equipment
- Copier and printer lease expenses
- Building maintenance services
- Technology and computer expenses
- Phone and Internet expenses
- Children's Summer Reading Season and Summer Reading Challenge
- Children's Winter Reading Challenge

As you can see, your work is vital to the Library's success.

Thank you, Friends!

Sonora R. Miller

Library Director

Winter Programs for Adults

Tech Help with Sonora and Adam will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM at the Lewiston Senior Center. Its a one-on-one appointment program to answer your questions about your cell phones, tablets, and laptop computers.

- Tuesday, January 6 from 1:30-3 PM
- Tuesday, February 3 from 1:30-3 PM
- Tuesday, March 3 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.

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, January 14 from 7-8:15 PM: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell
- Wednesday, February 11 from 7-8:15 PM: *Heart the Lover* by Lily King
- Wednesday, March 11 from 7-8:15 PM: *So Far Gone* by Jess Walter

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

- Tuesday, January 20 from 1:30-3 PM: *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult
- Tuesday, February 17 from 1:30-3 PM: *Wayward Girls* by Susan Wiggs
- Tuesday, March 17 from 1:30-3 PM: *A Marriage at Sea: a true story of love, obsession, and shipwreck* by Sophie Elmhirst

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, February 23 from 1:30-3 PM: *Abundance* by Ezra Klein

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.

Here's everything they read and discussed in 2025!

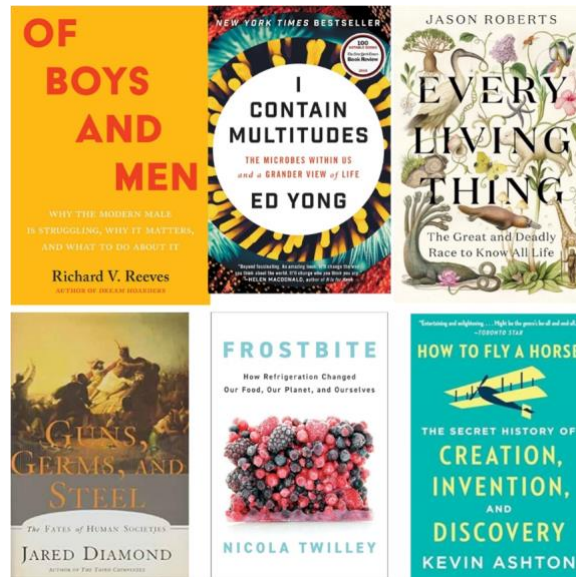
EVENING BOOK CLUB



AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB



NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB



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)



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

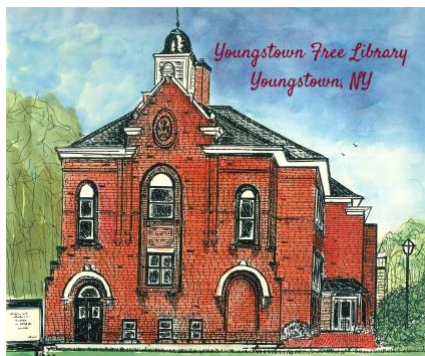
Lewiston Redemption, 820 Seneca St.

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

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.

2025 Board of Trustees

Karran Swayze, President

David Brooks, Vice-President

Dave Smith, Treasurer

Mary Clinch, Recording Secretary

Peter Pfohl, Corresponding Secretary

Dr. Nancy Askins

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

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