

# Friends of Huntington

From the President

## Successful Summer

The Friends of Huntington Library fund activities at the library. Popular and well attended are those for children. The pandemic has been a challenge for the talented staff and they made many changes to accommodate the patrons. This is especially true with the children's activities. Children could not meet in the building so the staff provided things for them to do at home, outside in Huntington, Wilber and Neawha Parks. Programs were also offered via the internet with Storytime being a favorite. Another favorite was the "Take and Make" kits. The Friends put together over 1,000 kits. There were many favorable comments especially from grandparents.

Friends of Huntington Library use the money from memberships and donations to help with the rising costs. The basic library budget which is supported by the city and the town of Oneonta, is limited. It is one of the lowest of the city libraries in The Four County Library System. Recently The Friends have funded \$1,900 for children's programs and \$3,700 for adult programs and building upgrades.

Part of the mission statement of The Friends is strengthening the library, enhancing its collections and promoting its usefulness. The Friends continually strive to do that.

In this newsletter you will find an application for membership. Please renew and ask a friend to join Friends!

*Karyl Sage*

**National Friends of  
Libraries Week  
October 17-23**

**Theme:  
"Welcome to Your Library"**

Since 2005, Friends of Libraries groups have had their own national week of celebration. It is used to promote and raise awareness of the assistance and support of the library that Friends offer and a time to promote membership. Friends of HML's annual membership drive will be underway with a drawing held for early renewal/new Friends' membership. Friends thank you for your past support and we look forward to your continued support.

## FRIENDS' 2021 DONATIONS

\$1000 Children's Program  
\$800 Dan the Snakeman  
\$1600 Niche Academy  
\$100 Children's Supplies

\$1000 Adult Programs  
\$1000 Acoustic Ceiling Tiles  
\$100 Adult Supplies

*Thank You!*

## Mission Statement

The purpose of The Friends of Huntington Memorial Library shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in strengthening the library, enhancing its collections, and promoting its usefulness.

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Meet Alex, who returns to HML after a short ‘detour’ to complete 4 years of service as a Senior clerk. In this position, Alex relates that he ‘loves working with the library patrons and greatly enjoys the intellectual stimulation that comes with having a challenging job.’

When asked an aspect of his job that would surprise people is that he is in charge of maintaining all the PCs and most of the technology in the building. As a reader, Alex lists *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, *Shogun* by James Clavell

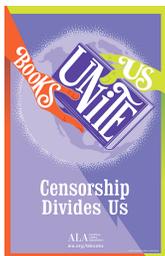


and *World War Z* by Max Brooks as favorites. Favorite DVDs include *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Dark Knight* and ‘anything’ by Ken Burns. Alex’s leisure time is spent watching football, baking and spending time with his girlfriend. When asked what people should know about the library, Alex responds that ‘We have a wonderful collection of online resources and patrons can apply for a library card online’. Alex was asked what he would like to see at the library in the future and his response was ‘More space for books’!

*Thank you, Alex, for being part of HML’s*

**Banned Books Week  
September 26-October 2, 2021**

**Theme: “Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us”**



This annual awareness campaign promoted by the American Library Association and Amnesty International ‘celebrates the freedom to read, draws attention to banned and challenged books and highlights persecuted individuals.’ Jason Reynolds, the 2021 Honorary Chair, is a New York Times best

selling author of more than a dozen books for young people, holds many award honors, and is currently serving a 2 year term as the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature for the Library of Congress. In highlighting this week, Friends will conduct a drawing for a free banned book. Any library patron who fills out an entry form found in the Friends’ newsletter or in the library by October 16 will have the opportunity to win a copy of *George* by Alex Gino or *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hasseini.

**“The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”**

**Albert Einstein, Physicist**

**Friends’ Annual Meeting**

Election of Friends’ officers for 2022 will be held at the October meeting. A ballot indicating your vote is found on the membership form or voting may take place by email. (friends.of.HMLOneonta@gmail.com) All members are entitled to vote. The slate includes:

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|----------------|-----------------|
| President      | Karyl Sage      |
| Vice President | Marcella Drago  |
| Secretary      | Joanne Johnston |
| Treasurer      | Marilyn Rosas   |

**Friends’ Board of Directors**

- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Chris Burrington                | Bonnie Lado    |
| Marcella Drago                  | Ed Leone       |
| Jack Holstead                   | Isabelle Niles |
| Joanne Johnston                 | Dolores Noonan |
| Erica LaBuz                     | Marilyn Rosas  |
| Karyl Sage                      |                |
| Tina Winstead, Library Director |                |

*From the desk of Director Tina Winstead*

One hundred and one years ago, the library moved into Henry Huntington’s former home. To honor his gift, the Library Board held a Centennial Celebration Ice Cream Social on August 7 in the Huntington Park. Mark Simonson, City Historian, spoke of the Huntington legacy and the impact it’s had on Oneonta. Henry’s legacy was his love for books, gardens, and art and HML fostered this legacy by gifting a plant to the first 100 guests. The Library also sponsored Meet Me on Main with its live music, activities, shops and restaurants.

The Huntington home and park have gone through many changes in the past 100 years. Henry’s rotunda with its view over Main Street and on towards the hills was taken down in 1965. More trees and shrubs were planted, a gazebo was donated, and the driveway extended. The entrance to the building was moved from the front door to the vestibule on the side. An elevator and emergency stairwell were added. And from stories I hear, books were moved from tables and placed in bookcases.

In the past 8 years many areas of the building have been updated with special attention paid to the Children’s Rooms. We also have a new, beautiful room that overlooks the park where the very rare power outlets were installed. The Community Room has been completely reimagined in vibrant colors with furniture that is simple to configure for any type of program. There are even two tables just the right size for the Mahjong Club! The former Reference Room has been transformed into a Reading Room with comfortable seating and the former Reading Room has become the Computer Room where there are triple the number of computers available for our patrons.

We still have a long way to go to create a library that suits the needs of a modern society and last year we had a library consultant work with us to develop a Master Plan. We always knew, but it’s nice to have it confirmed, that our building is about half the size it should be for our community. The next step will be to work with architects to guide us to the next phase in restoring the building, improving the aesthetics, modifying the use and efficiency of existing space, and discussing how to expand.

Phase 1 of the Park Project will begin this fall. When the Library Board selected the Stimson Studio to design the park, we knew they had a design aesthetic that we wanted. They proved themselves when they so gracefully incorporated elements of Henry Huntington’s park design into their overall scheme. They have also been awarded the best 2021 Landscape Architecture Firm Award by the American Society of Landscape Architects and we couldn’t be happier for them.

For the past 100 years, Henry Huntington’s legacy to Oneonta has been fulfilled by HML’s core value of supporting lifelong learning. There are challenges ahead of us but I believe the library’s mission will continue through the next 100 years as future Directors and Trustees meet the demands of a changing landscape.

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**FRIENDS OF HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
Become a Friend of the Library 2022 dues are due now  
(Membership January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022)

Yes, I would like to renew my membership.  
 **Yes, I would like to become a Friend.**  
  
 Individual \$15    Sponsor \$60    Superfriend \$250  
 Family/Household \$30    Benefactor \$100  
Additional donation \_\_\_\_\_



I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail.  
 I would like to be called upon to help with Friends' projects.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Join or renew your membership to Friends of HML by November 13, 2021 and be eligible for a drawing of a \$25 Green Toad Bookstore gift certificate.

Please make your tax deductible check payable to: **Friends of Huntington Memorial Library** and return to: **Friends P.O. Box 1036 Oneonta, New York 13820** or pay online at <http://hmloneonta.org/about/friends-of-hml/> using PayPal or a credit card.

