



Friends of Huntington

From the President

Pandemic Creativity

It is hard to believe that it has been almost a year of changes in most everyday activities and especially at the library, from a total shut down to a limited number of patrons in the building. One area hardest hit are programs for the children. It is unusual not to hear the children's voices. Fortunately, the dedicated staff have made it possible for children to be involved via social media. The Friends financially support both children's and adult programs. This includes providing materials for the children's arts and crafts projects. Friends also put together the very popular "Take and Make" kits that are available for two weeks in the entrance of the library. Other activities for children at this time include:

Facebook Live Storytime (2-8yrs)

Zoom Preschool Storytime (3-5yrs)

Zoom Toddler Storytime (1-3yrs)

Zoom Afternoon Adventures (7-11yrs)

Registration is required for some of these activities. Please go to the library web page for further information.

And for adults: *Lit Lattes* Enjoy your favorite morning drink and tune in to Lit Lattes live every Friday morning at 10am on HML's Facebook page or later on HML's YouTube channel. Hear about new book releases, book recommendations and listen to a variety of guests as they talk about their favorite books, authors and so much more!

Virtual Book Club Join a monthly zoom discussion on a preselected book available through Hoopla.

There is something for everyone and we sincerely appreciate all that the staff are doing to help patrons. Another useful help is the online service to place a hold on a book and being notified when it is available. Then just pick it up at the library!

We encourage you to contact organizations and trust funds that give generously to community groups. The library functions with a very limited budget and all help is appreciated.

Karyl Sage, President Friends of HML

FRIENDS' 2020-2021 DONATIONS

\$1000 Children's Summer Program

\$200 Supplies

\$1000 Adult Programs

\$1700 Technology Program

Thank you for your generous support!

Thank You!
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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 Lex who joined the library in August 2019. Her position as Library Clerk finds her behind the entry desk greeting and assisting patrons. She finds that an enjoyable part of her job is recommending books to patrons and especially when upon their return a discussion of the book can be shared. "It's a way of sharing what's important to me and connecting with the community members who visit us". In addition to assisting patrons, Lex tells that another of her tasks that would surprise people is that every Saturday, she waters plants. Her reading material



consists of some favorites: **Autobiography of Red** by Anne Carson, **In the Dream House** by Carmen Maria Machado and **A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeleine L'Engle. Lex, a previous film major, 'could never choose a favorite film' but says that getting through winter, she has been watching many ocean documentaries. Her favorite animation studio is Cartoon Saloon who made **The Secret of Kells** (2009) and **Song of the Sea** (2014). Leisure time is spent with her world's favorite - kayaking, though hiking is a close second spending time in the Catskills and the Adirondacks. Cooking is a great love and she can often be found raiding the library's cookbook section for inspiration. When asked what she'd like people to know about the library, Lex cites that "we REALLY adore and cherish dogs and nearly everyday thinking about the dog friends who may come in for a quick visit and brighten my life". Lex ends with a future 'dream' for the library- a zine collection.

Thank you, Lex, for being part of the fine HML staff.

SUNY ONEONTA'S COMMON READ

For its 2021 Common Read, SUNY Oneonta has chosen Dashka Slater's New York Times best-seller and non-fiction narrative *The 57 Bus*, which recounts an assault on a municipal bus in Oakland, California and how it affected its perpetrator and victim, both teens. *The 57 Bus* earned the 2018 Stonewall Book Award and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor. The Common Read advances diversity by 'encouraging students to examine and better understand topics such as equity, inclusion and personal history through many lenses' and asks the campus community to read and hold discussions in fall courses. Ms. Slater is a distinguished Oakland-based writer and journalist receiving a number of awards. She will deliver the Mills Distinguished Lecture on Monday, October 18, 2021 in the Dewar Arena. More details will be forthcoming closer to the anticipated date.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS

Congratulations to Prue Stelling, winner of our Friends' sponsored \$25 Green Toad Bookstore gift card drawing, for submitting her 2021 membership donation by November 20, 2020.

