

# FRIENDS OF THE YOUNGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## SAVE THE DATE

### Spring Book Sale



Friends of  
the Youngstown  
Free Library

## BOOK SALE

Youngstown Village Center Gym  
240 Lockport Street

**Friday, May 8: 9:30 - 6**

**Saturday, May 9: 9:30 - 3**

Bag sale all day Saturday

**Friends Members' Night:**

**Thursday, May 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 May 4 - 6, when you can drop them off at the Red Brick Gym between 10 - 3 and 6 - 8 PM.

## Street Dance

June 25, 6-10pm

Come visit the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library table at the 16th annual YBPA Street Dance

## Future Events

Garage Sale TBD  
Bake Sale- Friday Concert August  
Bandanas BBQ/ Boil TBD  
Labor Day Parade September 7th  
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;

Spring seems like it is getting ready to sprout its blooms and buds. Soon color will surround us and the winter blues will only be a thought. So, time to get out of the house and support many of our upcoming events. 2025 was a record year for our fund-raising efforts. We can only be hopeful for 2026 to be as successful.

We already started fund raising this year:

❖ **January 31** with the Stone Jug/Ontario House 5K run in support of the library. Another cold Saturday but about 50 runners came out. Thank you to Mike and Barb Costello and the Jug staff for your year-round support.

❖ **February 8th**, Super Bowl Sunday, Bandanas Bar and Grill hosted the annual Chili Cook off. With 13 chili entries, it was a great turnout. The 50/50 and bake sale all contributed to the success. Thank you to Melissa and Rob Kudel, and their staff.

❖ **March 11th** approximately 12 volunteers stuffed 1400 envelopes for our Spring Membership drive. There is always good conversation at this event to make the time fly by! Thank you to board member and coordinator Jill Mazur. Volunteers are always welcome.

❖ **March 14th**, we gathered in the cold to walk and throw candy for the 14th annual O’Riordan’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Friend, Maureen Gambino and family decorated a cart, outfitted with Irish music and a bubble machine. And our cart took top prize in the Children’s category. The prize was donated by our local Legislator Irene Myers.

One of our biggest events is the Spring Book Sale. Mark your calendars for May 7-9th. If you are a Friends member, you are invited to Thursday night when you can get first pick at our inventory. We always food and drink to enjoy on members night.

We are constantly brainstorming for new ideas, and are grateful for any ideas from our community members.

As always, we are so grateful for our library community and how you continue to show up in forces to support our free library. The fundraising events would also not be as successful without all our volunteers. If you are not familiar with all the Youngstown Library has to offer, please stop in and get to know our tireless Library Director, Sonora and her incredibly helpful staff.

Kim Winning

President for the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library



Maggie Steyn (FOYL Treas.) and Kim Winning (FOYL Pres.) present  
Karran Swayze (Board of Trustees Pres) with a going-away gift

The Friends of the Youngstown Library say a fond farewell to Karran Swayze who is stepping down as Chair of the Board of Trustees after many years.

A few highlights of her tenure are:

- Diligently followed any changes and mandates by New York State and crafted new and revised policies to adopt the changes.
- Ensured the Board remains compliant in that each member has to take the necessary hours of Board-training each year.
- Attended meetings with Ortt, Norris and Morinello to plead for more funding
- Did likewise at every Town of Porter budget meeting and Village of Youngstown meeting.
- Helped craft Grant Applications for additional funding
- Worked on the contract-negotiations for the Library space with the Village every 3 years.
- Attended NIOGA meetings and dinners
- Attended YBPA meetings
- Participated in Labor Day parades
- Volunteered for most of the FOYL's fundraisers, and is an expert Cookie Baker and Envelope Stuffer!

Karran: you have helped put our tiny Library front and center in the Community

**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**

I appreciate this opportunity to introduce myself to the members of the Friends and to thank you for all you do in support of the Youngstown Free Library. The symbiotic relationship our two organizations have developed has contributed significantly to meeting our goals and Mission. I am in the third year of my first term as a Trustee and am honored to be chosen as President for 2026. I have enjoyed being an active member of the Library Board and participating in many of the fund-raising events of the Friends.

The Board of Trustees has begun 2026 with a renewed commitment to our Library's Mission-" The mission of the Youngstown Free Library is to be a community center which inspires learning and provides access to a vast range of information and resources for patrons of all ages." To that end we have begun by amending our by-laws to more clearly reflect expectations of each Trustee in contributing to our Mission. The Library's Website includes all the guidelines which we are obligated to follow, and we welcome your understanding and participation in their adherence.

The Board of Trustees has also begun the process, mandated by New York Education Department Regulations, of preparing a Strategic Plan for the year 2026 forward. This will be updating the existing one of the years 2018-2025. This document serves as a long-range plan of service, based on community needs. We will be soliciting our service area for input in this process, including that of the Friends who have graciously continued a hands-on contribution to our mission.

See you at the Library. Peter Pfohl

---

## Ruby Cary Scholarship

The Ruby Carey Memorial Scholarship is designed to honor a deserving graduate who demonstrated some the attributes exhibited by Carey, who helped organize the Youngstown Free Library in 1949 and became a highly valued member of the staff.

**Ruby Carey Memorial Scholarship** applications are being accepted until Friday, April 24th. Graduating seniors living in the Town of Porter who will be attending an accredited college, community college, university, or vocational school within the next 12 months, and who possess a current library card in good standing from any library in the NIOGA system are eligible to apply. The application is available at the Lew-Port Guidance Office and **on the Youngstown Free Library website**.

This \$1,500 scholarship is to assist students in the purchase of textbooks and required materials in their pursuit of higher education.

\*\$750.00 from the Ruby Carey Memorial Scholarship

\*\$750.00 from the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library

# Fundraising Friends Fotos

## 🍀 O'Riordan St. Patrick's Day Parade 🍀





# 🌶️ Bandana's Chili Cook-off 🌶️



- 🥇 1st Place Bree O'Connor  
Bangin' White Chicken Chili
- 🥈 2nd Place Mark Salvatore  
Italian Sausage and Chicken Chili
- 🥉 3rd Place Rob Kudel  
Blackened Chicken Chili





# 🏃 Stone Jug 5K 🏃



# Notes from the Library Director

## Spring 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. It's a one-on-one appointment program to answer your questions about your cell phones, tablets, and laptop computers.

- Tuesday, April 7 from 1:30-3 PM
- Tuesday, May 5 from 1:30-3 PM
- Tuesday, June 2 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, April 8 from 7-8:15 PM: *One-in-a-Million Boy* by Monica Wood
- Wednesday, May 13 from 7-8:15 PM: TBD
- Wednesday, June 10 from 7-8:15 PM: TBD

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

- Tuesday, April 21 from 1:30-3 PM: *The Last Chance Library* by Freya Sampson
- Tuesday, May 19 from 1:30-3 PM: *A Woman of No Importance: the untold story of the American spy who helped win WWII* by Sonia Purnell
- Tuesday, June 16 from 1:30-3 PM: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

**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](mailto:smiller@nioga.org).

- Monday, April 27 from 1:30-3 PM: *Co-Intelligence: living and working with AI* by Ethan Mollick
- Monday, June 15 from 1:30-3 PM: *Careless People: a cautionary tale of power, greed, and lost idealism* by Sarah Wynn-Williams

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](mailto:smiller@nioga.org).

## The Spring Book Sale is coming!

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

### **Thursday, May 7 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>

### **Friday, May 8 from 9:30 AM - 6 PM**

### **Saturday, May 9 from 9:30 AM - 3 PM**

\*\*\*

Do you have books to donate to the Friends of the Library?

Please drop off your donations to the Gym from May 4 - 6 from 10 AM - 3 PM or 6 PM - 8 PM.

\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*

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)
- 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>

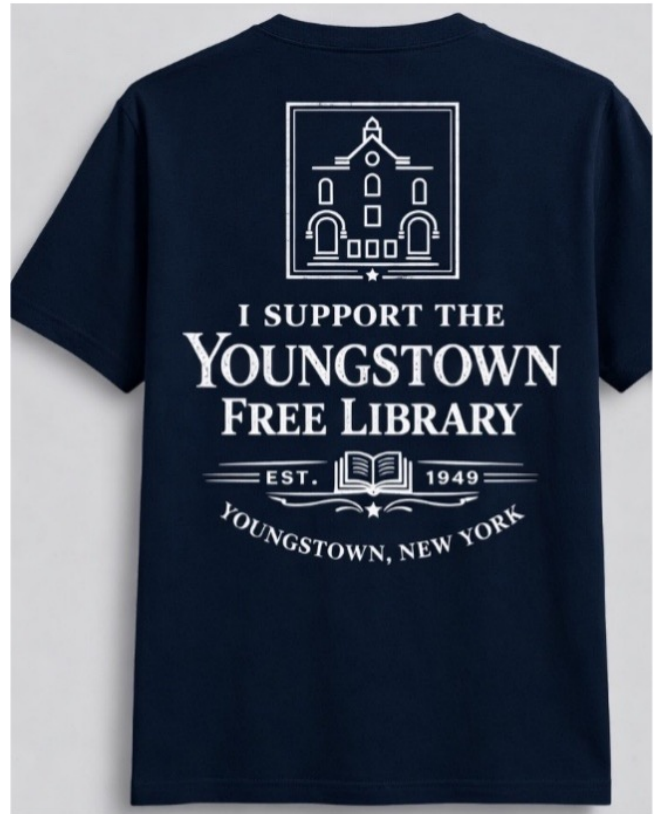
<https://donorbox.org/friends-membership-drive-2026>

### **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.



Show your support for the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library

Pre-paid orders for \$16/shirt

Regular price \$18/shirt

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

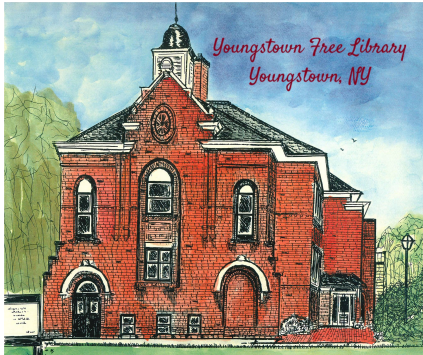
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ S    \_\_\_\_\_ M    \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ XL    \_\_\_\_\_ XXL

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PICK UP PRE-ORDERED SHIRTS AT THE SPRING BOOK SALE MAY 7-9

# 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!!!

### 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!

### 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](mailto:foylboard@gmail.com)

# Inform Engage Educate Entertain