Congratulations to new members Katie and Tom Downie, winners of the November 20, 2020 new member drawing, for a free one year membership.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for responding to our 2021 membership drive by renewing your membership or by becoming a new member. If you have not already done so, please consider renewing or becoming that new member. With increasing postage and printing costs, we ask that you consider receiving our newsletter by email.

From the Director

Library Services in the Time of COVID

The year 2020 came with a lot of ups and downs and adjustments, then readjustments to library services. We were completely closed for 11 weeks and when we reopened, the building was often closed and services were limited to contact-free pick up. To supplement the lack of access to materials, we purchased more downloadable ebooks and audiobooks on Overdrive/Libby and luckily had just purchased Hoopla, another online platform. Circulation of downloadable materials doubled in 2020.

We closed on March 16 and immediately began offering programs online. Children's Story Times were a welcome opportunity for families to bring a sense of normalcy to their lives during the initial lockdown. As the year wore on, the biggest surprise was the popularity of online adult programs. Between the Virtual Book Club, the Summer Author series, and photography classes we saw a large increase in participation. Overall, the library offered 366 programs that 5,578 people attended in 2020.

Many people in the community rely on the library for computers and the internet. To reduce exposure, the public computers were spaced more than 6 feet apart and patrons could use them for shorter sessions. The Wifi typically gets accessed about 14,000 times per year so to meet the demand, the signal was boosted so people could use it outside in the front of the building.

It's been a year of challenges but we also learned a lot that will help us provide better library services in the future.

Tina Winstead, Director

Library Closings:

February 15 Presidents' Day
May 31 Memorial Day
July 5 Independence Day
September 6 Labor Day
October 12 Columbus Day

Huntington Memorial Library 432-1980
hmloneonta.org

Library Hours:
Monday- Thursday 9:00-8:00
Friday – 9:00-5:30
Saturday – 9:00-4:00

The Friends' Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Bonnie Lado as its newest member. We look forward to working with her in the coming months.

Friends' Board of Directors

Chris Burrington	Ed Leone
Marcella Drago	Bonnie Lado
Jack Holstead	Isabelle Niles
Joanne Johnston	Dolores Noonan
Erica LaBuz	Marilyn Rosas
	Karyl Sage

Tina Winstead, Director

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Twenty-five years ago the National Poetry Month was launched by the Academy of American Poets to 'remind the public that poets have an integral role to play in our culture and that **poetry matters**'. Over the years, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world with participants ranging in the tens of millions - readers, students, teachers, librarians, publishers, booksellers and poets. Goals of the poetry month are to 'highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets, encourage the reading of poems and assist teachers in bringing poetry into classrooms'. Our Friends' readers are reminded that 22 year old Harvard graduate Amanda Gorman, the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate, launched her poem *The Hill We Climb* at the presidential inauguration on January 20, 2021. In celebration of poets and poetry, the Friends are asking **our readers to submit a favorite poem**- a remembered Nursery Rhyme, a favorite from Robert Frost or from any number of treasured poets or one you have written. Place your mailed entry on the Friends' application form or email: friends.of.HMLOneonta@gmail.com. Submissions will be featured in a later Friends' newsletter. For further poetry interest, review poets.org for the poem-a-day.

Interesting poetry facts:

- * The most popular poetry form in the world is the Haiku
- * The longest poem in the world is the Indian epic Mahabharata
- * The shortest poem is "The Shortest and Sweetest of Songs' by George MacDonald.
It has just two words- "Come Home."
- * The oldest poem is the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh
- * Poetry can increase your vocabulary
- * In 2005, the Empire State Building was illuminated to celebrate the 10th anniversary of National Poetry Month.

"One will never again look at a birch tree, after a Robert Frost poem, in exactly the same way".
Pulitzer Prizewinner and Irish Poet Paul Muldoon
